



Kuwait City beaches 'free of oil' after spill



UAE nuclear program edges towards 2018 launch



Comedy legend Jerry Lewis dies at 91



Brilliant Neymar dazzles again in PSG romp



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HARBI URGED TO CANCEL NEW HEALTH CHARGES FOR EXPATS

LAWYER SUBMITS APPEAL • MPs SLAM SABEEH FOR HIRING EXPATS



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POLICE SHOOT DEAD BARCELONA ATTACKER

SUBIRATS, Spain: Spanish police yesterday shot dead Younes Abouyaaqoub, the suspected driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona, after a massive manhunt for the Moroccan national who was wearing what appeared to be a suicide belt when he was killed. "We confirm that the person shot down in the incident in Subirats (near Barcelona) is Younes Abouyaaqoub, the perpetrator of the terrorist attack in Barcelona," police in Catalonia tweeted.



Abouyaaqoub

Four days after his van rampage on the tourist-packed Las Ramblas boulevard, police took down the 22-year-old in the village about 60 km west of Barcelona. Police said their operation on a winding road between two vineyards was ongoing as they were trying to determine if there were other suspects involved in the devastating twin attacks that claimed 15 lives last week. They had removed the apparent suicide belt from Abouyaaqoub's body but had yet to confirm if it was real or fake. — AFP (See Page 6)



The sun's corona is visible as the moon covers the sun during a total solar eclipse at Big Summit Prairie ranch in Oregon's Ochoco National Forest near the city of Mitchell yesterday. — AFP

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ENTHRALLS US

SHERIDAN, Oregon: Americans gazed in wonder through telescopes, cameras and disposable protective glasses yesterday as the moon blotted out the midday sun in the first full-blown solar eclipse to sweep the US from coast to coast in nearly a century.

It promised to be the most observed and photographed eclipse in history, with millions staking out prime viewing spots and settling into lawn chairs to watch, especially along the path of totality - the line

Continued on Page 11

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Lawyer Hashem Ahmad Al-Rifae submitted a grievance and an appeal to Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to cancel the new health fees to be imposed on expats. He said in his letter that the decision will have negative repercussions and will harm citizens too, in addition to harming Kuwait's reputation. "Kuwait is a humanitarian country of peace, and Kuwait gives aid to victims of natural catastrophes and wars regardless of their religion, origin or language," he said.

Rifae said the decision contradicts Kuwait's constitution as well as laws and rules that regulate services. He added law 1/1999 doesn't permit the health ministry to impose new fees on those included in the health assurance scheme or increase any fees.

Earlier this month, Harbi issued two ministerial decrees to increase health fees paid by expatriates and visitors for using services at public hospitals and polyclinics. The new fee structure will go into effect on Oct 1. Kuwait has also implemented other anti-expat measures in recent months, including significantly hiking the fees for parents' residency visas and raising electricity and water charges for apartment buildings that are mostly inhabited by expats, among others.

The moves come amid a campaign by some MPs against expatriates and their numbers. Foreigners make up around 70 percent of Kuwait's population of 4.2 million. Yesterday, MPs continued their assault on Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh over papers and documents

Continued on Page 11





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KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman walks past a sign reading in Arabic: "for your safety swimming and fishing are temporarily banned" at a beach in Kuwait City yesterday. An oil spill was discovered recently off the Kuwaiti coast, and pollution was also detected at some beaches in the country. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT CITY BEACHES 'FREE OF OIL'



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Investigations by Kuwait Times reveal that social media rumors of a recent oil spill reaching the shores of Kuwait City are baseless. Kuwait Times visited six different beaches in and around Kuwait: Messilah, Shuwaikh, Anjafa and several spots in Salmiya and found no evidence of crude oil. Signs posted at several of the beaches, including one at Anjafa beach, warned visitors against swimming in the water, as a temporary precaution.

On August 12, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation announced that it was working to clean up an oil spill - estimated at around 34,000 gallons according to a US-based NGO - that took place near Ras Al Zour off the southern coast of Kuwait. "Nearby beaches will be cleaned once power and water plants are secured and the oil spill is put under full control," a KPC statement from the

day announced. Ras Al-Zour is where Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is building the Middle East's largest oil refinery with a capacity of 615,000 per day and \$11.5 billion worth of contracts.

The extent of the spill or its source was not revealed. But an analysis of satellite imagery by a US-based non-profit organization suggests at least 34,000 gallons of oil have leaked out during a spill off the coast of Kuwait. West Virginia-based SkyTruth says satellite photos from the day of the spill off southern Kuwait show it spread over a distance covering 131 square kilometers (50.5 square miles). In the United States and throughout the oil industry world-wide, an oil barrel is defined as 42 US gallons, which is about 159 liters or 35 imperial gallons.

In a blog post last week, SkyTruth also noted a pipe-laying ship was transiting through the area at the time of

the spill. Authorities have yet to definitively identify the source of the leak, though they initially suspected it came from a tanker. According to Khaled Al-Hajri, Environmental activist and the Head of the Green Line Environmental Group the situation is mysterious.

"Almost two weeks past of the first oil spill in Ras Al Zour and the official authorities didn't unveil the source of this spill. This is really strange. Unofficial news claimed that the company in charge of investigating the reason of the oil spill knows the source but is keeping it secret. This area is monitored by satellite 24 hours a day, so I believe they can easily find the cause," he told the Kuwait Times. A second oil slick was reported off the coast of Abu Fatira two days after the Zour spill, estimated at one nautical mile long according to an Environmental Public Authority statement. No source was revealed for the second spill either.

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AAVS and 360 MALL representatives

TAMDEEN GROUP IS GOLDEN SPONSOR FOR UK AAVS 2017

KUWAIT: Tamdeen Group is the Golden Sponsor for the UK Architectural Association Visiting School Program (AAVS) 2017 in Kuwait, which brings together architecture students, academics and practicing professionals to explore the latest in architecture and design ideas and methodologies from around the world. Founded in 1890, the Architectural Association (AA) is the UK's oldest and only remaining private school of architecture with world renowned graduates such as Zaha Hadid, Richard Rogers, Rem Koolhaas, Steven Holl and many more.

Headquartered in London, where students attend full-time courses, the AA also runs a global initiative 'AA Visiting School', which delivers short courses open to academics and professionals alike in more than 50 countries around the world every year, including Kuwait. AAVS Kuwait 2017 commenced on 7th August 2017 and ran until 19th August 2017 at Masaha13, a non-profit art and cultural space in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

Over 12 days, a series of workshops were held, which focused on the theme of 'Emergent Constructions'. These workshops revolved around investigative information-based design and digital fabrication techniques and incorporated them in a project to construct a 1:1 scale architectural pavilion. The display will be present at 360 MALL till September 2nd in The Main Atrium.

The installation incorporated local Kuwaiti cultural specificities through the interplay between the information gathered before the construction and the new implied facilities for movement, views, seating and social interaction embedded within the designed structure. The project brought together around 20 Kuwaiti participants from Kuwait University, College of Architecture and from architecture and design firms in Kuwait, in addition to one professional participant from Australia.

"As part of our community engagement and social responsibility, Tamdeen Group has always been committed to the encouragement and nurturing of local Kuwaiti talents, and helping them push the boundaries of their creative and intellectual output and ideas," said Muath Al Roumi, GM-Group Corporate Marketing. "Today, we are proud to be the Golden Sponsor for the AAVS program, which offers a unique opportunity for Kuwait's architecture and design community to engage with their peers from across the world."

"The AAVS is honored to receive the support of Tamdeen Group for their contribution to advancing the education of architecture in Kuwait by helping to bring the latest innovative methodologies for digital design and fabrication with respect to social, cultural and environmental contexts of Kuwait," said Sulaiman Al Othman.





AMIR RECEIVES KCCI CHAIRMAN, BOARD MEMBER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Chairman Ali Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanim, and KCCI board member Osama Mohammad Al-Nisf at Al-Sief Palace. —KUNA

WORLD LEADERS COMMITTED TO 8TH GOAL OF SDG

KUWAIT PLACES PRIORITY ON INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES

PALESTINIAN TEACHERS RETURN TO KUWAIT AFTER A 25-YEAR ABSENCE

KUWAIT: Palestinian teachers are returning to Kuwait, ending an absence that spanned over a quarter of a century, to join their counterparts from Kuwait and other nationalities to contribute to the development of education. The government of Kuwait agreed to re-hire Palestinian teachers, many of whom left the country during Iraq's 1990-91 invasion and occupation of Kuwait, thus paving the way for the Ministry of Education to contact the Palestinian embassy to recruit the teachers.

Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahbob, in remarks to Palestinian newspapers, said Kuwait was planning to hire teachers for the 2017-18 school year. The Education Ministry signed, last April, contracts with 105 Palestinian - males and females - Math and Science teachers. Dr Haitham Al-Athari, Ministry's Undersecretary, underlined keenness to improve education at the administrative and teaching levels.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Athari said the ministry sought to hire Palestinian teachers whose expertise would contribute to educational improvement. He said the student was the core of the educational process because this student would be part of development of Kuwait. Al-Athari said the ministry was keen on recruiting excellent teachers regardless of their nationalities, however the Kuwaiti teacher remained the main contributor to elevating the teaching process to higher levels.

MP Dr Mohammad Al-Huwailah, Chairman of the Education Committee at the National Assembly, said he was confident the Palestinian teachers would boost educational level in

Kuwait. "We in the educational parliamentary committee are keen on recruiting excellent teachers from abroad, in addition to emphasizing on the special role of the Kuwaiti teachers," he said in previous press remarks. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in a statement earlier this month, rallied behind the teachers who are on their way to Kuwait, a nation that had heavily depended on Palestinian educators years ago.

"Kuwait fondly recollects Palestinian contributions to pedagogy and the passion with which Palestinian instructors have imparted their knowledge to the people of Kuwait," Abbas told the contingent of teachers. He noted that the success of the educators will "open the door for the triumphant return of Palestinian instructors to the Gulf region. "We trust you to carry on the legacy of the Palestinian teacher," Abbas said. Palestinian teachers accounted for 49 percent of overall teachers in Kuwait between 1965 and 1975.

However, teachers from Palestine were in Kuwait way before the 1960s. The first expedition consisted of four teachers; Ahmad Shehabuddin, Khamees Najm, Mohammad Al-Maghrubi and Jaber Hassan Hadeed, who came to Kuwait in 1936. The other Palestinian expedition, consisting of five teachers, coincided with the opening of new schools for boys in 1939-40. Palestinian female teachers first came to Kuwait in the year 1937-38. Sisters Waseefa and Refqa Ouda were the first. Then they were joined by Maryam Abdulmalek Al-Saleh; Kuwait's first teacher. —KUNA

BEIRUT: At the UN meeting in September 2015, world leaders announced commitment to the Eighth Goal of the 17th Sustainable Development Goals of "promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all." The number of unemployed people in the world is relatively high, with 202 million registered in 2012, including 75 million young men and women, the UN Information Center in Beirut said.

It pointed out that the lack of decent work opportunities, inadequate investment and low consumption lead to "the erosion of the basic social contract on which democratic societies are based, the need for the participation of all in progress." It noted that the slow and uneven progress of economic development around the world prompted governments and bodies working in this center to rethink their policies to achieve high levels of productivity through the use of new tools in this area.

The goal is to maintain individual economic growth according to national conditions, as well as to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, upgrading technology and innovation, the UN Center said. It referred to the steps to be taken in that regard, such as the promotion of development-oriented policies that supported productive activities, provided decent work opportunities, stimulated entrepreneurship, promoted creativity and innovation and encouraged the formalization of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Nearly half of the world's population lives on the equivalent of just USD two a day, the statement said, referring to international reports stating the need for 470 million jobs globally for newcomers to the labor market between the years 2016-2030. It said about 900 million workers - one out of every three workers live below the

poverty line, considering that good job creation was a major challenge for all economies.

ILO Global Charter

The United Nations stressed the importance of working to reduce the proportion of young people not enrolled in schools and universities to launch properly "towards achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men by 2030." "It is important that governments work together to activate and implement the ILO's Global Charter for Employment by 2020, which includes how to address the economic crisis by ensuring decent work and adopting principles to promote recovery and development and to build other social protection systems.

Kuwait launched last year the "Kuwait Day for Occupational Health and Safety in the Workplace" within the framework of the national cooperation between the General Secretariat for Planning and Development and the United Nations Development Program, which aims to support the General Authority for Labor Force by providing expertise in the field of labor market research, besides the importance of implementing occupational health and safety standards and adherence to international conventions and labor standards.

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in Kuwait Khaled Mahdi said in a previous statement that "the total workforce in Kuwait in 2014 amounted to 2.42 million people, or 60 percent of the total population," pointing out that the increase in the number of entrants to the labor market reflects the young nature of Kuwaiti society. Kuwait places priority on investment in human resources and its preservation. It is keen to provide a healthy environment and protect workers from the hazards of industries and occupational diseases that accompany work. —KUNA

News

in brief

Crown Prince Cup

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Football Association interim committee held a draw Sunday for His Highness the Crown Prince Football Cup competition for the 2017-18 season, which included with 15 local clubs. The Crown Prince Cup will take place after the end of football league season, dubbed VIVA league, and the teams were divided into two groups, while matches will be held through a knockout system, the committee said in a statement. The first group includes Kuwait, Shabab, Burqan, Yarmuk, Fahaheel, Sulaibkhat and Arabi clubs. The second group included Qadsia, Sahil, Naser, Jahra, Tadamon, Kazma, Khaitan and Salmiya clubs. Later, the committee held a draw for the country's football league championship (VIVA) to the 2017-18 season, which will take place within the two-points system. The committee noted that the season will start on September 14th and will take place with two divisions, the premier league and the second divisions. The premier league will include eight teams, and they are Kuwait, Arabi, Qadsia, Jahra, Tadamon, Kazma and Salmiya. While, the second division will include Shabab, Burqan, Fahaheel, Yarmuk, Sulaibkhat Khaitan and Sahil.



Kuwait grabs golds

BEIRUT: Kuwait's Kyokushin team won two gold medals at the international Fight Night championship that came to a close in Sidon city, south Lebanon, on Sunday evening. Dhari Al-Anzi secured the first gold after knocking down his German rival in the middleweight (under 85 kg) event just 40 seconds through the game, said Hassan Al-Kandari, head of the Kuwaiti squad to the tourney. Salem Al-Harbi claimed the title of the lightweight (70 kg) competition after beating his Palestinian rival in the second round, Al-Kandari said. Al-Kandari dedicated the great achievement to the Kuwaiti leaders and people, highlighting the importance of participation in regional and international sports events. He called on the Kuwaiti youth to know more about Kyokushin, a stand-up, full contact style of karate, and other martial arts that gain growing popularity worldwide. The championship, organized by Sidon academy of martial arts in collaboration with the Lebanese Kyokushin federation and Sidon municipality, gathered 34 competitors from nine countries.

WMD-free Mideast

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his visiting Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry yesterday agreed to work together in order to create a weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-free Middle East. Speaking at a joint news conference with Shoukry, Lavrov said Moscow and Cairo would continue working together to make Middle East free of WMDs as per relevant international resolutions. He added that both sides had also vowed to pursue cooperation in fighting terrorism and drying out terror finance sources. Lavrov noted that they had discussed a possible resumption of flights between both countries in the near future. The Russian foreign minister went on to say that his country was making consultations with several parties, including Saudi Arabia, for forming a Syrian opposition delegation during scheduled talks with the Syrian government. He pointed to preparations and arrangements for holding an international meeting on Syria in Astana next September.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: An Egyptian nightjar is pictured in Al-Jahra nature reserve. The Egyptian nightjar is a medium-small nightjar which is found in south west Asia and north Africa. —KUNA



KUWAIT: (Top) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Mahmoud Al-Doseri, along with some of the ministry's senior officials yesterday at Seif Palace. The meeting was attended by the head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Sabah. (Below left) His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. The Minister was accompanied by the Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Khaled Al-Mekrad and senior KFSD officials. Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah holds talks with Ahmad Khaled Al-Kulaib at Seif Palace yesterday. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah presides over cabinet weekly meeting. — KUNA photos

CABINET DEPLORES KILLING OF KUWAITIS IN OUAGADOUGOU

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Cabinet yesterday regretted the killing of Grand Mosque Imam Sheikh Waleed Al-Ali and Sheikh Fahad Al-Husseini in a recent attack on a restaurant in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Cabinet emphatically condemned this criminal act that targeted innocents in breach of all heavenly religions and human values, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following a weekly Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet offered sincere and heartfelt condolences to the two Kuwaiti martyrs' families, the minister said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has submitted a formal request to Burkina Faso to join ongoing investigations over a 'terrorist' attack on a restaurant in the Western African nation that killed two prominent Kuwaiti citizens and religious scholars. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met the Burkinabe Ambassador to Kuwait Abu Bakr Koty yesterday, where he handed him a memorandum stating that Kuwait wishes to join the probe into the attack that left scores of people dead, including Kuwaitis Waleed Al-Ali and Fahad Al-Husseini. A number of foreign ministry officials were present during the meeting.

Also, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah informed the Cabinet about the recent arrests of fugitives involved in a 'terrorist cell' known as Al-Abdali, to which the Cabinet expressed gratitude to security forces for their efforts to protect the nation's security. The Cabinet was also acquainted with a proposal by an economic affairs committee to boost work efficiency in the country's ports, specifically, plans to move some navigation lines from Al-Shuaiba to Al-Shuwaikh port.

On a related note, the proposal also entails a measure calling for a more smooth and prompt customs clearance process in the ports, which requires staff



members to be available round-the-clock to handle clearance procedures for a number of government bodies. Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan briefed the Cabinet on concrete steps the Ministry of Commerce has taken to grant commercial permits to fledgling companies in a timely manner, where 2,500 permits have been issued since April.

The Cabinet discussed a number of recent global happenings, including a van attack in the Spanish city of Barcelona and knife assaults in Russia and Finland, all of which left scores of people either dead or injured. The Cabinet denounced these criminal acts, as it underscored its vehement condemnation of terrorism in all its forms.

In another development, Kuwait ministers have welcomed the visit by Vice

Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Zhang Gaoli's to Kuwait. They stressed the significance of this visit to the promotion and development of bilateral cooperation between both friend-

ly countries in all fields, saying that it is a good chance for both sides to exchange views on several issues of mutual interest and efforts to maintain regional and international security and stability. — KUNA



Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets the Burkinabe Ambassador to Kuwait Abu Bakr Koty.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

By A Saleh, Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Abdullah Al-Mubarak cooperative society Affas Al-Hajiri announced the launch of its summer festival starting today until Aug 26 at supermarkets, with up to 70 percent discounts in cooperation with major suppliers. He said the number of products included is over 200 that were selected carefully. He said that the summer festival comes within a series of events to fight high prices in order to reduce burdens on customers.

Treatment rules

MP Faraj Al-Arbeed urged Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to amend treatment rules in order to send all cases abroad as approved earlier. He said the new rules do not include cases that do not have treatment options in Kuwait like complicated sterility cases, physiotherapy for cases related to the nervous system, etc. Arbeed said physiotherapy has badly deteriorated in Kuwait, besides the long waiting period that may take months. He added that some cases need rehab with physiotherapy, especially for children, some accidents, strokes and heart attacks.

KISR signs contract

The Secretariat General of Higher Planning Council, UN Development Program and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research signed a contract that includes KISR preparing Kuwait's national vision for energy to activate the national cooperation treaty between the secretariat general and UNDP. The signing of the contract will enable participating parties to prepare the first report for Kuwait, which is the first of its kind in the Gulf region. Results of this project will contribute to activating the goals of the development of plan of Kuwait, besides UN sustainable development goals in the field of energy. HCPD Secretary General Dr Khalid Mahdi welcomed KISR Director General Dr Sameera Ahmad Al-Sayeed Omar and her delegation.

CORPSE FOUND

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Capital detectives solved the mystery of a corpse found near Sabah hospital yesterday. The suspect has been arrested. A security source said Shuwaikh detectives arrested a Kuwaiti, who claimed that he had a dispute with the victim (his father's friend). He said he stabbed him several times and then attempted to save his life - but he died on the way to the hospital. The suspect's father was arrested when he came to the hospital to ask about his friend's condition. He then told police the whereabouts of his son.

