

Caricature gallery in memory of Abdulredha



Qatar restores diplomatic ties with Iran amid Gulf crisis



Undefeated and unloved, Mayweather eyes payday



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ZAIN, OMANTEL COMPLETE \$846.1M TREASURY SHARE SALE

KUWAIT: Zain has sold Omantel 425.7 million treasury shares representing 9.84% of Zain's fully paid in and issued share capital at an offer price of KWD 0.600 per share, representing a total cash consideration of \$846.1 million (KWD 255.4 million). The announcement was made following an auction process managed by Boursa Kuwait.

As announced on 10 August 2017, Zain and Omantel entered into a share purchase agreement ("SPA") for Zain's treasury shares. This announcement triggered a formal block trade auction process under Boursa Kuwait rules, which completed this afternoon and culminated in a ceremony hosted by Boursa Kuwait to mark the successful closing of the transaction. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi; CEO of Omantel, Mr. Talal Said Al-Mamari; and CEO of Boursa Kuwait, Khaled Al-Khaled. Participating parties lauded the smooth operations and processes in Boursa Kuwait.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, said: "We appreciate the professional-



KUWAIT: Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice-Chairman and Group CEO of Zain Group (center) shakes hands with Talal Said Al-Mamari, Omantel CEO in the presence of Khaled Al-Khaled, CEO of Boursa Kuwait during a press conference at the Boursa Kuwait (Kuwait Stock Exchange) headquarters in Kuwait City yesterday.

Talal Said Marhoon Al-Mamari, Chief Executive Officer, Omantel, said: "The global telecoms market is changing fast, and our region has not escaped this trend. Data and content is where growth lies and investing in innovative digital products is critical to building a stronger company.

In this competitive environment, our acquisition of a minority stake in Zain Group is a strategic move for Omantel as we continue to deliver against our Corporate Strategy 3.0, create value

for shareholders, diversify our revenue, raise our regional profile, and mitigate the risk of operating in a single market. Omantel is the incumbent player in Oman, with expertise in fixed, mobile and broadband networks and wholesale operations. We have long admired Zain for their deep digital expertise and regional footprint which is highly complementary to ours.

Building on our respective strengths, we believe that together we can accelerate collabo-

ration and innovation to ultimately deliver better services and content for our customers in Oman and the region, now and for the future."

Khaled Al-Khaled, CEO of Boursa Kuwait, said: "We congratulate the parties involved in this major investment that was completed on Boursa Kuwait in such a short period of time. Boursa Kuwait's expertise in managing the auction was key to ensure a smooth, transparent and swift process. Today, this deal stands as an important indicator of the growing trust and confidence investors have in the Kuwait market. Boursa Kuwait will continue to develop the operations of this exchange in line with its three main pillars of efficiency, transparency and accessibility". The sale of treasury shares of Zain was approved by its shareholders and the Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait earlier this year and the current transaction has been approved by the Board of Directors of both Zain and Omantel.

The sale will now be executed and the treasury shares converted into common stock. Following this conversion, Omantel will hold 9.84% of Zain Group, with the corresponding voting rights and dividends attached to common stock. The transaction will be fully debt financed by Omantel.

S&P and Moody's have retained Omantel's ratings of "BB+ / Negative / B" and "Baa2 negative," respectively, following the announcement of the transaction on 10 August 2017. Citigroup Global Markets Limited served as exclusive financial advisor and Meysan Partners as legal advisor to Zain. Credit Suisse acted as exclusive financial advisor and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP as legal advisor to Omantel.



KUWAIT: Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice-Chairman and Group CEO of Zain Group (center) signs papers next to Khaled Al-Khaled, CEO of Boursa Kuwait (left) yesterday. Omantel bought 425.7 million treasury shares of Zain, representing 9.84% of Zain's fully paid in and issued share capital at an offer price of KWD 0.600 per share, representing a total cash consideration of \$846.1 million (KWD 255.4 million). The announcement was made following an auction process managed by Boursa Kuwait.

"The Market Cap of Zain has increased more than \$700 million to reach over \$7 billion as of today's closing price."

ism and efforts of Boursa Kuwait and Omantel in this transaction, reflecting the confidence and strength of both the Kuwait equity market and in Zain's business and digital growth strategy. He said, 'The Market Cap of Zain has increased more than \$700 million to reach over \$7 billion as of today's closing price'.

"We welcome Omantel's investment in Zain, and we look forward to exploring mutually beneficial synergies and business enhancing opportunities across the region. The strategic visions of both Zain and Omantel complement each other as do our cultures, and we are confident that this deal is value-enhancing to all our stakeholders on multiple fronts," Al-Kharafi explained.

"The liquidity from this transaction brings many immediate and significant benefits to Zain as it enhances our financial flexibility as we continue to seek opportunities in the digital space and invest in upgrading our modern networks to enhance the mobile experience for our customers. Additionally, the deal allows us to reduce our debt levels as well as increasing our shareholders' equity."

Local Spotlight

NORMALIZING VIOLENCE AND HORROR

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I believe there is a need for restrictions on children watching adult films with horror and action themes.

I used to be a great fan of horror movies, but not anymore. This was in the 1980s when sound effects were very primitive and the level of suspense was bearable for ordinary people like me. But now, with all the technology in Hollywood, I think twice before going to such movies, because they are really scary. With the bloodshed we see daily in the real world, we have enough horror already.