EXCHANGE RATE STABLE

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US Dollar was stable against the Dinar at KD 0.301, while the Euro was up to KD 0.356, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The rate of the Sterling Pound was also up to KD 0.392, the same case with the Swiss Franc, which went up to KD 0.312. The Japanese Yen stood still at KD 0.002. Meanwhile, Kuwait's current account surplus fell for the first time in three quarters at the start of 2017. The surplus narrowed from KD 0.6 billion (\$1.9 billion) in 4Q16 to KD 0.3 billion (\$0.99 billion) in 1Q17, on the back of a deterioration in the goods balance, a decline in investment income and a rebound in net service outflows, an economic report shows.

Crime

Report

INTERIOR ORDERS INVESTIGATION

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah ordered an investigation into a contract signed by the special security directorate with a local company to develop and maintain several armored vehicles for an inflated amount of money without reaching the sought after results. The special security directorate signed a contract with the local company to install turrets on armored vehicles, in addition to other mechanical improvements. But a security source said defects appeared in the vehicles after the improvements that made them obsolete, due to a lack of balance on the road. This prompted the minister to open an investigation to find out the justification of carrying out the work.

KD 11,000 stolen

A Syrian was attacked by three thieves who stalked him in Kuwait City and robbed KD 11,000 he was going to exchange. They then escaped, leaving him bleeding. Detectives are working on the case.

Bedoon shot

A bedoon accused six persons of shooting at him and injuring his foot and smashing the window of his car in Jaber Al-Ahmad. He said this was a continuation of a fight that took place two days earlier in Kabd. Police are working on their arrest.

Drunk woman

A woman in an abnormal condition collided with a police patrol car in a Hawally governorate area. The woman surprised the two patrolmen with her behavior, so they approached her to find out what was wrong. As soon as she spoke to them, they realized she was drunk. She then attempted to argue with them. The woman was taken to the police station for drunkenness and colliding with a police patrol.

Man jumps from 6th floor

A wanted Egyptian jumped from the sixth floor of a Nugra building in an attempt to escape from detectives and sustained severe fractures. He was taken to Mubarak Hospital. A source said detectives learned about the suspect's whereabouts, so they headed to the building armed with a warrant, but as soon as they entered his flat, the suspect jumped from the window.

13-year-old girl flees

A 13-year-old girl fled her family house in an SUV, but after it suffered a flat tire, she became frightened and was admitted to Amiri Hospital. Her family who lives in Jahra called police for help and gave them information about the girl and the vehicle. An hour after circulating the information, Amiri Hospital officials called and told them the girl was there. Police said the girl got terrified after the tire punctured and did not know what to do.



Al-Anbaa

الجريدة Al-jarida

TERRORISM, ATTACKS

By Mohammad Al-Washaihi

I do not find any joy in watching boxing matches or the scene of swollen faces, smashed noses and paramedics surrounding the fallen boxer, and I do not know how millions of people find joy in such scenes bragging about their favorite champion, while that champion suffers from a broken nose and concussion and is asked to retire or worse - forced to use a wheelchair. Tell me, how does one enjoy such scenarios?

I cannot read subjects that portray human being's "savagery", such as torture in prisons, extracting confessions by force, and similar things, for more than two minutes, excluding novels. I do not understand how men feel while pulling the nails of prisoners, or electrocuting them or inserting things into their bodies and torturing them or the joy in running over innocent people who walk in markets or sit in cafes.

We need someone who can explain the psychology of these savages; we need to know where such joy lies in running over the innocent people. Is it a sort of revenge? May Allah bestow his mercy on victims of terrorist attacks and the Arab people who are governed by terrorist 'wise' governments.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with Director General of Ahmadi Education Zone Walid Al-Oumi yesterday. Ahmadi Governor lauded the efforts being exerted by the education sector in the governorate as they prepare for the new academic year.



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) has received the second winner of the first draw that was held early this month for the 'Journey of a Life Time' campaign. Ghalib Numan Tawfiq Abdellatif won a fully paid sea cruise to Europe including a business class airline ticket and stay in a five star hotel before joining the cruise. The winner can take a second person with him. The journey will begin from Barcelona. Head of department Hanadi Al-Musallam received the lucky winner who expressed his pleasure for winning the prize.



KUWAIT: Firefighters trying to put out the fire. — KUNA photos



WAREHOUSE GUTTED BY FIRE; THREE FIREFIGHTERS INJURED

KUWAIT: Five firefighting squads from Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) battled to subdue a fire that broke out at a fodder warehouse in Al-Rai area on Sunday evening. Three firefighters were slightly injured; two of them received first aid at the scene and

the third was rushed to a nearby hospital, according to a KFSD statement. Just five minutes after receiving a notification, five squads from the fire departments of the Industrial Shuwaikh, Al-Ardiya, Al-Isnad, South Salmiya and the Capital City arrived at the scene.

The fire destroyed the 700 sqm warehouse but the firefighters managed to prevent it from spreading to nearby stores, the statement said, noting that investigations are underway to determine the causes of the accident. — KUNA



BAYT.COM ENHANCES ITS CV SEARCH TOOL

DUBAI: In line with its objective to connect thousands of employers in the Middle East and North Africa with the most qualified and competent job seekers, Bayt.com has enhanced its CV Search tool by adding more innovative search features. The Bayt.com CV Search tool allows businesses and organizations of all sizes, industries, and locations, to access and search the region's largest talent database, consisting of more than 26.7 million job seekers.

But more than that, CV Search saves companies cost, time, and effort in the hiring process. Bayt.com recently unveiled several new features designed to make recruitment even easier: Advanced Search Filters allow employers to use a combination of keywords and Boolean search operators ('and', 'or', and 'not') to retrieve highly relevant CVs that precisely match the qualifications they're looking for. CV Freshness sorts results based on the most-recently updated CVs to ensure that employers can



find candidates with up-to-date and relevant experience for their available position. Related Keywords helps employers access a wider variety of CVs by finding job titles and positions related to specific words and terms they're searching for. "At

Bayt.com, we strive to provide all the necessary tools and services for enterprises across the MENA region to fill their vacancies with the most relevant candidates and in the most cost-effective manner," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of

Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "To ensure that CV Search is as useful and effective as it can be and that employers are able to find the talent they require, we make it a point to engage with all employers to gain their feedback. We continuously release new features and enhance our offerings based on the employers' specific needs and the challenges that the job market faces in our region. By adding these advanced features to the Bayt.com CV Search tool, we have made it much easier to connect more than 40,000 employers with the right type of talent."

Having access to an advanced CV Search tool and a large job seeker database is an indispensable resource for employers, recruiters, and HR professionals who want to hire the best candidates. With CV Search, hundreds of thousands of employers are finding it easier to filter, sort through, save, compare, and contact the best candidates with minimum time and cost.

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Last songs for Big Ben as four-year repairs begin

10 SAILORS MISSING AFTER US DESTROYER COLLISION OFF SINGAPORE

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BARCELONA: Interior Minister for the Catalan government Joaquim Forn (C) speaks past Josep Lluís Trapero, chief of the Catalan regional police "Mossos D'Esquadra" (R) and Justice Minister of the Catalan Government Carles Mundo during a press conference. — AFP

POLICE KILL BARCELONA ATTACK SUSPECT

MASSIVE MANHUNT FOR THE MOROCCAN NATIONAL

BARCELONA: Spanish police yesterday shot dead a man who could be Younes Abouyaaqoub, the suspected driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona, amid a massive manhunt for the Moroccan national described as dangerous and likely armed. "They have shot dead a suspect who could be the perpetrator of the attack," a source close to the probe told AFP on condition of anonymity. Regional police confirmed a man wearing what appeared to be a suicide belt had been killed in Subirats, a village about 60 kilometers away from Barcelona, without identifying the individual. Bomb disposal units have been dispatched to the site.

12-man cell

Earlier yesterday, police had launched an appeal for information about the 22-year-old fugitive, believed to be the last remaining member of a 12-man cell suspected of plotting last week's deadly attacks. The other suspects have been killed by police or detained

after the vehicle rampages in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the assaults, believed to be its first in Spain.

Authorities yesterday raised the death toll to 15, confirming that Pau Perez, a 34-year-old man found stabbed to death in a Ford Focus outside Barcelona on Friday, was killed by Abouyaaqoub. The police had fired at the car as it forced its way through a checkpoint shortly after the Barcelona carnage, and later found Perez in the vehicle. Investigators believe the victim was the owner of the car, which was hijacked by Abouyaaqoub to make his getaway.

Describing Abouyaaqoub as around 1.8 meters tall, police tweeted four photographs of the man with short black hair, including three pictures in which he was wearing a black and white striped T-shirt.

He is "dangerous and could be armed," police in Catalonia said. Spanish authorities were also officially notifying European police

of the identity of the suspect to enable the launch of a Europe-wide manhunt.

Iman's influence

Investigators seeking to unravel the terror cell have homed in on the small border town of Ripoll at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains. Several suspects including Abouyaaqoub grew up or lived in the town. Moroccan imam Abdelbaki Es Satty, aged in his 40s, has also come under scrutiny as he is believed to have radicalised youths in Ripoll.

Police raided more homes in Ripoll on Monday, Catalonia's regional interior minister Joaquim Forn said. Police said the imam had spent time in prison and had once been in contact with a suspect wanted on terrorism charges but was never himself charged with terror-related incidents. In Belgium, the mayor of the Vilvorde region told AFP that Satty spent time in the Brussels suburb of Maelbeek in a district next to the city's airport between January and March 2016.

On the other side of Brussels, the Molenbeek suburb has gained notoriety as a hotbed of international jihadists after the Brussels bombings in March 2016 and the Paris attacks in November 2015. In the Moroccan town of M'irt, relatives of Abouyaaqoub have accused the imam of radicalizing the young man as well as his brother Houssein. "Over the last two years, Younes and Houssein began to radicalize under the influence of this imam," their grandfather told AFP. A neighbor close to the Abouyaaqoub family, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the imam "had recruited Moroccans of Ripoll and planned the attacks". But Ali Assid, president of the Annour Islamic community that runs the Ripoll mosque where Satty was preaching, said the imam "never sent a radical message, all he preached was really Islam. If he is behind all that, there he must be showing us one face in the mosque and showing another face outside."

Assid said Satty had parted ways with the mosque in late June after Ramadan, as he wanted a vacation of three months—a request that

the group did not agree to. The imam has been missing since Tuesday. On Saturday, police raided his apartment. They have raised the possibility that he died in an explosion on Wednesday evening at a house believed to be the suspects' bomb factory, where police uncovered a massive cache of 120 gas canisters.

The suspected jihadists had been preparing bombs for "one or more attacks in Barcelona", regional police chief Josep Lluís Trapero told reporters, revealing that traces of triacetone triperoxide (TATP) — a homemade explosive that is an IS hallmark—had also been found. The accidental explosion in the house in Alcanar, south of Barcelona, may have forced the suspects to modify their plans. Instead, they used a vehicle to smash into crowds on Barcelona's Las Ramblas boulevard as it was thronged with tourists, killing 13 people and injuring about 100. Several hours later, a similar attack in the seaside town of Cambrils left one woman dead. Police shot dead the five attackers, some of whom were wearing fake explosive belts and carrying knives. — AFP

VAN HITS PEOPLE AT MARSEILLE BUS STOPS

MARSEILLE: One person was killed and another seriously injured in the southern French city of Marseille yesterday after a van ploughed into people at two bus stops, police sources said, adding that the suspected driver had been arrested. Marseille's prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux said that investigators had "no element pointing to a terrorist attack" and that the driver was suffering from psychiatric problems.

"He was found with a letter from a psychiatric clinic and we are leaning towards treating it as a mental health case," Tarabeux told AFP. The incident comes with Europe on high terror alert following last week's car ramming attacks in north-eastern Spain. The vehicle in Marseille first drove at speed towards a bus stop in the city's northern 13th district at around 9:00 am (0700 GMT), hitting a woman who was rushed to hospital with serious pelvic injuries.

The driver of the stolen van then continued to

the eastern 11th district, where he slammed into another bus stop, causing one fatality. Several European cities, including London, Berlin and Stockholm, have been targeted in a wave of attacks by Islamist radicals using vehicles to run down people. Many have been claimed by the Islamic State group. Terrorism experts have warned that the intense media coverage of the violence could spur copycat attacks by people with mental health problems and a propensity for violence. Julien Ravier, mayor of the 11th district, told the BFMTV news channel that the victim in the Marseille incident was a woman in her 40s who was waiting alone for a bus.

Several attacks thwarted

Police sources said the driver, who is in his mid-30s, was a petty criminal with a history of stealing cars. The vehicle was traced to the city's Old Port district, where the driver was arrested.

Dozens of police sealed off the area while searching the vehicle for possible explosives.

The bloodiest vehicle attack in Europe took place in July 2016 in the French city of Nice, when a radicalized Tunisian drove a truck through crowds celebrating Bastille Day, killing 86 people. France has avoided a major incident in the past year but has suffered a slew of small-scale strikes, mainly targeting the security forces. On August 9, a 36-year-old Algerian ran down soldiers on anti-terrorism patrol west of Paris, injuring six.

Three days earlier, a knife-wielding 18-year-old on leave from a psychiatric hospital was arrested at the Eiffel Tower after bursting past security shouting "Allahu Akbar" ("God is Greatest"). Police initially treated that case as a criminal affair but it was later upgraded to an anti-terror investigation after he said during questioning that he had wanted to kill a soldier. — AFP



MARSEILLE: A white sheet is erected as a body of a victim is evacuated to a waiting ambulance while French forensic police officer search the site following a car crash yesterday, in the southern Mediterranean city. — AFP

GERMAN NATIONALISTS REVIVING MIGRATION AS ELECTION TOPIC

BERLIN: Germany's anti-immigrant AfD party pushed yesterday to make the massive influx of migrants into the country an election issue as it battles with flagging support, despite waning concern among Germans over the matter. More than 1 million migrants entered Germany in 2015-2016. Alternative for Germany leaders Alexander Gauland and Alice Weidel told reporters in Berlin they think the wave of newcomers has led to increased crime, an overwhelmed educational system and an "Islamization of society."

"The big number of migrants cannot be integrated in the long run," Weidel said, calling for tougher asylum laws. She also advocated shutting down the Mediterranean Sea route from Libya to Europe that many migrants use and accused the Germany navy of participating in human trafficking by assisting migrant boats in distress.

The AfD's support has dropped ahead of the Sept. 24 election to 7 percent in the most recent polls, half of what the party had at the height of the immigration crisis. Support for Chancellor

Angela Merkel's conservative bloc dropped during the influx and its aftermath, but has rebounded to about 39 percent. Merkel's campaign speeches have focused more on the country's growing economy and record low unemployment. Like Merkel's Christian Democrats, most other parties have not made migration a major issue of their election campaigns. Germany, like several other European countries, has suffered a number of extremist attacks, some of which were committed by asylum-seekers who came to the country in the 2015 wave.

In an interview published Monday by Bild newspaper, Merkel was asked to comment on migrants in Germany who have committed crimes or violent attacks. "Unfortunately, there are a few refugees, who have done such things," Merkel answered, adding: "There are also many, many others who need protection." The chancellor said the government is doing all it can to prevent "such attacks, such murders, to prevent Islamist terror." She also said Germany has learned from past attacks and "we've become quite a bit better." — AP

UKRAINE WAR TRAPS CARE HOME, CLINIC RESIDENTS ON FRONT LINE

NOVOMYKHAYLIVKA: Tamara Makarova spends her afternoons sitting in a dilapidated armchair upstairs in her care home, watching an old TV set and talking to her neighbors. Her way of life may seem peaceful at first glance, but the 81-year-old is a resident of a state-run care home in war-torn eastern Ukraine, just a few kilometers from the front line with the pro-Russian rebel insurgency.

She is one of thousands of elderly and ailing people, who have found themselves stuck in state institutions as the deadly conflict rages close by. The silver-haired woman, wearing a colorful dressing gown and who only wished to be identified by her first and patronymic names, moved to her care home in the tiny village of Novomykhaylivka from a nearby town in 2011 after leg surgery left her unable to live alone.

This used to be a quiet place until the conflict hit eastern Ukraine in April 2014 and has since claimed some 10,000 lives. The care home itself suffered a direct hit from a shell, Tamara says, recalling how frightened she had been. "On December 7, 2014, I heard a noise and the glass in the windows began to rain down," she said. Afterwards, the roof and walls were not fully repaired for more than a year. Reliant on a walking stick to help her get around, she and other residents are forced to take refuge in the basement of the care home in an emergency.

'Doubly hostage'

Monitors from Ukraine's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) watchdog carry out inspections of such state-run facilities and recently visited Novomykhaylivka accompanied by a couple of journalists, including from AFP. "The war has dramatically affected" such facilities, NPM monitor Tetyana Pechonchuk told AFP, with about 50 care homes located within the conflict zone on both sides of the front line. "These people were doubly taken hostage: not only are they unable to leave their institutions on their own, they are also trapped in the conflict."

Residents in rebel-controlled areas face a lack of food and medicine, while for those in areas under Kiev control, the main problem is their proximity to the front line and the risk of death, Pechonchuk said. Despite the threat from shelling, Tamara has opted to stay here. She has never been married and has no close family, and the care home appears to be the only place where she can

count on being looked after. "I have nowhere else to go. Every day I ask the Lord to make them stop (fighting and shelling). I'll agree to anything if only they'll stop shooting."

The care home currently accommodates 31 people, who pay some 75 percent of their 1,300 hryvnias (\$50 dollars, 44 euros) monthly pension to stay in the two-storey, grey-brick building. "Our cooks prepare us soups, cereals. And on Thursdays, we sing songs and dance," Tamara said. Her pension, she said, was "enough for small expenses." "More than half the people have close relatives, but they are not wanted at home," said Ivan Svystelnyk, the director of the care home, which has the Soviet-style name House of Veterans.

'I want to go back'

Authorities have relocated several of the worst-hit care homes but most are forced to continue where they are, despite the fighting, due to demand for places or an unwillingness by residents and staff to move too far from their home towns. In another troubled war zone location, NPM monitors accompanied by reporters visited a tuberculosis sanatorium where some patients also found themselves unable to leave after completing treatment, because of the conflict.

The facility is located in the Kiev-controlled village of Gostre just 10 kilometers from the front line. Treatment of tuberculosis patients in isolated residential facilities is still common in ex-Soviet countries. Here, most patients stay for two to three months. Out of some 100 patients currently staying, about 10 have got stuck here long-term, usually because of expired ID documents needed to cross the conflict zone, the chief doctor Valentyna Kozhevnyk tells AFP.

"We don't force anyone to stay here—we just don't have anywhere to send them," she lamented. One of these, Valeriy Koltunovsky, 47, comes from the town of Makiivka in the rebels' self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, where his wife and two children live. But his ID documents have expired and he suffers from severe bronchitis that hit him along with the tuberculosis, meaning that he needs to be accompanied by a doctor on the grueling journey back through numerous checkpoints. "I want to go back to my home town, but this is hardly going to be possible soon," the lean moustachioed man said sadly, sitting in a small dining room in one of the facility's buildings. — AFP



AUSTIN: Confederate statues removed from the University of Texas are secured to a trailer, early yesterday morning. — AP

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS IN AUSTIN REMOVES CONFEDERATE STATUES 'SYMBOLS OF MODERN WHITE SUPREMACY AND NEO-NAZISM'

AUSTIN: The University of Texas quickly removed statues of Robert E Lee and other prominent Confederate figures overnight from the main area of the Austin campus, a spokesman said yesterday morning, just hours after the school's president ordered they be taken down. University President Greg Fenves announced late Sunday night that the statues would be removed, saying such monuments have become "symbols of modern white supremacy and neo-Nazism." Crews started working amid a heavy police presence.

The school blocked off the area, and some arguments occurred among those gathered. But all of the statues were successfully taken down, university spokesman JB Bird said. Fenves said statues of Lee, Confederate Gen Albert Sidney Johnston and Confederate Postmaster General John H Reagan would be moved to the Briscoe Center for American History on campus. The university in 2015 moved a statue of former Confederate President Jefferson Davis from its perch near the campus clock tower, the same area as the other statues, to the history museum.

'It burns me'

Less than 30 people, both supporters and opponents of Fenves' order, congregated after midnight behind barricades near the statues. Among them was Mark Peterson, who identified himself as a University of Houston student. He was seething at the removal of the statues. "I hate the erasure of history and my people's history ... people of European descent who built this country," the 22-year-old said. "It burns me to my core."

Mike Lowe, an activist for the removal of Confederate statues in San Antonio, was driving to Dallas when he heard the statues were coming down, turned around and drove to campus. Lowe, who is African-American, engaged in a brief but tense argument with a white male protester until police stepped in to separate them.

"They have no other reasons than 'you are erasing our history.' Their reasoning is flawed. These monuments represent white supremacy, and black lives haven't mattered in this county the same as a white man's matters," the 37-year-old Lowe said. The debate over public memorials for Confederate figures roared into national conversation last week after a woman was killed and 19 were injured when a car drove into a crowd of people in a clash between white supremacists and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"Last week, the horrific displays of hatred at the University of Virginia and in Charlottesville shocked and saddened the nation. These events make it clear, now more than ever, that Confederate monuments have become symbols of modern white supremacy and neo-Nazism," Fenves said in a statement.

Moving the Davis statue in 2015 was a much more deliberate effort. The Davis statue had long been a target of vandalism. Fenves convened a special task force to discuss its future after a shooting rampage by a white supremacist at a Charleston, South Carolina, church and ultimately decided it should come down.

Historical significance

Confederate groups tried to block the

removal of the Davis statue and the Sons of Confederate Veterans sued to stop it, but a state district judge sided with the school. The decision to take down the others came much quicker. Fenves said he spoke last week with student leaders, students, faculty members, staff members and alumni about what to do after the events in Virginia.

"The University of Texas at Austin is a public educational and research institution, first and foremost. The historical and cultural significance of the Confederate statues on our campus - and the connections that individuals have with them - are severely compromised by what they symbolize," Fenves said. "Erected during the period of Jim Crow laws and segregation, the statues represent the subjugation of African Americans. That remains true today for white supremacists who use them to symbolize hatred and bigotry," he said.

Crews early yesterday first removed a statue of former Texas Gov. James Stephen Hogg, which was commissioned at the same time as the others, a spokesman said. Hogg will get another place on campus. Asked why the school decided to remove the statues during the overnight hours, university spokesman Gary Susswein said recent events played a factor. "We've seen what happened elsewhere," Susswein said. "The timing was designed to ensure public safety and provide minimal disruption to campus." This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the history museum to the Briscoe Center for American History, not the Briscoe Center for American History. — AP



Smoke billows as Iraqi government forces supported by fighters from the Abbas Brigade, which fights under the umbrella of the Shiite popular mobilization units, advance towards the city of Tal Afar, the main remaining stronghold of the Islamic State group, after the government announced the beginning of an operation to retake it from the jihadists, on August 20, 2017. — AFP

IRAQI FORCES CLOSE IN ON IS HELD TOWN WEST OF MOSUL

HALABIYAH: Iraqi forces made significant progress as they closed in on the Islamic State-held town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, the US-led coalition and an Iraqi military spokesman said yesterday. US Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman, told The Associated Press that Iraqi forces have retaken some 250 square kilometers from the extremist group since the operation began early Sunday, though they have not yet pushed into the town itself.

"As we get into the urban areas - as we saw in Mosul and Raqqa - that's where we'll see the pace slow down, that's where (IS) have placed their defenses," he said. Dozens of civilians fled the area. Sadia Sajet, from Tal Afar, said she walked for over a day to cross the front line and reach Iraqi forces. "We stayed overnight by the river. There were a lot of dead bodies there. The smell was horrible," she said. "We slept there and then started walking again at four in the morning. And we walked until we arrived here."

Sajet said two other women fleeing with her died of exhaustion while attempting to make the journey. The spokesman for the Joint Military Command, Brig. Gen.

Yahya Rasool, said troops recaptured six villages located a few kilometers from the urban areas of Tal Afar. He said militants deployed suicide car bombers, road side bombs and mortars to slow down the advancing troops.

Citing intelligence, Rasool estimated the number of IS militants inside the town at around 2,000 fighters. US-backed Iraqi forces drove IS from Mosul last month after a grueling, nine-month campaign to retake the country's second largest city. US-allied forces are currently battling IS in the Syrian city of Raqqa, the extremists' de facto capital.

Dillon said most of the territory retaken in the operation has been in the Kisik junction area to the east of the town. Tal Afar, about 150 kilometers east of the Syrian border, is in one of the last pockets of IS-held territory in Iraq. Some 49,000 people have fled the Tal Afar district since April, according to the United Nations, sparking concern the displaced will exacerbate the humanitarian crisis that erupted during the Mosul operation. Nearly a million people remain displaced by the campaign to retake Mosul. — AP

ERDOGAN: TOP GENERAL MUST ACCEPT DEMOTION

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned a top Turkish general who played a key role in defeating last year's failed coup and led a cross-border operation in Syria that he must accept a surprise demotion without rancor. In a rare show of tension between the military and Erdogan, Turkish media reported that Lieutenant General Zekai Aksakalli had wanted to resign from the armed forces after he was moved from special forces chief to a less significant position.

"There can be no such concept of disappointment in the military. Whatever task is assigned, a soldier goes and fulfills their duty there," Erdogan said after Aksakalli was assigned as commander of the army's 2nd Corps, based on the Gallipoli peninsula in northwestern Turkey. Up to 10 generals including the former special forces chief were ready to resign, Hurriyet daily reported yesterday. No reason has been given for the demotion.

Hurriyet speculated there may have been "discomfort" within the military over the general's public profile in running the Syria operation and the desire to replace him with a younger figure. Aksakalli led the Turkish military's cross-border "Euphrates Shield" operation launched in August last year aimed at clearing the border zone in northern Syria of both Kurdish militia fighters and the Islamic State extremist group.

"Right now, Zekai Aksakalli has completed his

duty in the special forces," Erdogan said, adding that the proposal came during a meeting of the nation's top armed forces body on August 2. "He will continue his work there (at the 2nd Corps)," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul before flying to Jordan. It is hugely unusual for the Turkish president to comment on military appointments in public.

Aksakalli was promoted to lieutenant general in a meeting of the first Supreme Military Council after the July 15 2016 attempted putsch, where his actions made him a figure of national prominence. He was praised for ordering Sergeant Omer Halisdemir to kill one of the suspected ringleaders, Brigadier General Semih Terzi, on the night of July 15. — AFP



AMMAN: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, centre, walks during a welcome ceremony at the airport. — AP

DANISH SUB INVENTOR DUMPED SWEDISH JOURNALIST'S BODY IN SEA

STOCKHOLM: The Danish inventor of a do-it-yourself submarine has said that a Swedish journalist missing since August 11 died in an accident on board the vessel, and that he dumped her body in the sea, Danish police said yesterday. The inventor, Peter Madsen, had initially claimed that he last saw Kim Wall when he dropped her off on the tip of an island in Copenhagen late on August 10. But Madsen, who has been accused of negligent manslaughter, "told police and the court that there was an accident on board the sub that led to the death of Kim Wall, and that he subsequently buried her at sea in an undefined location of the Koge Bay" south of Copenhagen, police said in a statement.

Madsen's appearance before a judge on August 12 was held behind closed doors and the investigation has been classified, so it is not known exactly when he made his statement. Danish and Swedish authorities have been searching for Wall, a 30-year-old reporter who had been writing a feature story about Madsen, after she failed to return

from an interview with him aboard the 60-foot Nautilus on August 10. Danish police said the search for her body by helicopters, ships and divers during the weekend would continue yesterday. Swedish daily Aftonbladet quoted a letter from Wall's family on Friday "pleading for help from the public" about her whereabouts. "We wish for nothing more than to have Kim back alive, but we realize that the chances are extremely slim," her family was quoted as saying.

'Invincible' and 'ambitious'

Wall was a freelance journalist who had reported for The Guardian and The New York Times. A graduate of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, she was based in New York and China. Her friends have described her as "invincible", "ambitious" and "always seeing something good in everyone", according to Swedish media reports.

Madsen and Wall were seen onboard the vessel by several people in waters off Copenhagen the

evening of August 10. Photos of the two emerged online standing next to each other in the sub's tower. Wearing an orange fleece and with her long auburn hair tied in a topknot, she appeared to be smiling. When Wall failed to return home, the sub was also reported missing. Rescue crews located it around midday on August 11 in Koge Bay, about 50 kilometers south of the Danish capital.

Just after it was found, Madsen was rescued, alone, and the submarine suddenly sank. Police have since said they believe Madsen "deliberately" sank the sub. It was brought to the surface and searched, and found to be empty. Danish broadcaster TV2 showed images of Madsen as he was being interrogated by police after his rescue.

When a journalist asked him what contact information he had for the missing journalist, he responded: "Only that her name is Kim." "I don't check the background when a journalist calls and asks 'Can I interview you?'" Madsen said indifferently as he entered a police car. — AFP



This family handout photo released on August 12, 2017 shows Swedish journalist Kim Wall who was allegedly on board a submarine south of Copenhagen before it sank on August 11, 2017. — AFP



LONDON: People record the last bell bong at Elizabeth Tower. — AP

LAST BONGS FOR BIG BEN AS FOUR-YEAR REPAIRS BEGIN

THE 12 BONGS FROM THE FAMOUS BELL RANG OUT FOR MIDDAY

LONDON: London landmark Big Ben fell silent for four years starting yesterday, as a political outcry mounted over renovations that will rob Britain of a cherished symbol at a time of national uncertainty. The 12 bongs from the famous bell rang out for midday in front of a hushed crowd of over a thousand people assembled in Parliament Square to mark the longest silence in its 157-year history.

"I can see it from where I live. I do live my life by it. I'm 72 and I'm worried it might be the last time I actually hear them!" said Denise Wiand, one of the spectators, who lives on the other side of the River Thames from parliament. Thomas Moser, a 54-year-old German tourist, said: "The crowd were really listening. We are here, we want to hear every single sound. It's almost a historical moment."

Westminster's Elizabeth Tower, which looms over the Houses of Parliament and is one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions, is due for conservation work. The famous clock's bell has been stopped over health and safety concerns, silencing an emblem of continuity as Britain grapples with Brexit negotiations. The decision will protect builders working on the site, amid fears that prolonged exposure to the 118-decibel bongs from the 13.7-tonne Big Ben bell, which chimes out the hour, could damage hearing. But the debate has swiftly moved into the political sphere.

The shutdown will coincide with Britain's impending departure from the European Union,

a period set to be politically turbulent and economically fraught. The bongs are a venerated part of British life, used at the start of radio and TV newscasts and the midnight countdown to New Year's Day. The sound is also familiar to many people beyond Britain, as it is broadcast on the BBC World Service.

Pro-Brexit members of parliament have criticized the decision to shut down the chimes. Prime Minister Theresa May is among those who have raised concern. "Of course we want to ensure people's safety at work, but it can't be right for Big Ben to be silent for four years," she told reporters. She said she hoped a House of Commons commission would "look into this urgently so that we can ensure that we can continue to hear Big Ben through those four years."

The Commons has said that it "will consider the length of time that the bells will fall silent." "Of course, any discussion will focus on undertaking the work efficiently, protecting the health and safety of those involved, and seeking to ensure resumption of normal service as soon as it is practicable," it says. Under the plan, a lamp at the top of the neo-Gothic bell tower that is turned on when parliament is sitting is also set to be turned off for the first time in more than 70 years, but it is not yet known when it will go dark, or for how long it will be off.

Brexit bongs?

Andrea Leadsom, the Leader of the House of Commons, held emergency talks on Friday with

Speaker John Bercow, who chairs the Commons panel that approved the measures. The commission has agreed to meet next month to review whether the bongs can be heard on certain exceptional days. Under current plans, the bell would still ring on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday in November, which commemorates Britain's war dead, and New Year's Eve.

Three MPs from May's Conservative Party are calling for the clock to be back in action on the eve of March 29, 2019, when Britain is due to leave the European Union. "It would be very fitting if Big Ben was to chime us out of the EU. We need to go out with a boom as we regain a sovereign parliament once again," said MP Andrew Bridgen. The 96-metre tower is the most photographed building in Britain.

The renovation is estimated to cost £29 million (\$37 million, 32 million euros). But politicians have claimed that when they agreed to the work, they did not know the chimes would be silenced for four years. A YouGov poll published Saturday found that 44 percent of Britons believe Big Ben should be silenced during the renovations, except for special occasions, while 41 percent said it should operate as normal. Some MPs have suggested the bell could ring outside of the conservation team's working hours. But the House of Commons said that starting and stopping the clock takes about half a day, and that this would be neither practical nor "a good use of public money". — AFP

NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT SLAMS DIVISIONS AFTER ABSENCE

ABUJA: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari took to state TV yesterday in his first speech since returning from a long medical absence in Britain, in a bid to dampen mounting separatist tensions in the country. The 74-year-old, who received treatment for an undisclosed condition in London, appeared thinner than usual as he read slowly from a prepared statement in which he also vowed to redouble the fight against Boko Haram jihadists.

He did not address his more than three-month absence or the illness that caused him to seek treatment abroad. "I was distressed to notice that some of the comments (in my absence), especially in the social media, have crossed national red lines by daring to question our collective existence as a nation. This is a step too far," he said. "The national consensus is that it is better to live together than to live apart," said Buhari, who returned to Nigeria on Saturday after more than 100 days away from the west African nation of 190 million people.

Nigeria is facing a number of breakaway movements, including the Indigenous People of Biafra led by fierce Buhari critic Nnamdi Kanu in the country's southeast, which is dominated by the Igbo ethnic group. The group has become increasingly vocal in its bid to win independence in recent weeks, with Kanu appearing in images meeting a private army of young men. Arewa, a radical Muslim youth group in the country's north, has issued an October 1 deadline for all Igbo people to leave the region. Boko Haram jihadists, meanwhile, have been fighting a bloody insurgency in the country's northeast since 2009. Buhari vowed renewed energy for the fight against "terrorists and criminals", singling out Boko Haram, kidnappers and those responsible for ethnic violence.

'Back on home soil'

Don Ekereke, a security analyst, accused Buhari of lacking a concrete plan. "After more than 100 days we were expecting

more details on how he's intending to lead the country. I'm not alone to say that it isn't inspiring," he told AFP. "There is no doubt that the security situation has deteriorated since the beginning of the year: Boko Haram is worsening, kidnappings are increasing," he added. "We really hope that all the security agencies... will not be overzealous (after the speech) just to impress their master."

But Bismarck Rewane of the Lagos-based Financial Derivatives Company said Buhari's return was good news for the security situation and the economy. "His return will strengthen security, and if that is resolved investors will start coming back. There's been no investment lately because of political insecurity," he said. The president left for London on May 7, and his prolonged absence fuelled tensions back home, where calls grew for him to either return or resign.

Buhari, who said he was "pleased to be back on home soil", also called for renewed efforts to transform the country's sclerotic economy, which is in the grip of its worst recession for more than two decades. Buhari, a retired general who headed a military regime in the 1980s, has been dogged by speculation about his health since June last year, when he first went to London for treatment.

He then spent nearly two months in London in January and February, saying upon his return in early March that he had "never been so ill". Since August 7, there had been a series of protests in Abuja demanding that Buhari return or quit if he was unable to go on. The rallies turned violent last Tuesday when mainly ethnic Hausa traders pelted protesters with stones, prompting them to abandon their daily vigils. Robert Besseling, an analyst at the consulting firm EXX Africa, said that Buhari's return had fired the starting pistol on the 2019 election campaign. "In the immediate future, President Buhari's return will put to rest rumors that he will not run for re-election in 2019," he said in a note issued ahead of yesterday's speech. — AFP



ABUJA: A handout image made available by the Nigerian State House and taken on August 21, 2017, shows Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari sitting beside his Chief of Staff Abba Kyari as he writes to the National Assembly, notifying the legislature of his return to office, after returning from a medical vacation to Abuja. — AFP

S AFRICAN ACTIVISTS CHALLENGE GRACE MUGABE'S IMMUNITY

JOHANNESBURG: A South African civil rights organization said yesterday it would challenge the government's decision to grant diplomatic immunity to Zimbabwe first lady Grace Mugabe, who was facing assault charges. The wife of President Robert Mugabe allegedly attacked a 20-year-old model with an electrical extension cord at a hotel in Johannesburg where the couple's two sons were staying.

The attack left Gabriella Engels with cuts on her forehead and on her head that required stitching and she filed an assault charge against Mugabe. South Africa's foreign affairs ministry said on Sunday that it had granted Mugabe immunity after "careful consideration of all the relevant factors". AfriForum, which helps victims of crime, is preparing a court injunction to set aside the foreign ministry decision.

"We are going to ask the court to say that the decision to grant immunity is unlawful because our legislation says that diplomatic immunity cannot apply in serious crimes, and violence is part of that," AfriForum's chief Kallie Kriel told AFP. Mugabe, who had been sought by police, flew out of South Africa in the early hours of Sunday, hours before the

foreign ministry announced that it had granted her immunity.

The decision to grant Mugabe immunity "was not an easy one to make," it said. AfriForum has vowed to help Engels seek justice and denounced what it said was a regional "culture of impunity". Seeking diplomatic immunity was an "afterthought," said Kriel. "She had been here for medical assistance with regards to her foot and therefore diplomatic immunity does not apply."

"We believe that the diplomatic immunity should not have been granted." The group plans to launch a private criminal prosecution, which is allowed under South African law. They intend for it to be led by Gerrie Nel, the former state prosecutor who led the case against Paralympian Oscar Pistorius and has a reputation of winning high-profile cases.

Even if the effort fails, Kriel hopes it may stop Grace Mugabe visiting South Africa. "She loves shopping in Sandton in Johannesburg, so in the worst case scenario if we get to a situation where she cannot come to the country any more, I think that will be a positive step." "But the first prize is to make sure she is being prosecuted," said Kriel. — AFP

18-YEAR-OLD TURKU SUSPECT MAY HAVE BEEN RADICALISED

HELSINKI: Court documents yesterday identified the suspect in last week's stabbing spree in a Finnish city as 18-year-old Abderrahman Mechkah, who the country's intelligence agency

said may have been radicalized. The stabbing is being probed as the country's first-ever terror attack. Police have previously described the suspect as an asylum seeker from Morocco.



TURKU: From the centre left, the Chief of Turku Police Tapio Huttunen, Finland's Prime Minister Juha Sipilä and Finnish parliament member Annika Saarikko stand next to the makeshift memorial at the Turku Market Square. — AFP

He targeted women in the attack at a market square in the southwestern port of Turku on Friday. Two people were killed dead and eight were injured. The motive for the attack is unclear. But the Finnish intelligence agency SUPO said Turku police had received a tip early this year that Mechkah "appeared... to have been radicalized and showed interest in extremist ideologies." The tip, which had been forwarded to the SUPO, "contained no information about any threat of an attack." Mechkah, whom police shot in the thigh while arresting him minutes after the rampage, is to appear before the Turku court on Tuesday via video link from hospital, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said.

Police will ask the court to remand him in custody on suspicion of two murders and eight attempted murders "with terrorist intent". Investigators said Sunday that they had interrogated the suspect for the first time, but disclosed no information about the outcome. Police will also request the detention of four other Moroccan citizens who were arrested in an overnight raid on a Turku apartment building and refugee housing centre just hours after the attack. "They are suspected of participation in the murders and attempted murders committed with a terrorist intent. They deny any involvement in the offences," the NBI said. — AFP



A crowd gathers in front of the Hollywood sign at the Griffith Observatory to watch the solar eclipse in Los Angeles yesterday. (Inset) The "diamond ring effect" is seen during a total solar eclipse as seen from the Lowell Observatory Solar Eclipse Experience yesterday in Madras, Oregon. — AP/AFP

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ENTHRALLS US

Continued from Page 1

of shadow created when the sun is completely obscured. The shadow - a corridor just 96 to 113 km wide - came ashore in Oregon and then began racing diagonally across the continent to South Carolina, with darkness lasting only about two to three minutes in any one spot. "The show has just begun, people! What a gorgeous day! Isn't this great, people?" Jim Todd, a director at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, told a crowd of thousands at an amphitheater in Salem, Oregon, as the moon seemed to take an ever-bigger bite out of the sun and temperature soon dropped noticeably.

With 200 million people within a day's drive from the path of totality, towns and parks braced for monumental crowds. Clear skies beckoned along most of the route, to the relief of those who feared cloud cover would spoil this once-in-a-lifetime moment. "It's like nothing else you will ever see or ever do," said veteran eclipse-watcher Mike O'Leary of San Diego, who set up his camera along with among hundreds of other amateur astronomers gathered in Casper, Wyoming. "It can be religious. It makes you feel insignificant, like you're just a speck in the whole scheme of things."

Astronomers were giddy with excitement. A solar eclipse is considered one of the grandest of cosmic spectacles. NASA solar physicist Alex Young said the last time earthlings had a connection like this to the heavens was during man's first flight to the moon, on Apollo 8 in 1968. The first, famous Earthrise photo came from that mission and, like this eclipse, showed us "we are part of something bigger."

With half hour to go before totality, NASA's acting administrator, Robert Lightfoot, enjoyed the moon's "first bites out of the sun" from a plane flying over the Oregon coast and declared it "just an incredible view." "I'm about to fight this man for a window seat," Lightfoot said, referring to a fellow NASA scientist.

The Earth, moon and sun line up perfectly every one to three years, briefly turning day into night for a sliver of the planet. But these sights normally are in no man's land, like the vast Pacific or Earth's poles. This is the first eclipse of the social media era to pass through such a heavily populated area. The moon hasn't thrown this much shade at the US since 1918, during the country's last coast-to-coast total eclipse. In fact, the US mainland hasn't seen a total solar

eclipse since 1979 - and even then, only five states in the Northwest experienced total darkness. "It's really, really, really, really awesome," said 9-year-old Cami Smith as she watched the fully eclipsed sun from a gravel lane near her grandfather's home at Beverly Beach, Oregon. Scientists said the total eclipse would cast a shadow that would race 4,200 km through 14 states, entering near Lincoln City, Oregon, at 1:16 pm EDT, moving diagonally across the heartland over Casper, Wyoming, Carbondale, Illinois, and Nashville, Tennessee, and then exiting near Charleston, South Carolina, at 2:47 pm EDT. Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois was in line to see the longest stretch of darkness: 2 minutes and 44 seconds.

All of North America was on track to get at least a partial eclipse, along with Central America and the top of South America. In Washington, DC, hundreds of people waited in long lines outside the National Air and Space Museum, which was distributing more than 20,000 pairs of free viewing glasses. Residents of the nation's capital saw 81 percent of the sun obscured at the eclipse's peak around 2:24 pm. Daniel Berger, 33, a software developer from New York, said he had been waiting with his wife and their two children for almost an hour. "This is a far larger crowd than I anticipated," he said. "It's the first non-political attraction for DC in many years, so that's nice."

Joe Roth, an amateur photographer, traveled south from the Chicago area to Alto Pass, Illinois, to catch his first total solar eclipse - on his 62nd birthday, no less. He said the stars aligned for him - "a Kodak moment for me to cherish and experience." Kim Kniseley drove overnight from Roanoke, Virginia, arriving in Madisonville, Tennessee, before dawn to get a parking spot at Kefauver Park, where by sunrise dozens of folks had claimed benches and set up tents. He said he could have stayed home in Roanoke and seen a partial eclipse of 90 percent, but that would have been like "going to a rock concert and you're standing in the parking lot."

Hoping to learn more about the sun's composition and activity, NASA and other scientists watched and analyzed from telescopes on the ground and in orbit, the International Space Station, airplanes and scores of high-altitude balloons beaming back live video. Citizen scientists also planned to monitor animal and plant behavior as daylight turned into twilight and the temperature dropped. Thousands of people streamed into the Nashville Zoo just to watch the animals' reaction. — Agencies

UAE NUKE PROGRAM EDGES TOWARD LAUNCH IN 2018

ABU DHABI: At first glance, the long hallway seems abandoned. But behind glass walls, in soundproof offices, engineers and physicists are putting the final touches to the Arab world's first nuclear program. At the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) in Abu Dhabi, dozens of employees are reviewing the 15,000-page application for the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, scheduled to launch next year. Located just across the Gulf from Iran, which is home to a controversial nuclear program of its own, the Barakah plant will make the UAE the first Gulf state to have a peaceful nuclear energy program. By 2020, the UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program will be in full gear, with four nuclear reactors providing nearly 25 percent of the UAE's electricity needs, according to the state-run Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC). The first reactor was initially set to start generating power in 2017, but ENEC recently announced its inauguration would be delayed until 2018 for technical reasons.

"We received the application for reactor one in March 2015 and since then we have been studying it," said Christer Viktorsson, director general at the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation which oversees regulation and licensing for the UAE's nuclear program. Viktorsson says the federal authority has sent ENEC more than 1,000 questions seeking documented answers since 2015 - and the licensing process is not yet over. "It's a massive application," he told AFP. "There are a few areas where we still have questions. We have to verify... that they have security plans, like emergency plans, and if an accident happens they can deal with it."

Concerns in volatile Gulf

In the FANR offices, 300 km west of the Barakah plant, Emirati and foreign employees are buried in licensing paperwork in a bid to meet next year's deadline. ENEC in April reported construction of the plant's four units had been 80 percent completed, with reactor one at 95 percent completion. Operations teams and contingency plans are also in place, according to ENEC, and Viktorsson says he has "no doubt" that the company will meet the 2018 launch date.

Much of the construction of the \$25-billion Barakah plant has been outsourced to the Korea Electric Power Corporation, the largest electric utility in South Korea, which won the project over French multinational group AREVA. "We don't think the nuclear power plant will cause any problems in the region," said a South Korean diplomat in the UAE, requesting anonymity. "The Barakah nuclear power plant will play an important role for the UAE's economic development and will be a role model for the other Arab countries, proving that nuclear power can be used for peaceful purposes."

While the peaceful use of nuclear energy is far from new, the UAE nuclear program has raised some concerns in the Gulf, a region that has long been gripped by war and political crises. But officials in the UAE, which sits on seven percent of the world's oil reserves, say their program will not add fuel to fire in the region, where the latest diplomatic crisis has seen gas-rich Qatar isolated from the UAE and Saudi Arabia over allegations that the emirate is too close to Iran and harbors Islamist extremists. —AFP

HARBI URGED TO CANCEL NEW HEALTH CHARGES...

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leaked on social media that showed she allegedly appointed expats with salaries over KD 2,000. The MPs considered these appointments - based on the rewards system - as something against Kuwaitization and moves to rectify the demographic imbalance. The lawmakers warned Sabeeh she could be grilled. MP Saleh Ashour said the gov-

ernment makes citizens "hate" expats through random appointments, inflated salaries and unnecessary incentives such as free education and healthcare for some. MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari said Kuwaiti graduates in the accounting and law professions find it "strange" that expats are continued to be appointed in these specialties. He said documents leaked on social media show expat advisors were given major pay increases of over KD 3,000.

Kuwait Times

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SCHOOLING BANISHES 'ROUGH SUMMER' WITH EASY WIN

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PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (R) runs for the ball during the French L1 football match Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) vs Toulouse FC (TFC) at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris on Sunday. — AFP

BRILLIANT NEYMAR DAZZLES AGAIN IN PSG ROMP

PARIS: Neymar starred from beginning to end on his home debut for Paris Saint-Germain, scoring twice in a 6-2 thumping of Toulouse in Ligue 1 on Sunday. The Brazilian superstar had a hand in everything else his new side did at the Parc des Princes as they recovered from the shock of falling behind early on to a Max Gradel goal. Neymar got the equaliser and the 222 million-euro (\$261 million) man later completed the rout in stunning style after further goals from Adrien Rabiot, an Edinson Cavani penalty, Javier Pastore and Layvin Kurzawa.

Marco Verratti was sent off for PSG midway through the second half and Toulouse at one point came back to 3-2, but they were ultimately blown away by the world's most expensive player. It was PSG's third win in as many league

games this season and they join reigning champions Monaco and Saint-Etienne in having the maximum nine points to their name.

Saint-Etienne visit the French capital next Friday and will be dreading the prospect after this latest exhibition from PSG's new superstar. "Neymar has come here to give something extra to the team and in his two matches so far he has shown his importance, that he has the talent to play in this side," said PSG coach Unai Emery. Neymar had a part in all of his side's goals in last week's 3-0 win at Guingamp, scoring one in his first game in French football since his stunning world-record transfer, and he was again at the centre of everything here.

Gradel, making his first appearance for Toulouse after joining on loan from

Bournemouth, volleyed the away side in front in the 18th minute but Neymar had already seen a shot strike the top of the bar before that.

The Brazilian then saw a header tipped onto the post by Alban Lafont before he equalised just after the half-hour mark, setting up Rabiot for a shot that was pushed out by the away goalkeeper before following in to convert the loose ball. The same duo combined as PSG went in front, Rabiot playing a one-two with Neymar before beating Lafont with a low strike into the bottom corner from 25 yards.

'INSPIRATION'

The second half was quieter before coming to life after Verratti was harshly shown a second yellow card for catching Christopher Jullien in

the Toulouse area in the 69th minute.

Soon after, the referee gave a harsh decision the other way, awarding a penalty for a foul on Neymar when Toulouse striker Andy Delort appeared to play the ball.

Cavani made no mistake from the spot, the goal his 11th in his last 11 Ligue 1 games, but Toulouse quickly pulled another one back when the giant Jullien headed in from a corner with 12 minutes left to make it 3-2.

Yet there was to be no grandstand finish from the visitors, as instead substitute Pastore—the man who has lost his place to accommodate Neymar—curled in a superb fourth.

Neymar's corner was then headed in by Kurzawa. But Neymar had to have the last word and somehow engineered himself space in the

area in stoppage time before finishing to make it 6-2 and bring the Parc des Princes crowd to its feet. "That kind of inspiration, as a modest player I couldn't have done that," said opposition boss Pascal Dupraz. "If I forget the fact I am the Toulouse coach, it is good for football to see that kind of class."

Elsewhere on Sunday, Marcelo Bielsa suffered a second straight loss as Lille coach as his side crashed to a disappointing 2-0 home defeat against Caen, while Marseille were frustrated by Angers in a 1-1 draw at the Stade Velodrome.

Radamel Falcao struck his fifth goal in three games on Friday to guide Monaco to a 1-0 win at Metz, while Saint-Etienne brushed aside newcomers Amiens 3-0 on Saturday. — AFP

REAL MADRID EASE PAST DEPORTIVO IN LA LIGA

MADRID: Real Madrid's winning streak shows no signs of abating as the European champions began their defence of La Liga with a comfortable 3-0 win at Deportivo la Coruna. Gareth Bale, Casemiro and Toni Kroos were on target for the visitors, but Madrid's night at La Riazor ended on a sour note when captain Sergio Ramos was shown the 23rd red card of his Real career.

"Clearly I am not happy with what happened with Sergio," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "I don't like seeing my players get sent-off, but we can't change it now." Ramos could have been dismissed earlier in the second-half when he only received a yellow card for a slap on Deportivo defender Fabian Schar.

However, he tied a record for 18 red cards in La Liga with a second booking for an elbow on Borja Valle in the dying embers of the match. "In general we can be happy with our performance," added Zidane.

"It isn't an easy place to come and they had chances to score." Deportivo were left to rue two

big opportunities missed by Florin Andone in the first 10 minutes, whilst the Romanian international also saw a late penalty saved by Keylor Navas.

Zidane made four changes from the side that completed a 5-1 aggregate hammering of Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup on Wednesday. Victory in midweek sealed a fourth trophy for Zidane's men in as many months after lifting La Liga, the Champions League and UEFA Super Cup.

However, far from their invincible form of late, Real were lucky to escape unpunished from a slow start. Navas flew to his left to turn Andone's first effort from a narrow angle to safety, but should have been beaten when the forward fired straight at the Costa Rican when clean through moments later.

There was no way back for Deportivo once Madrid took the lead on 20 minutes as Bale pounced on Karim Benzema's scuffed shot to fire into an unguarded net for his first goal of the season. A wonderfully worked team goal followed six minutes later as Real moved the ball all over the

pitch before Marcelo's low cross was turned home by Casemiro. Bale turned provider for Real's third just after the hour mark as Kroos's deflected effort from the edge of the box found the top corner.

Andone missed another chance for a consolation when his poorly hit spot-kick was easily turned behind by Navas two minutes from time before Ramos saw red.

Madrid move to the top of the table thanks to their better goal difference ahead of Barcelona, who beat Real Betis 2-0 in emotional circumstances at the Camp Nou earlier on Sunday.

In Barca's first home match since a pair of terrorist attacks killed 14 people and wounded around 120 in Barcelona's bustling Las Ramblas boulevard and the nearby seaside resort of Cambrils, Barcelona players wore black armbands and shirts with 'Barcelona' replacing individual names on the back. The hosts rose to the challenge of raising the city's spirits as an Alin Tosca own goal and Sergi Roberto's strike ensured a comfortable victory. — AFP

POLICEMAN, POET, FARMER AND NOW SOUTHAMPTON OWNER

SHANGHAI: The self-made Chinese millionaire who bought an 80 percent stake in Southampton was once a farmer, spent his formative years in the armed police and fancies himself as a poet. Gao Jisheng became just the latest Chinese tycoon to plough money into English football when he stumped up a reported £200 million (\$256 million) for "a partnership" at the Premier League club last week.

He adds to a growing cast of colourful overseas owners pumping money into English clubs. Gao keeps a low profile and his move on Southampton did not make major news in China. He does however maintain his own website, in which he describes a varied career including work as a farmer, journalist and factory manager, though he provides few details.

Gao entered real estate in the 1990s and the country's huge property boom propelled him into the ranks of the wealthy Chinese elite. His website includes several examples of his poetry and essays, the latest being "Grandma's Spinning Wheel", a recollection of his grandmother written on a flight from Shanghai to London in April.

But he would also appear to have a more steely side. From 1970 to 1977 — encompassing the tumult of the Cultural Revolution—Gao was in the Shanghai People's Armed Police as a squad leader and technician, according to a company profile that lists his birth year as 1952.

The acquisition of Southampton has been months-or perhaps years, his writings suggest—in the making. Gao's Lander Sports Development, which among other things builds stadiums in China, said in January it had agreed a deal with Southampton, but in April announced it

was off. The eventual agreement was described as a personal investment also involving Gao's daughter Nelly.

'DRUNK ON POOLE'

The Financial Times cited an unnamed senior football executive as saying other Premier League clubs had expressed concerns about Gao and what the newspaper called "his past involvement in corruption investigations in China".

Gao is not known to have been convicted of any crimes. He did not reply to repeated requests for comment. In the Southampton statement announcing his arrival, Gao said in brief remarks that he was "honoured and humbled to become a partner of Southampton Football Club".

A clue as to one possible reason why he plumped for the unfashionable club on England's south coast comes in his florid writing. As far back as 2011 Gao appears to have been enchanted by the region. "Southampton is not a big-size city but it is world renowned," he writes in a diary entry dated October of that year and posted on his website, describing how the doomed Titanic departed from the coastal city on its fateful voyage in 1912.

He also enthuses about Poole, with its picturesque natural harbour just an hour's drive from Southampton. The Dorset coastal town also boasts the millionaire's playground and pristine beaches of the Sandbanks Peninsula, one of the most expensive areas to buy property in the world.

"Poole is like a dark brown Chinese Pu'er tea, between red mountains and blue ocean. I can't help taking a sip," Gao gushes. "Its thick and bitter taste turned out to be sweet and fresh, I was drunk." — AFP



LA CORUNA: Real Madrid's Costa Rican goalkeeper Keylor Navas stops a penalty shot by Deportivo La Coruna's Romanian forward Florin Andone (R) during the Spanish league football match RC Deportivo de la Coruna vs Real Madrid CF at the Municipal de Riazor stadium in La Coruna on Sunday. — AFP

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GLOBAL MARKETS JITTERY AS TRUMP FEARS PERSIST

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SHANGHAI: A model poses next to a car from Chinese manufacturer Great Wall Motors at the Shanghai Auto Show in Shanghai. China's Great Wall Motor intends to make an offer to buy Italian-American car maker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, a company spokeswoman said yesterday. —AFP

CHINA'S GREAT WALL EYES FIAT CHRYSLER DEAL

GREAT WALL WANTS TO REV UP SUV, TRUCK PROFILE IN US

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: China's Great Wall Motor Co Ltd is interested in bidding for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), a company official said yesterday, confirming reports it is pursuing all or part of the owner of the Jeep and Ram truck brands.

There has been speculation over Chinese interest in FCA since Automotive News reported last week that an unidentified "well-known Chinese automaker" made an offer earlier this month, triggering a jump in FCA's Milan-listed shares. "With respect to this case, we currently have an intention to acquire. We are interested in (FCA)," an official at Great Wall Motor's press relations department told Reuters by phone. He declined to give his name and gave no further details.

FCA Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne is seeking a partner or buyer for the world's seventh-largest automaker to help it manage rising costs, comply with emissions regulations and develop technology for electric and self-driving cars. In a statement, Fiat Chrysler said it

had not been approached by Great Wall Motor, and was busy with implementing its current five-year business plan. A move for FCA by Great Wall Motor, China's largest sport utility vehicle (SUV) and pick-up manufacturer, would be audacious, however.

At a time when Beijing's attitude to outbound deals has cooled, if Great Wall bought FCA, which has a market value of almost \$20 billion, it would be by far China's largest overseas automotive industry deal - and possibly one of its largest ever overseas purchases - dwarfing Geely's 2010 billion acquisition of Volvo cars. FCA is also larger than Great Wall, which has a market value of closer to \$16 billion.

Earlier yesterday, two people familiar with the matter said Great Wall Motor had asked for a meeting with FCA, with the aim of making an offer for all or part of the group. Also yesterday, citing an email from Great Wall Motor President Wang Fengying, Automotive News reported Great Wall had contacted FCA to

express interest specifically in the Jeep brand. The industry publication cited a Great Wall spokesman confirming interest, but saying the Chinese automaker had not made a formal offer or met with FCA's board.

"Our strategic goal is to become the world's largest SUV maker," Automotive News quoted the spokesman as saying. "Acquiring Jeep, a global SUV brand, would enable us to achieve our goal sooner and better (than on our own)."

FCA shares rose 3.9 percent to 11.12 euros in Milan, outperforming a flat market. Great Wall Motor shares closed up almost 3 percent in Shanghai. "Jeep is the most logical choice since (Great Wall) wants to be the largest SUV maker in the world," said Yale Zhang, head of Shanghai-based consultancy Automotive Foresight. Ram could be an option, but "the Jeep brand is recognized globally. I think Great Wall Motor is eyeing a global strategy, not just the United States," Zhang added.

Key brands in focus

Marchionne told analysts last month that a new five-year strategy - to be unveiled next year - could include asset sales. While he acknowledged that Jeep, Ram, Maserati and Alfa Romeo could exist on their own, he appeared to pour cold water on the idea that any of them would be sold - at least not without leaving behind a less profitable "stump" that may struggle on its own. Jeep SUVs and Ram trucks, the two most coveted of Fiat Chrysler's brands, have become a major profit engine and a driver for Fiat's North American operations.

Jeep, which traces its roots to the iconic World War Two military vehicle, targets sales of 2 million vehicles in 2018, up from 1.4 million in 2016. Marchionne has said deliveries from the SUV brand could eventually rise to as many as 7 million a year as demand for sporty vehicles is set to keep rising. In a recent note, Morgan Stanley estimated Jeep's enterprise value at 23 billion euros (\$27 billion) - nearly 150 percent of

the whole of FCA's market value. A move for FCA or one of its main brands would be challenging to finance, and would have to overcome serious regulatory hurdles - but it would boost Great Wall's position in the US market and globally. It would also allow it to get around the politically charged issue of manufacturing in the United States to sell there, something that would otherwise take decades to build up.

Great Wall's founder and chairman Wei Jianjun saw opportunity when China began to fall in love with SUVs, and invested heavily in its Haval brand, cutting back on sedans. Within a few years, it was a top seller, with its H6 model topping sales charts going back to 2014. The people familiar with the matter told Reuters that Great Wall had been making plans for the United States for some time, mainly by upgrading some key products and improving branding. It earlier this year officially launched a new "Wei" brand, named after the chairman, of potentially US-market ready vehicles. —Reuters

TOTAL TO BUY MAERSK OIL FOR \$7.45BN

PARIS: French oil giant Total said yesterday that it would buy Maersk Oil, a unit of Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk, for \$7.45 billion (6.35 billion euros).

The company said the deal would make Total the second-largest operator in the North Sea, with substantial operations in Britain, Norway and Denmark. It will pay for the company with \$4.95 billion in Total shares, while taking on \$2.5 billion of Maersk Oil's debt.

The boards of both companies have approved the deal. Total said the acquisition would bolster its positions in the Gulf of Mexico, Algeria, Kenya and Kazakhstan. "This transaction delivers an exceptional opportunity for Total to acquire, via an equity transaction, a company with high-quality assets which are an excellent fit with many of Total's core regions," chief executive Patrick Pouyanne said in a statement.

He said that once completed in the first quarter of 2018, the deal would generate some \$400 million in cost savings and other synergies each year, which would immediately help to increase the combined

group's cash flow and earnings per share. "We are also very pleased that we will have a new anchor point in Denmark which will host our North Sea business unit and supervise our operations in Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands," Pouyanne said.

Investors won't be 'enthused'

Total embarked on a cost-saving drive three years ago in response to falling oil prices, but had recently signaled it was once again ready to pursue acquisitions. Since 2014, oil prices have dropped dramatically and remained stubbornly low, a trend that has weighed heavily on the industry.

"We imagine the investors won't be overly enthused with the idea of buying more oil barrels when they are overly concerned with falling oil demand," said analysts at AllianceBernstein. "Investors should however think of these as high-margin low-cost barrels" that will recoup costs even if the price of oil falls to \$30 per barrel from its current level around \$50.

It also noted the price in terms of output was nearly a third less than Shell sold its North Sea portfolio to



This file photograph taken on May 27, 2016, shows a general view of the Total refinery of Donges, western France. French oil giant Total said yesterday, that it would buy Maersk Oil, a unit of the Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk, for \$7.45 billion. —AFP

Chrysaor earlier this year. Shares in Total initially fell, but by afternoon were up 0.3 percent at 42.76 euros per share while Paris's CAC 40 index was down 0.3 percent. Shares in Maersk jumped by 3.3 percent. Ane Maersk Mc-Kinney Uggle, who heads the A.P. Moller Holding company, said

"this is a very difficult, but right decision." "Maersk Oil has for almost half a century been at the forefront of the Danish oil development, been vital to A.P. Moller-Maersk and to this very day plays a decisive role in the Danish and international oil and gas industry," she said. — AFP

LEBANESE PRESIDENT SIGNS PUBLIC SECTOR PAY RISE

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun signed off on public sector wage increases and related tax hikes yesterday, a move that has triggered business concern but could help politicians shore up support ahead of parliamentary elections next year.

Aoun held off ratifying the two laws since parliament approved them last month amid objections from the business community about the economic impact of more taxes on Lebanon's fragile economy. Finance Minister Ali Hassan Khalil, a proponent of the laws, told Reuters the move would "reflect positively on social stability." He said it would cost an estimated 1.38 trillion Lebanese pounds (\$920 million), while the tax increases would bring in revenue of 1.65 trillion pounds (\$1.1 billion).

But Nassib Ghobril, chief economist at Lebanon's Byblos Bank, said it was difficult to gauge how much it would cost because "we don't know how many employees there are in the public sector." "It's difficult to put a real, credible figure on the cost of the public sector

salary scale," he said. The public sector pay scale law has been under discussion for years. Ghobril said the public sector needed "fundamental and in-depth reforms" before salary increases. Without that, the new legislation amounted to a major "redistribution of income ... to a bloated, inefficient and largely unproductive sector."

The tax law raises value-added tax (VAT) by one percentage point to 11 percent and hikes corporation tax to 17 percent from 15 percent. While increased public sector pay will prove popular among state workers, the proposed tax increases triggered several protests earlier this year. Some public sector workers had also demonstrated in recent days calling on Aoun to sign the laws.

Many economists say Lebanon should focus more on fighting tax evasion rather than raising new taxes to finance public sector pay increases. Ghobril said that after years of deliberation, politicians probably passed the laws now "because we're coming close to parliamentary elections". —Reuters

VIVA LAUNCHES THE NEW HUAWEI P10 FOR KD 12.5 PLAN 'MORE' STUNNING PORTRAITS



KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the new Huawei P10 device starting KD 12.5 plan that gives the customers KD 7 credit, unlimited VIVA to VIVA voice calls, 5 GB Internet and 300 local SMS.

VIVA is the only operator in Kuwait to offer the new Huawei P10 which sets a new benchmark in style and craftsmanship. Customers can now enjoy the many exciting new features, including the new Leica Dual Camera 2.0 Pro edition that produces stunning artistic portrait shots with 20x12 MP. In addition to 3D facial detection for stunning portraits, ultra-memory for higher speed, double download speed and accurate GPS with 4X4 MIMO LTE and Wi-Fi antenna.

As well as redefining portrait photography, the device boasts remarkable technology and design features by introducing the powerful Kirin 960 processor, an all-new EMUI 5.1, as well as a fingerprint sensor on the front. With 3,200 mAh battery power for the new Huawei P10, smartphone supports Huawei SuperCharge technology.

The low voltage, low temperature fast charging solution comes with a super safe 5-gate protection mechanism, which offers real-time voltage, current and temperature monitoring to make charging not only fast but safe.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 20 August 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 13 August - 17 August 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 13/8): Mohammad Hasan Abdulrahman Ishaq, Amr Ibrahim Mohammad Hasan

(Monday 14/8): Nawriah Matrood Amamah, Zainab Mohammed Mandani Mohammed

(Tuesday 15/8): Jarah Sagheer Thamer Al-Fhadli, Najem Abed Roomi Al-Khaldi

(Wednesday 16/8): Ali Khalid Saradar Hamadah, Faisal Faleh Ayed Al-Subaiei

(Thursday 17/8): Ismaeil Mohammad Johar Abdullah, Nayef Abdulaziz Mohammed Darweesh

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records
- Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- The most chances to win
- Only bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.



ALL-NEW MEGANE BY RENAULT AL-BABTAIN ARRIVES IN KUWAIT C SEDAN SETS THE BENCHMARK IN COMPACT SALOON SEGMENT

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is proud to announce the arrival of its all new MEGANE, a C Sedan, thereby expanding the Renault range. Designed to accommodate customers who enjoy success with a distinct social appeal, the new C-segment model brings with it record breaking roominess and a boot volume reaching 503dm3.

Strengthening the brand's position in a market where compact saloons remain the preferred choice among many, the New Renault MEGANE is equipped with generous space for its occupants i.e. dimensions of 4.63m long and 1.81m wide, and a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m. Owing to its dynamic styling and advanced features, the new MEGANE represents the next level in the compact saloon category.

Renault MEGANE comes with a 1.6-litre engine, 115hp designed to enhance driving enjoyment and reduce fuel consumption

The new MEGANE shares many styling features with its larger sibling Renault TALISMAN, including its lighting signature which is visible night and day like the front C-shaped lighting signature features LED 3D-effect light guides & the rear LED lights that form a unique horizontal 3D-effect signature featuring Edge Light technology. Travelling comfort is further enhanced by the careful attention that has been paid to the interior finish, to the quality of the soft-to-the-touch materials, which are within easy reach of the driver and passengers. The new MEGANE presents a wide range of unique features ranging from a configurable 7-inch TFT colour screen instrument display and the R-LINK 2 multimedia tablet available in two formats (7-inch landscape format, or 8.7-inch portrait format), as well as MULTI-SENSE. With the assistance of MULTI-SENSE technology, the driver is able to adjust the engine sound with a choice between three different settings: Neutral, Comfort and Sport.

Ensuring complete customer satisfaction is met, another feature that sets the high-end model apart is Easy Trunk Access (ETA), a hands-free boot opening system that works by detecting movement underneath the rear bumper. Additionally, the new MEGANE is equipped with Blind Spot Warning (BSW) to ensure safe over-



taking maneuvers.

The new MEGANE also benefits from the very latest driving aid (ADAS) technologies that also equip Renault's high-end models (Talisman, new KOLEOS) like Easy Park Assist which caters for three different types of parking: parallel, perpendicular and angle; Rear View Camera & Front, rear and side parking sensors, cruise control & speed limiter.

The new MEGANE is also furnished with the

latest-generation electronic stability control (ESC), traction control, braking assist, electronic brake force distribution, hill start assist, and tire pressure monitoring system as standard equipment.

The new MEGANE starts from KD 4,350 only and comes with a 10 year warranty in addition to free registration and third party insurance. To experience a whole new level of the dynamic compact saloon in Kuwait, customers are urged to visit its showroom in Al-Rai.



'KFH TAKAFUL' OPENS CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER AT ALI AL-GHANEM & SONS GARAGE

KUWAIT: KFH Takaful Insurance Co "KFH Takaful" announced the inauguration of a service center for its customers at Ali Al-Ghanem & Sons Garage - Shuwaikh. The center incarnates the company's interest in providing distinguished services to its unique customers through continuous collaboration with automotive agents to provide a faster and easier services to related customers.

The center shall serve company's customers in case of accidents. The center shall receive customers and complete all procedures without them having to refer to the company. This process shall save customers time and effort. Service will be provided as per the highest safety and efficiency standards.

This new center is one of the centers which KFH-Takaful has placed under the disposal of its customers as per cooperation agreements concluded with highly reputable automotive agents in the market in order to facilitate procedures and save customers time and effort for customers and repair cars in a professional manner as per the highest standards under the warranty of the agent. Accordingly the customer is able to complete all his car repair procedures at the center located at the concerned garage.

The center participates in providing high class service as per the highest safety and security standards, thus enhancing the concept of customer service at the company.



BURGAN BANK RECEIVES STP AWARD 2016 FROM CITIBANK

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank, Kuwait's most dynamic bank, is pleased to announce that it has recently been granted Citibank Straight through Processing Excellence Award in recognition of its secure and commendable paying processing services. The prestigious award by one of the most prominent international banks further demonstrates Borgan Bank's commitment to technological advances, operational excellence and unparalleled customer service.

Straight through Processing (STP) allows for the entire trade process and payment transactions to be conducted electronically without the need for re-keying or human intervention, thus ensuring quality and accuracy in delivering commercial payments.

Venkat Menon, Group Chief Operations & Technology Officer said: "We are pleased by this distinction as it further recognizes our advanced technological infrastructure, matching business and regulatory needs and delivering an enhanced banking experience. We remain committed to investing in the latest technologies and in our people to ensure fast, accurate and reliable transfers and other banking operations."

Citibank Straight through Processing Excellence Award 2016 is the first for Borgan Bank. Previously, it has also

been awarded, for several consecutive years, the Commerzbank Award and the JP Morgan Chase Award, in recognition of its outstanding straight-through results by properly formatting their SWIFT payments.

Held annually, the Citibank Award aims to ensure the highest standard of banking solutions are practiced across its wide network with accuracy being among the top criteria

in assessing financial institutions' eligibility for the award.

Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned sub-

sidaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Borgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.





PHILIPPINES DEPLOYS TROOPS TO A SECOND PROVINCE TO FIGHT BIRD FLU

MANILA: The Philippines has deployed more troops to cull thousands of chickens one day after the farm ministry confirmed the spread of bird flu into a second province north of the capital, Manila. More than 100 soldiers were sent on Saturday to the towns of Jaen and San Isidro in Nueva Ecija province after two cases of avian flu were detected in quails, army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isagani Nato said in a statement.

The new bird flu cases were about 50 km from the initial outbreak in a swampy area of Pampanga that is a sanctuary for migratory birds from China. Authorities have not determined the cause of the bird flu outbreak, nor the exact strain, on which tests are being done in Australia. There has been no case of

human transmission in either outbreak, and early tests have ruled out highly pathogenic H5N1 strain.

Nato said the deployment in Nueva Ecija followed a request from the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Department of Agriculture for assistance "after confirming a new incident of bird flu outbreak". He said troops were now undergoing training on how to do their jobs. The 300 soldiers sent to Pampanga on Thursday culled nearly 30,000 chicken from a farm within a one kilometer radius of the first bird flu outbreak. The farm ministry said about 600,000 chickens on about 36 farms in Pampanga will be culled. It did not say how many will be culled in the second province.—Reuters

LOVE BECKONS FOR RECOVERING CHIMPANZEE IN BRAZIL REFUGE

DEPRESSED CHIMP TRANSFERRED TO SANCTUARY

SOROCABA, Brazil: Marcelino is calling to her, but Cecilia cannot be with him. Not yet. He may be handsome, but she has suffered a lot and isn't ready for a relationship. This is not a soap opera. It is just the way things go in a Brazilian refuge for abused and depressed chimpanzees. Cecilia, 20, sits on a rooftop and gazes wistfully around—perhaps remembering her childhood spent in a cramped zoo, or her two friends who died there.

Luckily she is now in the best place to have her depression treated: the Sorocaba Great Primates Sanctuary. She is alone in her enclosure, but with toys and plenty of space, it beats being in a zoo. And her care takers say she is slowly getting better.

Legal chimp precedent

Cecilia came to Sorocaba four months ago from Mendoza in Argentina, after making legal history in a case brought by animal rights' groups. The judge ruled that Cecilia was being held in unsuitable conditions at the Mendoza zoo and should be transferred to this sanctuary near Sao Paulo. In her ruling, the judge defined Cecilia as "a non-human subject of law." Though she is a chimp, the law applied to her as it would to a person. Experts say she was the first ape ever to be transferred to a sanctuary under such a legal ruling.

Lonely apes' club

Cecilia had spent her whole life in the zoo, deprived of the benefits of roaming free in the wild. Above all, she was lonely: heartbroken by the deaths of Charly and Xuxa, her two lifetime chimp companions. "When she arrived here she had no physical problems but she was very depressed," says Camila Gentile, a veterinary at the sanctuary. "She used to spend all her time lying down and did not interact with anyone." Now Cecilia is starting to eat better and even looks over and replies when Marcelino calls to her from his nearby enclosure, as she sits on her perch.

Talking cure

In Sorocaba, Cecilia shares a 500,000-square-meter refuge of trees, grass and enclosures with about 50 other chimps, as well as hundreds of other animals such as lions and bears. A staff of 30 tend to them. Some of the apes receive medication to stop them mutilating themselves. But they also benefit from emotional support. "It is very important to talk to them so they don't feel lonely," says Merivan Miranda, one of the care takers. "So that they know there is someone there who understands them."

Unique chimp sanctuary

One of the chimps, Dolores, 18, sits shrieking on her perch: the mental effect of years of mistreatment in a zoo. Another, Jango, gives a broad but toothless smile when the director of the sanctuary, Pedro Ynterian, approaches. The zookeepers who used to own Jango castrated him and pulled his teeth out. He came to the sanctuary in 2003. "These animals were abused and mistreated in circuses and zoos, and taken by traffickers who made money out of them," Ynterian says. "They need a place where they will be treated decently, without visits by the public, that is not a zoo. This is the only such place in Latin America."



SAO PAULO: A chimpanzee is seen at the Great Apes Project (GAP), a sanctuary for apes in Sorocaba, some 100km west of Sao Paulo, Brazil.



SAO PAULO: A chimpanzee named Cecilia is seen at the Great Apes Project (GAP), a sanctuary for apes in Sorocaba, some 100km west of Sao Paulo, Brazil. —AFP photos

Animal trade

Ynterian, 77 has spoken widely in the media about how he took part in his native Cuba in a foiled attack against its late Communist leader Fidel Castro. Now this Cuban microbiologist fights for the animals. He joined up with the Great Ape Project, an international association which targets mistreatment in circuses and zoos. "I've had some serious problems," he says. "People even tried to kill me a few years ago, because there's a lot of money involved in the market in animals." The Brazilian Traveling Circus Union sued Ynterian, accusing him of being part of an animal-trafficking racket. The Sao Paulo state prosecution service said it investigated Ynterian and closed the case against him in 2012 without charges.

Simian matchmaking

Staff at the refuge had initially tried to pair Cecilia off with a chimp named Billy, but he turned out to be too impulsive for her. They hope she will have better luck with Marcelino. He shares an enclosure with his family, but is not getting on with his father. It is time he found himself a nice girl-chimp and moved out. Cecilia, meanwhile, "is discovering a different world," Ynterian says.

"She can walk freely over the earth and the grass. She is free in this territory and she can see that there are other chimpanzee families nearby." He is certain that with time Cecilia will overcome her depression. "That is what she is seeking to do, so that she can partner with someone and stop living alone," Ynterian says. "And she will manage to do it."—AFP

S CAROLINA AQUARIUM TO MONITOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR DURING ECLIPSE

CHARLESTON: Animals in the path of the first total solar eclipse to travel across the United States in 99 years have a big surprise awaiting them today afternoon, biologists say. Zoos, aquariums and other wildlife parks see the celestial phenomenon as a special research opportunity to observe how birds and mammals react when the moon's shadow blots out most of the sun's light in the middle of the day, experts say.

The South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, the last spot over which the total eclipse will pass during its coast-to-coast journey, will carefully monitor the behavior of creatures during the minute and 36 seconds when the area goes dark. Biologists have set up video cameras in the Salt Marsh Aviary and Mountain Forest exhibits to gather data. In general, researchers are not particularly concerned that the sudden mid-afternoon darkness will upset animals too much even though the eclipse's approach will come as a complete surprise to them.

"A little bit of excitement in the days of the animals is a good thing," said aviculturist Monty Wallace. "You don't want the same thing happening to you every day." Past solar eclipses have left animals appearing confused, with the disappearing sunlight throwing off their circadian rhythms, research shows. Birds at Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park fell silent while others flew in the direction of their roosts during an eclipse in 2001, while hippos "paused and looked nervous," according to a study published in the journal *Astronomy* and

Geophysics.

The Charleston aquarium's aviary exhibit is home to two pelicans, six different types of ducks, two white ibises, two types of seagulls and two herons. One of them, a yellow-crowned night heron, is nocturnal, while the other, a little blue heron, is active during the day. "I'm interested to see the different behaviors that they would have naturally occurring but at a wrong time of the day, being in the middle of the day when the eclipse happens," Wallace said.

The nocturnal heron may forage for food instead of hiding in a tree, its normal daytime behavior, the biologist said, while the little blue heron may take refuge in the trees out of fear of nocturnal predators. Kendle Enter, who works as the animal behaviorist senior biologist at the aquarium, is not expecting any changes in the behavior of two river otters in the Mountain Forest exhibit. At midday today, when the moon's shadow will begin to cross the sun in Charleston, the otters are usually sleeping, she said.

Totality is expected at 2:46 pm, after the otters awaken from their naps. "They're either going to sleep through it or they're going to wake up, expecting their food," Enter said. On its website, NASA recommends solar eclipse watchers find out for themselves how animals behave during the eclipse by simply observing pets or local wildlife. An app called iNaturalist is available to record observations and submit them online to compile a database about animal behavior during the eclipse.—Reuters

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KUWAITI FAMILIES CAN STAY AT DUBAI'S MOST ICONIC HOTELS THIS EID AL-ADHA

With the blistering summer months still not over, Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts is offering some fantastic packages for Kuwaiti travelers to stay cool and refreshed at some of Dubai's most iconic hotels for Eid Al-Adha in early September. Valid from August 31 until September 8, 2017, travelers from Kuwait have the option to stay beachside at Jumeirah Al-Naseem, Jumeirah Al-Qasr, Burj Al-Arab, Jumeirah, or head to the city at Jumeirah Emirates Towers or Jumeirah Creekside for a stay that includes complimentary breakfast, your choice of lunch or dinner; and what's more, stay at any of the hotels and you'll also be able to cool off at Wild Wadi Waterpark for free.

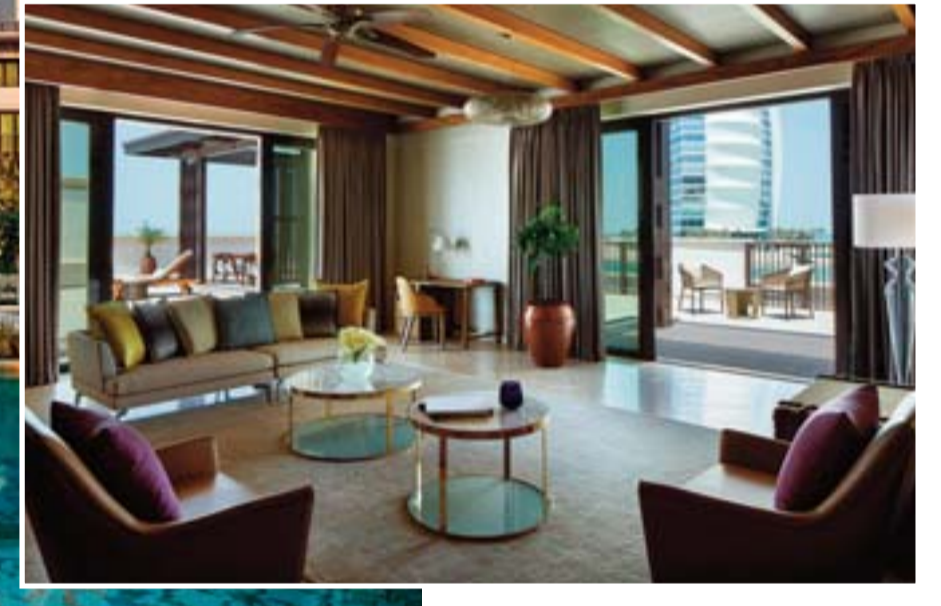
Offers include Jumeirah Al-Naseem at Madinat Jumeirah, which became very popular amongst Kuwaiti families. It is Jumeirah's newest hotel in Dubai, Jumeirah Al-Naseem with special rate that includes breakfast, lunch or dinner at over 60 restaurants across Madinat Jumeirah Resort including Rockfish located on the beach, with views of the most instagrammed hotel - Burj Al-Arab.

Packages also include Jumeirah Al-Qasr which is built in the shape of a Sheikh's palace. This hotel is the perfect escape to feel and be treated like royalty. The opulent Arabic decor and the fantastic hospitality will ensure you have the time of your life. After your day at the pool or pampering at Talise Spa, learn to cook with one of



the talented Chefs at Khaymat Al-Bahar where you can savor traditional Lebanese delicacies or at Al-Hambra where you can master the art of making Spanish tapas.

The very famous Burj Al-Arab is also offering irresistible value to travelers from Kuwait with its savor complimentary daily breakfast; experience the ultimate poolside luxury at one of Burj Al-Arab's private cabanas at The Terrace and enjoy delicious food and drinks at Scape Restaurant & Bar, whilst basking in sheer luxury.



Abdelaziz Al-Mushari, Yarmouk Mayor

YARMOUK HEALTH CITY CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN DAY

Yarmouk Health City celebrated the International Humanitarian Action Day in cooperation with the "humanitarian action center for legal support." Kuwait had extended aid to the needy and affected people all over the globe and the United Nations Secretary General called it a humanitarian center and gave HH the Amir the title "Leader of Humanitarian Work." All humanitarian action bodies be it individuals, societies, private or public sectors agreed to give aid to those who need it regardless of religion, country or color.



Director general of humanitarian center

Greetings



Happy 3rd birthday to our loving Prince Riddhimaan Dev. You are growing up strong, happy, smart and your third birthday gives us a chance to show you how much we love you. Happy birthday wishes from Mamma, Papa, relatives and friends.

AWAMI VOLUNTEER LEAGUE KUWAIT OBSERVES NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

On August 15, 1975, The National Mourning Day, Father of the Bengali nation and the founding premier of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members was brutally murdered on this darkest episode in 1975. Commemorating the National Mourning Day - Awami Volunteer League Kuwait has met on a discussion meeting and prayer mahfil at Kuwait City on August 19, 2017.

Belal uddin General Secretary of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait presented the program and Mohammed Masud Karim the president of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait presided the program. Ashrak Ali Ferdous joint Convener of Bangladesh Awami league

Kuwait Adhoc Committee was the chief guest in the event.

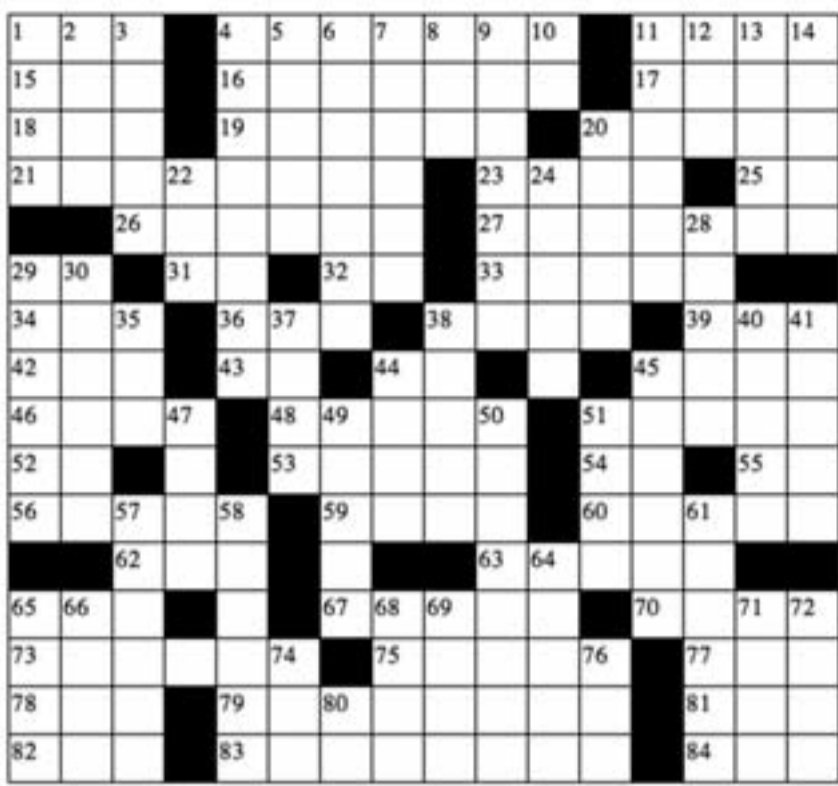
Among the special guests were Rafiqul Islam Bhulu president of Awami foundation Kuwait, Jahangir Kader member secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Kuwait Adhoc Committee, Sultan Faruk, Gias Uddin and Abdul Aziz advisor of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait, Emam Uddin Badal president of Awami Jubo league Kuwait, Mohd. Hanif Miah president of Jatio Sromik League Kuwait, Awami League leader Sayed Mizanur Rahman, Shamsul Islam, Anisur Rahman Milon, Abul Hossain Shipon, Kamal Uddin, Babul Akter Noor president of Bornomala Cultural group.

The program commenced with the recita-

tion of verses from the holy Quran, recited by Mowlana Moin Uddin. The one minute silence was observed in honor of the martyrs of August 15, 1975. Awami Volunteer League Kuwait President Mohammed Masud Karim, Chief guest Ashrak Ali Ferdous, all of special guests and Ashraf Azam organizing secretary, Sahadat Hossain Joint Secretary, Abdul Mannan, Abu Taher, Mohammed Yousuf vice-president of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait delivered speeches highlighting the glorious achievements of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman. Special prayer was offered seeking divine grace for the departed soul of Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman and all the martyrs of August 15, 1975.



CROSSWORD 1692



ACROSS

- 1. Athletic facility equipped for sports or physical training.
4. Strip something of drapery.
11. In bed.
15. An affirmative.
16. Small voraciously carnivorous freshwater fishes of South America that attack and destroy living animals.
17. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
18. (in golf) The standard number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course, or for the entire course.
19. An ancient musical horn made from the horn of a ram.
21. A fight involving shooting small arms with the intent to kill or frighten.
23. A Loloish language.
25. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
26. An event that occurs when something passes from one state or phase to another.
27. The largest island of Denmark and the site of Copenhagen.
29. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
31. 1/1000 gram.
32. A period of time equal to 1/24th of a day.
33. Lower in esteem.
34. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
36. Take in solid food.
39. An informal term for a father.
42. A master's degree in education.
43. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
46. South African term for 'boss'.
48. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
52. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
53. Order by virtue of superior authority.
54. An associate degree in nursing.
55. A note appended to a letter after the signature.
56. Make a shrill creaking, squeaking, or noise, as of a door, mouse, or bird.
59. A district in southwestern Manhattan noted for its shops and restaurants and galleries and artist's lofts.
60. A woman of refinement.
62. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
63. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
65. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
67. A domain in which something is dominant.
70. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
73. Daughter of Nehru who served as Prime Minister of India from 1966 to 1977 (1917-1984).
75. A social division of (usually preliterate) people.
77. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
78. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
79. Lacking tucks or not being tucked.
81. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.

- 82. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
83. A protagonist who lacks the characteristics that would make him a hero (or her a heroine).
84. A doctor's degree in education.

DOWN

- 1. A genus of Accipitridae.
2. Not only so, but.
3. Of or relating to or characteristic of Morocco or its people.
4. A selfish actor who upstages the other actors.
5. A constitutional monarchy occupying the Japanese Archipelago.
6. A temporary shortage of rainfall.
7. One of several parallel sloping beams that support a roof.
8. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
9. Of or relating to or functioning as a phrase.
10. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
11. Reports of the work of a society or learned body etc.
12. A flexible container with a single opening.
13. A city in western Germany.
14. Marked by features of the immediate and usually discounted past.
20. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
22. A unit of electrical resistance equal to the resistance between two points on a conductor when a potential difference of one volt between them produces a current of one ampere.
24. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
28. Yellow-fever mosquitos.
30. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
35. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
37. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
38. A hidden drawback.
40. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
41. The form of theological rationalism that believes in God on the basis of reason without reference to revelation.
44. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
45. A nation in northern North America.
47. Acid gritty-textured fruit.
49. Typical geese.
50. Immeasurably small.
51. God of love and erotic desire.
57. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
58. A member of a South American Indian people in Peru who were formerly the ruling class of the Inca empire.
61. Mar or spoil the appearance of.
64. A hot glowing or smouldering fragment of wood or coal left from a fire.
66. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
68. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
69. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
71. A sudden short attack.
72. Toward the mouth or oral region.
74. A hotel providing overnight lodging for travelers.
76. The capital and largest city of Japan.
80. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In taking care of business, it is important to stay focused. There is a sense of emotional coolness or detachment at the personal level. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns...



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Inventions, in particular in communications, perhaps by updating computers and electronics, may be a path of temptation to move into some type of new profession. There are clear perspectives into your present reality, making situations easier to understand...



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way for you. Opportunities are plenty and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost anything. This is one of those days that everything blends together...



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are in control of your day, especially when interacting with superiors. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it requires. It is ideas that count for you now, more than narrowly personal concerns...



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your dreams and ideals are very important to you. You may be more focused on your goals now than ever before. You busy yourself putting those plans of yours to work. You will notice that you have become more focused in your work lately...



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Saying or writing with style comes natural to you these days. New words to increase your vocabulary expertise can be a fun activity between you and a friend or co-worker. Your ability to discriminate real breakthroughs and spot new trends makes you able to work in areas that are at the very fringe of technology...



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form. This is a real time to buckle down and firm up your career goals. Your own ambition and drive are strong. You are able to use good reasonable thinking and make good choices...



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find that a particular project is just not your cup of tea this morning. You take your turn and may have the opportunity to suggest a rotation routine so that you are not always called on to do things you do not want to do every day...



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are in tune with the practical issues in the workplace today. A firm sense of direction will help get you to your destination. This is a great time to be working in groups. You may be sought after as a guide or leader. You could be most persuasive with others and charismatic in speech and communication...



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Be satisfied with the ordinary and usual for now. Novel ideas or insights could be more damaging than useful. There is hectic emotional energy prevailing, but it is only temporary. After the workday is over, you could be tempted to relieve stress by purchasing some items...



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Anyone who tries to get you to play with words is in for a big surprise. Your mind cuts right through all the window dressing and gets right down to the quick. Before anyone knows it, you have the heart of the matter out front for everyone to see...



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your successful optimism is obvious and therefore, catching. You see positive results from your hard work today. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life now. Perhaps you have been planning a move and someone calls with information on just the right home for you...

WORD SEARCH

Pet Dog

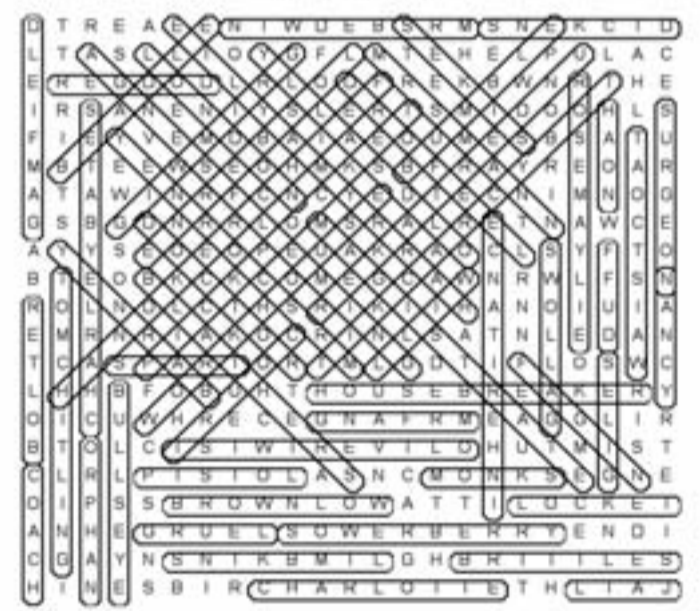
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.



- BARK BATH BONE BOWLS CANINE CHASE CHEW TOY COLLAR COMPANION FAITHFUL
FEED FETCH FOOD FRIEND GROOM GROWL GUARD HAIR HARNESS HOUSE
ID TAG JUMP KENNEL LEASH LICK LOYAL OWNER PANT PAWS PLAY
PUPPY ROLL OVER SHAMPOO SLEEP SLEEP TRAIN TREATS TREATS TRIM NAILS WAG TAIL WALK WATER

Yesterday's Solution

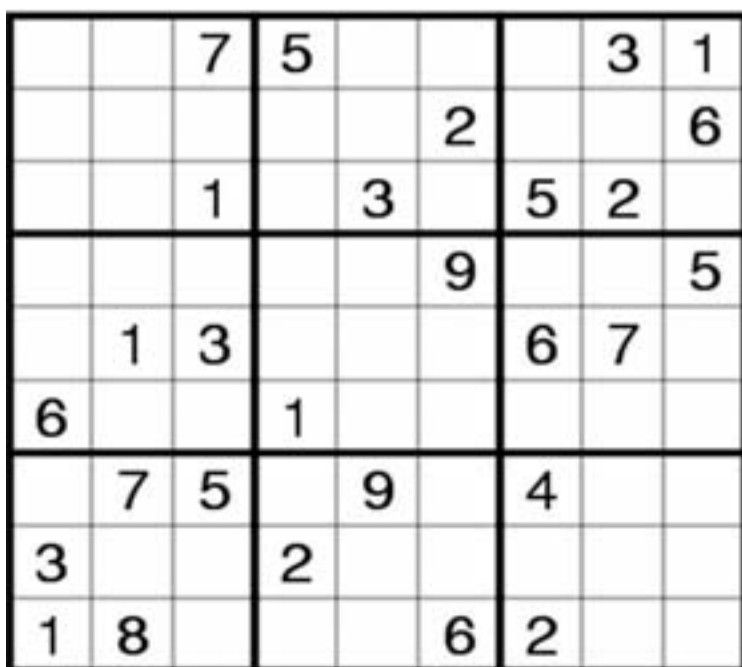
Oliver Twist



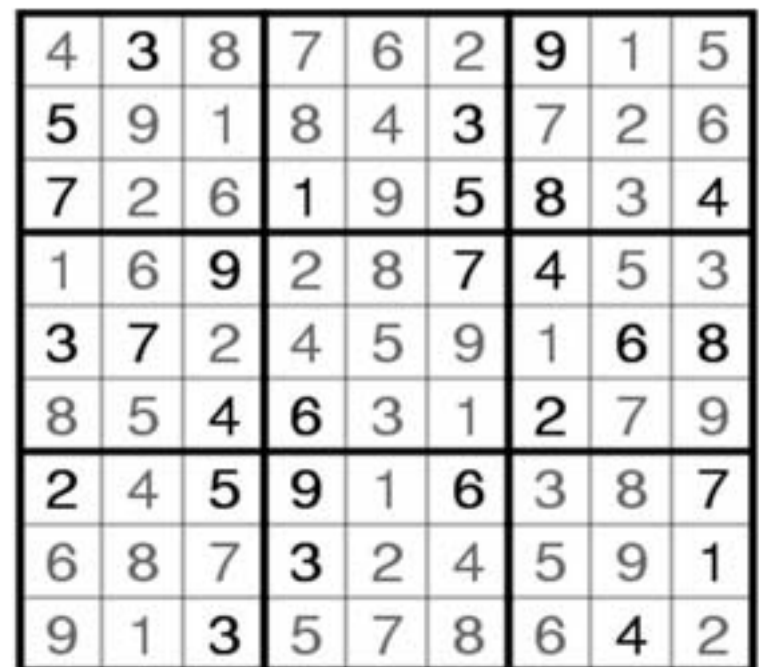
- AGNES FLEMING DOGGER LIMBKINS ORPHAN
BARNEY DUFF LOCKET PIDROCKET
BEADLE FAGIN LONDON PISTOL
BLATHERS GALLOWES LOSBERNE ROSE MAYLIE
BOLTER GAMFIELD MAGISTRATE SIKES
BRITTLER GILES MONKS SOWERBERRY
BROWNLOW GRIMSHAW MR. FANG SURGEON
BULL'S-EYE GRUEL MRS. BEOWEN TOBY CHICKIT
BUMBLE HANCKERCHIEF MRS. CORNEY TOM CHITLING
CHARLEY BATES HARRY MAYLIE MRS. MANN TRAPS
CHARLOTTE HOUSEBREAKER NANCY UNDERTAKER
COACH INHERITANCE NODDY WESTCOAT
DICKENS JAIL OLD SALLY WILL
DOCTOR LEEFORD OLIVER TWIST WORKHOUSE

The hidden sentence is: TREATS OF THE PLACE WHERE OLIVER TWIST WAS BORN AND OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING HIS BIRTH

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



GOSSIP



DJ Khaled wants Adele collaboration

DJ Khaled wants to collaborate with Adele. The 'I'm the One' hitmaker has teamed up with a number of high-profile artists, including Beyonce, Justin Bieber, Rihanna and Chance the Rapper, but he has the 'Hello' hitmaker at the top of his wish list along with rappers Dr Dre and Eminem. He told Billboard magazine: "I want to work with Dr. Dre. I want to work with Eminem. I want to work with

Adele." In the meantime, Mark Wahlberg revealed last month that he has been working on a project with the 'Wild Thoughts' hitmaker. The 46-year-old actor was a member of New Kids On The Block before they hit the big time and quit in 1988, but he could be set to return to the studio as he and the hip-hop star have been talking about working together. The 'Transformers: The Last Knight' star said: "I've spoken

to [DJ Khaled] a couple times. We're working on some other things." Mark was part of Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch, a hip-hop outfit signed to Atlantic Records from 1989 to 1993, who had a hit with 'Good Vibrations', which made it to number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1991. Khaled, 41, released his star-studded 10th studio album 'Grateful' in June.

Louis Tomlinson's mind-blowing album

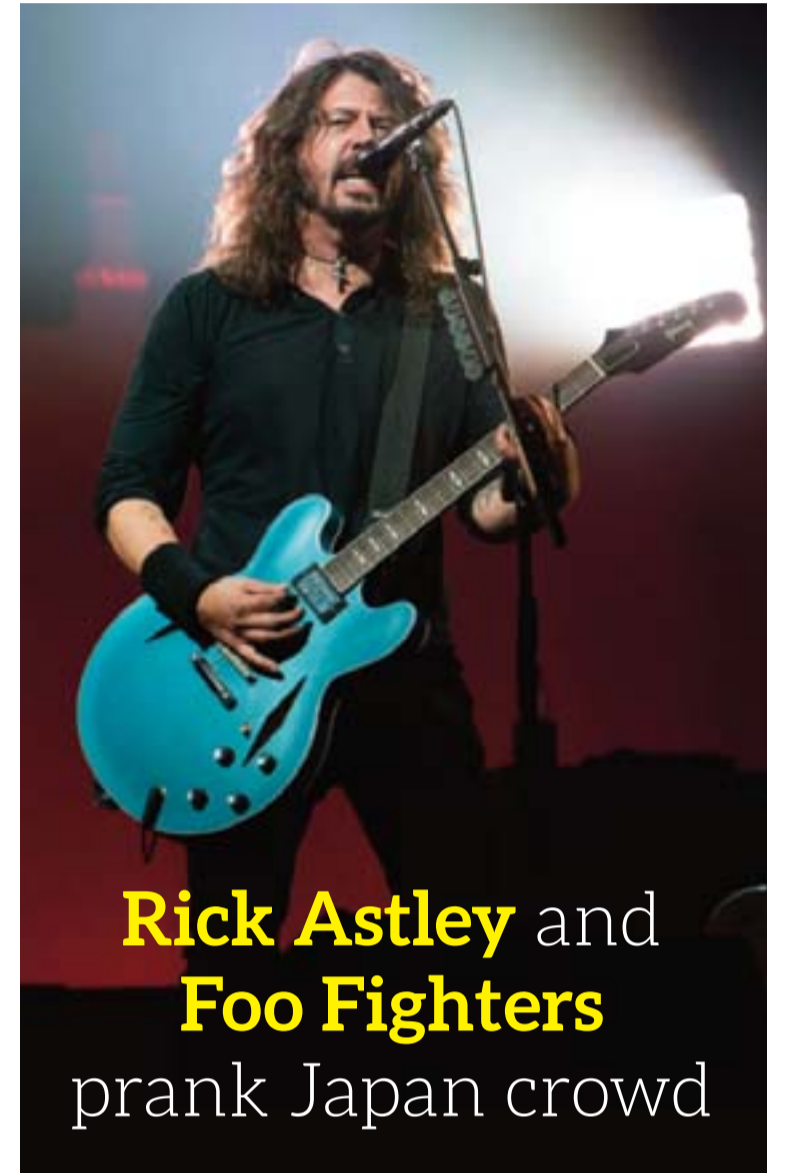
Steve Aoki says Louis Tomlinson's debut solo album will "blow people's minds". The EDM superstar teamed up with the One Direction hunk on his debut solo single 'Just Hold On' and has been so impressed with his record that he plans on getting back into the studio with the 25-year-old singer when he has a space in his schedule. Asked if the pair are going to work together again, the 'Lit' hitmaker said: "We've been talking about doing future music as well and we always try and figure out time between schedules. Plus he's crushing it with Back to You. I love that track." On what to expect from the record from what he has listened to, Steve told The Sun Online: "I think he's going to blow people away with his new album. His album's incredible. I've heard some songs and everyone is just mind blowing to me. "All I can tell you is they make me feel something incredibly human." The pair won the Choice Music Collaboration prize at the Teen Choice Awards last weekend for the hit song and the 'Back to You' hitmaker paid tribute to his pal in an emotional Instagram video after the ceremony. Louis said: "Me and Steve won the best collaboration award and that's unbelievable. I just want to thank everyone for their continued support. And obviously a massive thanks to Steve, what a legend you are. Thank you very much."



STORMZY DEBUTS 'SOFTER' VOCALS ON JP COOPER SONG



Stormzy sings for the first time on his song with JP Cooper. The grime superstar and the 'September Song' hitmaker have teamed up on the track 'Momma's Prayer' and JP has revealed the 'Big For Your Boots' rapper has a soft soulful tone to his vocals. He told the Daily Star newspaper: "It shows Stormzy's softer side. "He has a lovely tone for his voice - he has a really honest delivery, in a similar way a lot of rappers do a little bit of singing in the chorus, he does on this track." JP - whose real name is John Paul Cooper - previously revealed the single exclusively to BANG Showbiz. He said: "The funny thing is there were a few plans to collaborate on a song. And a lot of people said we've collaborated on a song but it never actually happened. "So we have written a track together and I guess people will know about it very soon and that is all I am going to say." Stormzy is in big demand for collaborations as Clean Bandit cellist Grace Chatto recently revealed the 'Symphony' hitmakers are hoping to get the 24-year-old star on one of their tracks. Over the years the electronic music group - which includes also includes Jack and Luke Patterson - have collaborated with a number of artists such as Jess Glynne, Zara Larsson and Sean Paul, but the 31-year-old beauty says Stormzy is high up on their wish list. She said: "Yeah it would be great to do something with Stormzy. "We've kind of spoken about it a bit and he seemed up for it at the time. So I'm hoping we can find a time to get together in the studio. Yeah, he is amazing."



Rick Astley and Foo Fighters prank Japan crowd

Ricky Astley left Foo Fighters fans gobsmacked when he joined the band on stage for a rendition of 'Never Gonna Give You Up'. The 80s pop legend had never met the US rock band until moments before he joined them on stage at Summer Sonic Festival in Japan on Sunday (20.08.17), but they hit it off straight away. Dave Grohl and his band-mates started playing his former band Nirvana's grunge hit 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' and then halfway through the frontman introduced Rick to the crowd. The 'Everlong' hitmaker said: "Ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome our new best friend, Rick Astley. "This is crazy. I just met him two minutes ago." They then turned the 1991 classic into the 51-year-old singer's track. It was no coincidence that the band would team up with Rick for the duet. A prank involving the music video for the 1987 song, a phase known as Rickrolling, saw a click bait clip which would change using a hidden hyperlink. People thought they were clicking on something entirely different and then they were "rickrolled". In 2015, Foo Fighters famously put the song on loudspeaker whilst driving past a demonstration at Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, known for its hate speech, especially against LGBT people and other religions. So the live performance at Summer Sonic turned out to be a real life version of being "rickrolled".

Maddie Ziegler inspired by Kate Hudson

Maddie Ziegler has hailed Kate Hudson her "biggest inspiration". The 14-year-old actress-and-dancer stars with the 'Almost Famous' actress in an upcoming mystery project from singer Sia and the teenage star has teased the venture is something completely unexpected. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "You'll have to see! It's really fun and like I said, it's something completely different and something people won't expect. "She's amazing I mean she knows how to do everything, she's the most incredible actor and she's probably my biggest inspiration in life - her and Sia, two girl empowerment, they're

amazing." Meanwhile, the 'Dance Moms' star can next be heard voicing mean ballet dancer 'Camille' in 'Leap!' and she admitted her character is a true portrayal of the "snobby" ballerinas she's encountered in real life. She said: "I feel like there are so many snobby ballerinas in real life and I've had to deal with a lot of mean dancers but I guess my character's just an example of what not to be in the dance scene." And Maddie - who appears in the film alongside Elle Fanning and Carly Rae Jepsen - urged any of her young fans encountering similar mean people to just "block" their comments out. She advised: "Just block 'em out. I just act

like they don't matter at all and you know what? Their opinion means one thing but maybe it's just [to] them and not to anyone else you know? I can't let one person get in my way." Little is known about Sia's project with Maddie and Kate, but the older actress has shaved her head for the role. Kate also shared a photo of herself on set with Leslie Odom Jr., prompting speculation the 'Hamilton' star is also involved in some way.



Naomi Watts mentored by David Lynch



Naomi Watts is "mentored" by David Lynch. The 48-year-old actress shot to fame in the filmmaker's cult classic 'Mulholland Drive', and has now reunited with him on the revival series of 'Twin Peaks', and she remains "incredibly proud" of the work they did on her 2001 breakout film. Speaking to the Metro newspaper, Watts said: "I'm very proud of that film. It changed my life in so many ways, not just because of my career. "David Lynch is one of my mentors. He's a great, great friend. And I'm really proud to be in a film that's still being discussed and acknowledged, and it doesn't surprise me. "People do talk about this film to this day, endlessly, wherever I go." Naomi finds it "very impressive" to see how some young stars handle their fame, but she is thankful she only achieved success at a later age because it stopped her making the wrong choices as she

wasn't tempted by the trappings of celebrity. Asked if she felt any temptations from the "seductive" side of fame, she said: "No, because I came to fame late. "There are many young people out there that handle it very well, that becomes famous at a young age. "I've worked with some of them lately and it's very impressive. But success came to me later in life. "Maybe I would have made wrong choices and ended up in movies I didn't necessarily love." And when it comes to choosing her work, the 'Gypsy' star need to "connect" with the project in some way in order to give it her all. She added: "I feel if I don't love the material, if I'm not connected to it in a certain way, then I'm not going to give my best."

WONDER WOMAN PASSES \$800M MARK



'Wonder Woman' has already made more than \$800 million at the worldwide box office. The Patty Jenkins-directed superhero movie, which stars actress Gal Gadot in the lead role, has achieved incredible success since it was released in May, helping to make it one of the highest-grossing movies of 2017. The film has not yet opened in the potentially lucrative Japanese market, but it has just become the first female-directed live-action movie to earn more than \$400 million and \$800 million at the US and worldwide box offices respectively. A 'Wonder Woman' sequel has already been given the green light, but it remains to be seen whether Jenkins will return to the franchise. The filmmaker has been locked in negotiations with Warner Bros. for weeks and she could become the highest-paid female director around. But Jenkins previously admitted it

was not a "foregone conclusion" she would direct 'Wonder Woman 2'. She said: "I had an epiphany about 'Wonder Woman 2'. I was like, you don't have to do this. It doesn't have to be a foregone conclusion that you do 'Wonder Woman 2'. "But then as I was falling asleep I had an epiphany. I was like, 'Wait a minute. You have the greatest character of all time that you love dearly, with a cast that you love sitting at the palm of your hand at this day and age - you can do whatever you want with them - are you crazy?' "It's a continuation of the same character, but there's a great, entirely different story to be told. "With this character in our ... in the world, that's fun, because now she exists, just funny, and also says something profound about the world we're in right now."

—Ban Showbiz

MUSIC & MOVIES



In a April 24, 1971 file photo, France's first lady Madame Claude Pompidou, holding a rose, is shown with American entertainer Jerry Lewis, dressed as a clown, at a gala in Paris. — AP/AFP photos



In a Oct 16, 1977 file photo, comedian Jerry Lewis cuts up during a haircut for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



This file photo taken on May 15, 1988 shows US comedian Jerry Lewis (left) and US singer Sammy Davis Jr (right) posing before the New York Friars Club Tribute to Barbara Sinatra, wife of singer Frank Sinatra.

Comedy legend Jerry Lewis dies at 91

Veteran Hollywood comedian Jerry Lewis, who died Sunday aged 91, perfected a goofy brand of slapstick that endeared him to millions over the course of a career spanning six decades. One of the most popular American entertainers of the 1950s and '60s, Lewis made his name as the clown behind such quirky comedies like "The Nutty Professor" but also won acclaim as a writer, actor and philanthropist. The comedy legend, who at the peak of his popularity was among the world's biggest movie draws, died at his home in Las Vegas early Sunday morning.

"I can sadly confirm that today the world lost one of the most significant human beings," his publicist Nancy Kane said in a statement. "Jerry died peacefully at home of natural causes surrounded by family and friends." Fans were leaving flowers at the comedian's two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Hollywood's iconic TCL Chinese Theater was to dim its lights Sunday evening in honor of Lewis, who in 2014 sank his hands and feet into the cement squares in the theater's forecourt.

Honored with accolades at home and abroad, including a Nobel Peace Prize nomination and France's Legion of Honor, Lewis became known as much for his tireless efforts to promote awareness of Muscular Dystrophy as for his wacky comedy. Over the course of 45 years, he raised some 2.45 billion dollars for combatting the disease with an annual television event. Born Joseph Levitch in Newark, New Jersey to two New York City entertainers, Lewis first took center stage at the tender age of five, when he performed "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" He began playing at resorts outside New York City that catered to Jewish patrons, known by touring entertainers as the Borscht Circuit.

By age 15, he had assembled his own routine of lip-synching and made the rounds of New York talent agents, though to little avail. At the age of 20, however, everything changed as Lewis embarked on arguably one of the most successful entertainment partnerships of all time with smooth crooner Dean Martin. The two fed off each other in now-classic comedy gags, including pratfalls, slapstick and lots of seltzer water, signing a long-term contract with Paramount Pictures. "That fool was no dummy," tweeted the comic star Jim Carrey, who cited Lewis as an inspiration. "Jerry Lewis was an undeniable genius



This file photo taken on February 22, 2009 shows comedian Jerry Lewis celebrating after being awarded the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in Hollywood.

an unfathomable blessing, comedy's absolute! I am because he was!"

'Be a hit'

Some of the most notable films in Lewis' extensive repertoire include "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" (1959), "The Geisha Boy" (1958) and "Funnybones" (1984). His box office grosses, spanning

nearly 50 years, total 800 million dollars an impressive figure since movie tickets cost no more than 50 cents during the height of his popularity. After 17 films together, the Lewis-Martin partnership split in 1956, but Lewis continued his career in comedy and Hollywood. He won acclaim for his dramatic role alongside Robert De Niro Martin Scorsese's 1983 film "The King of Comedy."

"Be a hit. Score," was his simple advice to young comedians, in an interview he once gave to Larry King, the celebrity interviewer and a longtime friend. "Get the audience laughing and happy. That's the secret." At other times he was more humble.

"Funny is fragile. It's elusive," he told the Los Angeles Times in a 2010 interview. "It's elusive to everyone because you're never going to get a handle on what's funny." Fellow comedian Carol Burnett—who worked with Lewis several times—marveled at his physical gifts. "His voice could go up several octaves when he was supposed to be scared or insecure," she told CNN. "Our audience was just dying with laughter, because he did such wonderful things with his body." Lewis' long career was not without controversy, however. News reports over the years have criticized him as volatile and ill-tempered and he was accused more than once of berating fans attending his shows.

In 2007, during the 18th hour of his telethon, the then-81-year-old actor used a homophobic slur in introducing one person off stage—later apologizing for "a bad choice of words." Eventually, he was dumped as host of the yearly telethon by the Muscular Dystrophy Association, ending a nearly half-century run amid a growing sense that he had overstayed his welcome. In recent decades, Lewis had been plagued by health problems, and was declared clinically dead in 1982 after a heart attack. Ten years later he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and in 1997 found out he had diabetes. A diagnosis of spinal meningitis in 2000 further caused his health to deteriorate. But he was determined not to let ill health keep him from working as long as possible, including on a Broadway musical adaptation of "The Nutty Professor" as recently as 2011. "I have to finish what I've started," he told the Los Angeles Times in 2010. "I want to do it before I leave." — AFP



Flowers in memory of comedian Jerry Lewis lie on his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame near the Dolby Theatre, in Los Angeles on Sunday.



In a March 29, 1951 file photo, actor-comedian Dean Martin, left, and his wife, Jeanne, are shown with actor-comedian Jerry Lewis, far right, and his wife, singer Patti, as they arrive at the Academy Awards presentations at the RKO Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles.



This file photo taken on April 12, 2014 shows US comedian Jerry Lewis (center) posing with his wife SanDee Pitnick (right) and daughter Danielle (left) at his Hand and Footprint ceremony at the TCL Theater in Hollywood, California.



The cancellation line policies for the Broadway show 'Hamilton,' at the Richard Rogers Theatre.



A theater goer purchases a ticket to the Broadway show 'Hamilton' at the Richard Rogers Theatre, in New York's Theater District.

Broadway ticket-buying now easier for fans, not re-sellers

For longtime Bruce Springsteen fan Debbie Elster, there's never been any doubt the competition to get tickets for his upcoming Broadway shows is going to be fierce. But she's feeling a little more hopeful, thanks to a new online verification system for ticket-buying that aims to keep more tickets in the hands of fans rather than resellers who seemingly snap them up and put them on the market, often for several times the face value. Known as Verified Fan, the program from Ticketmaster requires people to register for a specific sale in advance, with information including their names, phone numbers and emails.

The registrations are reviewed, including past ticket purchase history and even social media accounts, with an eye toward determining whether they're more likely to be event attendees. Those accepted get unique codes that they can use when they go to buy tickets on the sale date. The premise is that by vetting registrants, it's more likely that actual fans would be the ones getting the first crack at hot tickets, instead of brokers and re-sellers.

"That makes me feel better," said Elster, 66, a videographer who lives in Margate, Florida. "That makes me feel like I have a chance maybe, more of a chance than usual." Verified Fan has been used for concert sales for artists such as Ed Sheeran and Harry Styles, and is now showing up for Broadway sales. "Springsteen on Broadway," running from Oct. 3 to Nov. 26, is using the system, as is another show expected to be a hot prospect, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," opening next spring.

The producers of the immensely popular "Hamilton" announced Tuesday that a new block of tickets for the show would go on sale through Verified Fan. That show has been the subject of a huge re-sale market, with tickets going for hundreds of dollars if not more than the face values.

Premium seats for "Hamilton" run as high as \$849, with prices on the secondary ticket markets more than double that amount. While "Hamilton" has put aside a few digital lottery seats for \$10, the average ticket last week went for \$282.65. Those kinds of prices make Ayodele Williams, 44, of Philadelphia, outraged. She and her sister were in New York last week to see a performance of "Hamilton," and they had tickets they consider themselves lucky to have snagged at face value last fall.

"It's become so expensive and rigged," Williams said. "If you have some kind of system or algorithm that allows you to buy all these tickets, you're going to get them and then all you're doing is re-selling. You're not doing it for the love of the show really. You're doing it for the love of the money."

David Marcus, executive vice president for Ticketmaster, said that was the point of the registration system: to give fans a better experience. "It's intended to make the initial distribution fairer," he said, to fight against a system where brokers are the first ones out of the gate for tickets. Re-sale has a role, he said, but it shouldn't be the oversized one it's playing. He said so far the program has been working. Of the more than a million tickets distributed through Verified Fan since it began beta testing late last year, less than 5 percent have gone onto the secondary re-sale market. — AP

People wait in the ticket cancellation line for a chance to see the Broadway show 'Hamilton' at the Richard Rogers Theatre.





In this July 29, 1933 file photo, a teacher and students stand next to an astronomical instrument at the Ancient Observatory in Peking, now Beijing. — AP photos



In this Tuesday night, Sept 16, 1997 file photo, worshippers pay their respects to Rahu (the God of Darkness) during a ceremony at the Srisathong Temple in Nakhon Pathom Province, 50 kilometers (31 miles) west of Bangkok, on the occasion of a lunar eclipse.



Shepherd Heinz Greiner watches the beginning of a total solar eclipse near Augsburg, southern Germany.

THE LORE AND LURE OF ECLIPSES: BLOOD, SEX AND SOME SNACKING

It's not just the skies that get dark when there's a total solar eclipse. So do we. Modern science explains that the sun disappears because the moon is passing in front of it. But before that, people had to come up with reasons for what was happening in the sky. Some of them weren't exactly bedtime stories. The lore of early eclipses often told us more about the people spinning the yarns than it did about the sun or the moon, said Anthony Aveni, author of "In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses."

"It's not myth. It's not science. It's culture," said Aveni, a professor of physics and sociology at Colgate University. They are often morality tales to warn against everything from incest to lying, Aveni said. They could be quite bloody and scary - and thus make a good lesson. After all, what's more unnerving than the sun disappearing in the middle of the day? A sampling of eclipse lore and history.

Violence

Perhaps the bloodiest eclipse story comes from India and "it's not for the faint of heart," said former planetarium director Mark Littmann of the University of Tennessee. A demon named Rahu tried to steal the nectar of immortality from the

gods, but the sun and the moon recognized him. Rahu started drinking the nectar when Vishnu threw a discus and it "sliced right through Rahu's neck," Littmann said. The nectar was still in Rahu's mouth but the rest of the body disappeared. So the immortal head would chase the sun and moon around the sky and "whenever it catches up with the sun and moon it takes a bite." But because Rahu has no body, when he swallows the sun or moon, they soon reappear.

Sex

German myth has the cold and lazy male moon, ignoring the fiery passionate female sun during the day most of the time, except for a few bits of passion during an eclipse. Then they'd squabble again and the sun would resume shining again, Littmann said. In western Africa, it's the occasional and furtive rendezvous but this time between the male sun and female moon, with the couple modestly turning out the lights during an eclipse.

Munching

Because the sun disappears like a cookie being nibbled, eating myths abound. The Norse had a wolf that took a bite out of the sun. Elsewhere it's been a dog, dragon, bird and

snake from the underworld. Often the beast would spit out the sun because it was too hot. End of eclipse.

Rage

Littmann described what might be the first case of California road rage. The Pomo Indians talked of a bear that was walking when it bumped into the sun. They fought about who was in the way, so the bear, in a fit of rage, bit the sun and kept eating until the moon came and saved the day.

Lying

Andean people used to speak of the moon whispering lies in the sun's ear - the crescent in the eclipse. So they would bang drums and make dogs howl to alert the sun that "the moon is a liar and he's lying to the sun" about the people of Earth, Aveni said.

Battles

An eclipse stopped the battle between the Lydians and the Medes more than 2,500 years ago, according to writings by the first Greek historian Herodotus. "Soldiers on both sides were so terrified they stopped fighting" and they made peace, with the daughter of the Lydian king marrying the son of the Median king, Littmann said.

Uniting

Tenskwatwa, a Shawnee prophet of the early 19th century, was trying to unite tribes in Indiana and Ohio. William Henry Harrison, then governor of the Indiana territory and later president, tried to belittle the efforts. He asked the prophet if he could perform miracles and challenged him to "cause the sun to stand still, the moon to alter its course, the rivers to cease to flow or the dead to rise from the graves." Tenskwatwa knew of the upcoming June 16, 1806 eclipse and proclaimed he would blot out the sun and came out in full regalia. The sun went away temporarily, "which was very embarrassing for Harrison," Littmann said.

Calculations

The Babylonians, the Maya and the Chinese all hundreds and even thousands of years ago noticed a mathematical pattern in when eclipses showed up and started calculating them in advance. They noticed they return to a place after 18 years and 11 days, Littmann said. "If you could predict something it's no longer scary," he said. — AP



Flowers: The universal way to make a girl happy

By Real Fouz

Flowers are one of my favorite things that can instantly brighten up my day. I love receiving as well as giving flowers; the whole concept of arranging flowers is a big passion of mine. One of the main reasons I love flowers so much is because they remind me of why we received them every time we look at them. They also don't last very long and don't really have a practical use, which is the beauty of receiving flowers. It conveys a message from someone at that given time, so it's something that you cherish even more than other kinds of gifts.

Peonies are my personal favorite kind of flowers. Since peonies bloom from May to June, they always remind me of summer and instantly brighten my mood. Their petals and beautiful fragrance give them such a girly, feminine feel which is why I think I love them so much. We all have a favorite flower that we're drawn to, however, I never knew that your favorite flower can tell you so much about your personality. I've been doing my researching about it and I found a lot of interesting information that I would like to share with my readers.

"Radiate happiness and love simply by a flower"

Let's start with my favorite, peonies. Peonies symbolize a happy life, good health, a happy marriage and prosperity. I found that if peonies are your favorite flower it means that you're a positive person who is thoughtful and empathetic towards others. You also have a bold,

bright, and elegant style, but not overbearing. If roses are your favorite flower it means that you think with your heart. You're classy, timeless, and know how to make a statement.

Tulips mean that you're confident and thoughtful and your personality changes a lot depending on your mood, however you're always sleek and coordinated. Sunflowers say that your style is bright and warm and that you thrive around people and love being the center of attention. Daisies are loved by those who are optimistic and can find the good in any bad situation - they always know what to say to make people smile.

Lilacs say that you live for all things nostalgic - going through old photos from your past, antiques shops, watching old shows - and you're all about infusing your style with vintage pieces. Lilies mean you're a happy, impassioned hard worker and you're not afraid to be proud of your accomplishments. Your style is always perfectly tailored, and you know how to stand out in a crowd.

If Orchids are your favorite then you're both sophisticated and mysterious - you're never the loudest or most glamorous person in the room, but people are still drawn to you. Your style is all about the details, and they're always on-point. So next time when you plan on buying or gifting flowers, look beyond the pretty colors and amazing fragrance and make your choice depending on the meaning. I think it will make a much more thoughtful gift.

Turkey bones may help trace fate of ancient cliff dwellers

Researchers say they have found a new clue into the mysterious exodus of ancient cliff-dwelling people from the Mesa Verde area of Colorado more than 700 years ago: DNA from the bones of domesticated turkeys. The DNA shows the Mesa Verde people raised turkeys that had telltale similarities to turkeys kept by ancient people in the Rio Grande Valley of northern New Mexico - and that those birds became more common in New Mexico about the same time the Mesa Verde people were leaving their cliff dwellings, according to a paper published last month in the journal PLoS One.

That supports the hypothesis that when the cliff dwellers left the Mesa Verde region in the late 1200s, many migrated to northern New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) to the southeast, and that the Pueblo Indians who live there today are their descendants, the archaeologists wrote. The cliff dwellers would have taken some turkeys with them, accounting for the increase in numbers in New Mexico, the authors said.

Researchers have long debated what became of the people sometimes called Ancestral Puebloans, who lived in the elaborate Mesa Verde cliff dwellings and other communities across the Four Corners region, where the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet. Archaeologists believe the Ancestral Puebloans were a flourishing population of about 30,000 in 1200, but by 1280 they were gone, driven off by a devastating drought, social turbulence and warfare.

Because they left no written record, their paths are not known with certainty. Many archaeologists and present-day Pueblo Indians believe the Ancestral Puebloans moved to villages across New Mexico and Arizona, and that their descendants live there today. Scott Ortman, a University of Colorado archaeologist and a co-author of the PLoS One paper, said the turkey DNA supports the explanation that many migrated to an area along the Rio Grande north of present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"The patterns that we found are consistent with several other studies and several other lines of evidence," he said in an interview. Jim Allison, an archaeologist at Brigham Young University who was not involved in the paper, agreed the findings mesh with other evidence of a southeastward migration. But a weakness of the study is the number of DNA samples used, he said. Researchers examined DNA from nearly 270 sets of turkey remains - some from before 1280 and some from after that date. But only 11 sets of remains came from the Rio Grande before 1280. "It would have been really nice to have 10 times as many," Allison said, but they were not available.

Evidence for a migration

Ortman acknowledged that the turkey DNA alone is not conclusive evidence of migration to the Rio Grande Valley. The New Mexico turkeys could have come from someplace other than the Mesa Verde region, or turkey-herding communities could already have sprung up in New Mexico before the Ancestral Puebloans left their Mesa Verde communities, he said. Some archaeologists argue the evidence for a migration to the Rio Grande Valley is thin. Even supporters, such as Allison, acknowledge



In this file photo visitors tour Cliff Palace, an ancient cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colo. — AP photos

that some evidence does not fit, including differences in pottery and architectural styles.

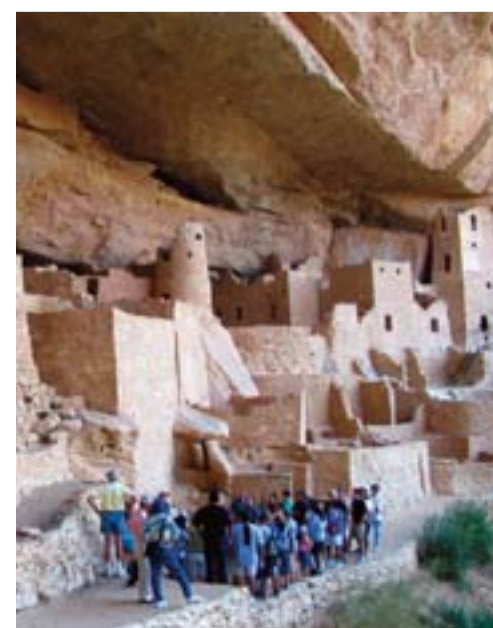
Tim Hovezak, an archaeologist at Mesa Verde National Park, said he is not convinced the Ancestral Puebloans moved to the Rio Grande, but he tries to keep an open mind. "I think it's still a mystery, and it's a very compelling one," he said. Ortman said other evidence besides the turkey DNA points to the migration. The Tewa language spoken by some northern New Mexico Pueblo Indians today includes vocabulary "that seems to harken back to the material culture of the Mesa Verde area," he said.

The Tewa term for the roof of a church translates roughly to "a basket made out of timbers," Ortman said. That better describes the roofs used

on kivas - ceremonial rooms - in ancient Mesa Verde communities than it does the churches in New Mexico, he said.

Another line of evidence is similarities in the facial structures of the remains of ancient people from the Mesa Verde region and New Mexico, Ortman said. Examining human DNA from Ancestral Puebloan remains would provide a more definitive answer, Ortman said. But some contemporary Pueblo Indians object to doing that, and Ortman and others said they respect their wishes.

Theresa Pasqual, a member of the Acoma Pueblo in northwestern New Mexico and the pueblo's former preservation director, said she knows of no pueblos that would consent to DNA testing on ancestral remains because of spiritual and cultural concerns. Pasqual, who is studying archaeology at the University of New Mexico, said she was heartened by the turkey DNA study because it supports the oral traditions of Acoma and other present-day pueblos that point to ancestral ties to the Mesa Verde region. Some Acoma families still raise domestic turkeys and hunt wild ones, but it would be difficult to trace that tradition to the Ancestral Puebloans, Pasqual said. The Ancestral Puebloan sites are a key factor in what she called Acoma's "migration narrative." "These places have been a part of our narrative and a part of our history and a part of our present-day life for as long as we can remember," Pasqual said. — AP



Visitors tour Cliff Palace, an ancient cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.

FEATURE



Afghan students carve wood during a class at the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Mourad Khani in the old city section of Kabul.



An Afghan student practices on a miniature during a calligraphy class at the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Mourad Khani in the old city section of Kabul. — AFP photos



An Afghan student works on jewelry during a class at the Turquoise Mountain Foundation.



An Afghan student works on jewelry during a class at the Turquoise Mountain Foundation.



Afghan students learn and practice calligraphy during a class.



Afghan students work on a Jali wood carving during a Jali Screen Workshop.



Afghan students learn and practice on miniatures during a calligraphy class.



Afghan students work on jewelry during a class.



An Afghan student uses her mobile phone as she stands in the courtyard of the Turquoise Mountain Foundation.

Past masters: Saving Afghanistan's artisans from extinction

It's my heritage, it's important because we have to preserve the culture of our country.

Ceramics, carpentry, calligraphy and gem cutting: centuries of Afghan craftsmanship honed on the ancient Silk Road are being preserved in Kabul, a rare success story for an aid project in the war-torn country that organizers are now hoping to replicate with refugees from Syria. In the sixteen years since the fall of the Taliban, the Turquoise Mountain foundation has found some of Afghanistan's best artisans and helped them preserve and pass on their skills, as well helping them showcase their work in international markets.

A painstakingly restored caravanserai—a roadside inn—in Kabul's oldest district is once again a hub for exquisite woodwork carvers, potters making traditionally-glazed ceramics, Islamic calligraphers, and goldsmiths. "When we started, there were very few artisans living in Kabul. Most of them were out of the country," said Abdul Wahid Khalili, the nonprofit's director. "We had to start with the few old artisans we had, it was a very difficult start," he said. Kabul, a key stop on the silk road, was once renowned for its craftwork, but when Turquoise Mountain began work in 2006 in Kabul's oldest district Mourad Khani, they had to excavate the caravanserai from tons of rubbish.

"For more than 50 years the rubbish had piled up in the yard," he said, adding that they also immediately began training students. "The idea was to restore the (caravanserai) and train the new generation," he said. Slowly more and more Afghan artisans joined the collective, preserving priceless skills that many feared would disappear altogether due to decades of war—a problem that many Syrian craftsmen, who are fleeing their country in droves, now face. First started by British diplomat Rory Stewart, the Turquoise Mountain Foundation, which is supported by Britain's Prince Charles, the British Council, and USAID, says it has now worked with some 5,000 artisans. Their efforts have breathed new life into Murad Khani's ancient silver bazaar, with hundreds travelling every day to the restored cedar paneled courtyard to learn and teach woodwork, calligraphy, ceramics, jewelry and miniature painting.



Next generation

Staff at Turquoise Mountain began by combing Kabul's streets and knocking on doors in the villages trying to find artisans and students to enroll. The foundation now employs 30 Afghan masters, who are given retraining and support from the organization, and then help teach new apprentices in their craft. Wakil Abdul Aqi Ahmani, 64, is one of the institute's founding fathers. "It's my heritage, it's important because we have to preserve the culture of our country," he says, as he leans over his student's cedar wood panels and explains the art of Jali carving.

Turquoise Mountain's selection process is now more rigorous: more than 500 candidates apply each year, Khalili said, with just 50 taken on, both girls and boys. "They show what they learned with their family, in the shops, at the bazaar, with the elders," said Abasin Bahand, who is in charge of the entry exams. "They are all trained, but they are not professional - anyone can apply." The three years of their training are free, the students are fed and housed if they come from the provinces. They are also given a small monthly stipend to cover transport costs. They leave with a double certification—Afghan and British. "Eighty percent of our graduates have moved to their own business or are working for other business in the craft they chose," said Nathan Stroupe, the director of the Turquoise Mountain foundation in Afghanistan.

Lost forever

Some of their carpentry students have decorated palaces in London and the Emirates, and jewelers have received commissions for New York Fashion Week. "We have a business incubation process to support our students for three years," Stroupe said. "Some of the craftsmen had worked for the King," he said, referring to Mohammed Zahir Shah, who was deposed in 1973. But the process is still a race against time. "For Jali and Nuristani carving, we had teachers who were the last in Afghanistan, they passed away. If we were not able to preserve these arts, they would have been lost," said Khalili.

"Already there are specific areas we lost—there are no copper makers left, no bronze makers." "Now we are documenting all those areas, we want to spread (knowledge) all over the country, the idea is to transfer it to community... if not it will be lost again," he said. After its successes in Afghanistan, the foundation is looking at war-torn Syria, which is also seeing ancient traditions threatened by an exodus of artisans. "We have already met Syrian artisans in Jordan," said Scott Riddle, a project director who will start work in September. "Some people in Amman have already managed to set up small ateliers. We're researching in the refugee camp in Azraq, in the desert in the country's northeast." After Jordan, Turquoise Mountain is looking to work with refugee artisans from Libya. — AFP

Afghan students work on carving wood during a class.

Lifestyle

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A man uses his mobile phone in front of a wall decorated with graffiti at Santa Fe Community in San Salvador. A group of young people, with the support of San Salvador's mayoralty, carried out the making of artistic graffiti on walls where there was gang-related graffiti. — AFP

Stone Mountain poses another test for Confederate symbols



This file photo shows the carving depicting Confederate Civil war figures Stonewall Jackson, Robert E Lee and Jefferson Davis, in Stone Mountain, Ga. — AP photos



Confederate flag supporters climb Stone Mountain to protest of what they believe is an attack on their Southern heritage during a rally at Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain, Ga.

The huge raised-relief images show a Confederate trinity sitting astride their horses, high above the ground. Hats held across their chests, President Jefferson Davis and Gens. Robert E Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson ride across the face of Stone Mountain into faded glory. Part theme park and part shrine to Dixie's Lost Cause, this granite outcrop east of Atlanta - sculpted like a Mt Rushmore of the Confederacy - is once again an ideological battlefield as a new fight rages over rebel symbolism across the South.

In the aftermath of the Aug 12 white-nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, a Democratic candidate for Georgia governor said the carving should be removed. But removal would probably mean destroying a work of public art that took decades to com-

plete and is the centerpiece of one of Georgia's biggest tourist destinations. The images carved into the mountain, "like Confederate monuments across this state, stand as constant reminders of racism, intolerance and division," Stacey Abrams wrote in an email to supporters following the violence in Charlottesville. Abrams is vying to become the nation's first black female governor.

Gazing up at the carving Thursday with out-of-town guests, Leila Finn and Sandra Neuse, white women from nearby Avondale Estates, said they visit Stone Mountain for the hiking trails and other park amenities. They see the carving as a curiosity. "I think it would be more productive to use it as a talking point for education than to just get rid of it," Finn said, quickly adding, "I wouldn't mind if they took down some of the flags." John Purpera, who's white, stopped Thursday at Stone Mountain with his wife and son while driving from their home in Port St Lucie, Florida, to St Louis to see Monday's solar eclipse. Originally from Louisiana, he opposes the removal of Confederate statues.

Bravery and heroism

"The people that want it removed should be shot," he said. "It's part of history, and you shouldn't just delete parts of history you don't like." Even if Abrams wins the nomination and beats the odds next year to become governor of this red state, it's unlikely she would be able to get the carving removed. State law says it "shall never be altered, removed, concealed or obscured in any fashion and shall be preserved and protected for all time as a tribute to the bravery and heroism of the citizens of this state who suffered and died in their cause."

That language was part of a compromise in a 2001 law that changed the state flag from

one that included the Confederate battle flag. It would be extremely difficult to muster enough support in the Georgia General Assembly to change the law, University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock said. "That's going to be a lot harder than pulling down a statue," he quipped. Those who want Confederate symbols removed often say they belong in a museum where there's explanation and context, not prominently displayed on public lands. The Stone Mountain Memorial Association, which manages Stone Mountain Park, argues the park serves precisely that purpose.

Lining the massive lawn stretching out from the mountain's base - where families gather with picnics to watch a laser show projected onto the mountain - is a series of individual brick terraces, one for each Confederate state. A plaque notes the dates of the state's secession and of its readmission to the Union. The white-columned Memorial Hall at the top of the lawn houses full-scale reproductions of parts of the carving so visitors can get a better sense of its size - 90 feet (27 meters) by 190 feet (58 meters). Another section explores local history, with exhibits on the Civil War that do not delve deeply into the war's causes or touch on later controversies.

In 2015, when the massacre of nine black worshippers at a Charleston, South Carolina, church by a white supremacist gunman led to calls to remove Confederate memorials, the Stone Mountain association considered adding a memorial to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. But the plan was dropped after it ran into resistance from both those who identify with King and those who honor the Confederacy. Stone Mountain's history is deeply entwined with the Ku Klux Klan.

The first sketches for the carving were drawn up in 1915 at the request of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. That same year, the Klan experienced a rebirth with a Thanksgiving night cross burning atop Stone Mountain. That year also saw the release of the film "The Birth of a Nation," which glorified the Reconstruction-era KKK. For decades thereafter, Stone Mountain was the site of an annual KKK cross burning. Because of funding problems and other issues, the carving was not completed until 1972.

Georgia Historical Society historian Stan Deaton said it's significant that the monument was begun as the KKK was reborn and completed following the civil rights movement and desegregation. He said many Southern politicians still chafed at changes imposed by what they considered an intrusive federal government. "As a segregated society is coming to an end, we're going to forever enshrine these three Confederate heroes on the front of this mountain as a kind of perpetual middle finger, if you will, to the federal government," Deaton said.

The Sacred Knights of the Ku Klux Klan applied last May for a permit to hold a "lighting ceremony" on top of the mountain on Oct 21 to commemorate the 1915 burning. In a letter last week denying the permit, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association cited a disruptive 2016 clash between a white nationalist group and opponents at the park. The association "condemns the beliefs and actions of the Ku Klux Klan" and believes denying the permit "is in the best interest of all parties and is the appropriate course of action," it said in a statement. — AP



John Purpera poses in front of the carvings of Confederate leaders in Stone Mountain State Park in Stone Mountain, Ga.



In this March 25, 2012 photo, a kite flies over Stone Mountain, Ga.

Score for Beatles hit 'Eleanor Rigby' goes for auction



A handwritten picture shows the original score for The Beatles' song Eleanor Rigby that will be auctioned on September 11 at the auction house as part of their The Beatles Collection sale. — AP

The original handwritten score for the Beatles song "Eleanor Rigby" is to be sold at auction, alongside the deeds of the grave of the woman said to have been immortalized by the Fab Four. "Each item is fantastic, unique and of significant historical importance in itself, so to have both come up at the same time is an incredible coincidence," said Paul Fairweather from Omega Auctions, which is selling the items.

"I expect there to be fierce bidding from across the globe," he said. The score, expected to fetch £20,000 (\$26,000, 22,000 euros), is written in pencil by the Beatles' late producer George Martin and signed by both Martin and Paul McCartney. It also includes notes specifying that it was to be recorded at London's Abbey Road Studio number two and that four violins, two violas and two cellos were to be used.

"Eleanor Rigby" was released in 1966 as the B-side to "Yellow Submarine," and depicts its heroine as "wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door." McCartney previously said the name Eleanor was inspired by actress Eleanor Bron, who starred in the Beatles film "Help!" in 1965, and that Rigby came from the name of a wine merchant. It emerged in the 1980s that the name is inscribed on a headstone in St Peter's churchyard in Woolton, Liverpool, where McCartney met John Lennon at a party in 1957. The two Beatles also revealed that they used to take short cuts through the church grounds. According to the grave, Eleanor Rigby died in 1939 at the age of 44.

But McCartney has stayed true to his story, saying in 2008 that "Eleanor Rigby is a totally fictitious character that I made up." "If someone wants to spend money buying a document to prove a fictitious character exists, that's fine with me," McCartney said at the time. The deeds of the grave will be sold in a lot that includes a miniature Bible, dated 1899, with the name Eleanor Rigby handwritten inside, and are expected to sell for £5,000. The Beatles Memorabilia Auction will be held in Warrington, near Liverpool, on September 11. — AP