Yet the production of such movies will continue, because of public demand. Recently, a new horror movie called "Annabelle: Creation" came to cinemas, including here in Kuwait. I have nothing against this movie. I saw its trailer and decided not to go to watch it, because it is too much for me. I keep thinking that such movies should not be rated on age only.

I know most cinemas in the world have a restriction regarding viewers' ages - they should be 18 years old and sometimes 21, but this is not enough. Some people have a weak heart or are sensitive to violence. They may have mental health issues, and under extreme tension, pressure or fear, they could panic, begin hallucinating or lose their minds! Yes adults should be able to decide for themselves. But the truth is that many people will go far beyond what is good for them for the sake of trends or even just to entertain themselves. Even adults need some guidance.

Annabelle is the latest in "The Conjuring" series. A 20-year-old woman was taken to hospital after getting hysterical while watching Annabelle in northeastern Brazil. A video

clip showed her screaming and gasping.

In Kuwait, it is common to see some families bring babies and infants to such movies! They assume that babies wouldn't understand the story, but they are wrong. The kids may not understand the language, but they surely understand screaming and yelling. A film can be rated as "T" or "G" or sometimes "15", so parents think it is okay to take babies. They should be responsible.

I believe there is a need for restrictions on children watching adult films with horror and action themes. We need to send a message to the public that if they are sensitive to extreme horror or violent scenes, they should not watch such movies, because there is no need to put themselves under such pressure that negatively affects their mental health.

And we all need to seriously consider how much violence in the world we are willing to accept. These movies 'normalize' violence and make it more acceptable. I'm not saying they encourage more violence in the real world - there are plenty of debates on both sides about the substantive impact of media. But certainly they don't encourage violence and God knows this world needs less violence, not more.

in my view

WHAT YOU ACTUALLY NEED BEFORE THE SEMESTER BEGINS

Salman Al-Mutawa

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Four subjects means you need four notebooks right? Wrong. But you must have all four textbooks... right? Nope. As a freshman, your only experience of a learning institution is school. And as you progress one may assume that higher education requires similar accessories as high school education to fully prepare yourself before you begin. This is not true. If you do follow your naive high school urges you will end up wasting money.

I myself wasted almost 400 dollars in my first semester on materials that I simply did not need. That money could've been spent into something more useful...like buying a red onesie on Amazon Prime.

Let's cut to the chase, when starting out as a freshman you will have four classes. Go to your nearest bookstore and buy one "5 Subject Notebook". That's right, just one. Most of your classes will require you to do your classwork or homework on a computer, meaning that your notebook will be used solely for notes. Of all your classes, the only ones you need to have a heavy amount of notes for are mathematics and the hard sciences with the exception of physics (there is no point in writing physics notes because statistically speaking you are most likely going to end up with a curved D anyway).

In addition to your one "5 Subject Notebook", you should get a four-color pen that has a mechanical pencil. My favorite is the Zebra brand. Not only does this pen make your notes prettier than your friend Denise's, but it also helps in organizing different note types and ideas that you write down during a lecture. Next make sure you buy one TI calculator. These could be expensive, but they are well worth the investment. I personally own the TI-84, the same one I used in high school. They currently go for an average of \$90 dollars apiece. TI calculators will make your life 10 times easier, especially if you are going to take any of the following course types:

- * Calculus
- * Probability and Statistics
- * Finance and Accounting

Full disclosure, TI's will not help in physics courses. University physics courses generally have more letters than they do numbers.

As for textbooks, wait two weeks before buying or renting any textbook. First search if you can find them online for free or if a friend has a soft copy. Waiting two weeks reveals the professor's teaching style. Most professors never use the textbook, even when they say that you must get one. Some use the textbook minimally, maybe once or twice a semester. In that case, just ask Denise to send you pictures of the pages you need to look at. Yes Denise, you just spent \$200 dollars on a textbook you didn't really need and will probably never use again.

However, if the professor does use the textbook heavily- like most calculus professors- then you should get the textbook. Your cheapest option is to rent, share, or borrow it from someone. Ask your professor if the edition of the book matters. Sometimes professors only use the textbook for the lessons, not the classwork, in that case you can probably find an older edition textbook for free online.

Finally, most of you are used to printed textbooks and find a hard time focusing if a book is on screen. Try to get over this habit as quickly as possible. As you progress in your college years, your subjects will become increasingly specialized, which means one printed textbook could cost around \$300, as opposed to a rented \$90 online version or a free PDF.

in my view

EGOS ACROSS BORDERS

By Sana Kalim

People are selfish - the "ana Kuwaiti" boast that I heard halfway across the globe in Malaysia is a trend that still goes on (I heard the same exact phrase in Egypt too). I know that not every Kuwaiti is like this - however, this struck me enough to dedicate an entire article on the incident. The immense self-aggrandizement is what I'd like to question here.

The everlasting feud between expats and Kuwaitis as well as xenophobia across the globe has made me realize that we are all practically the same - then why do we act like it isn't? This is an open statement to those who believe that they are the center of everything, especially to that 'ana Kuwaiti' girl.

You are the protagonist; the star at the center of your own unfolding story. You are surrounded by your own cast - friends and family, orbiting you as planets. A little further out are the others - the background characters, the random passersby, acquaintances - they are the ghostly apparitions having an impact on you.

Every person lives a life as vivid and complex as your own. Every person carries the accumulated weight of their own ambitions, friends, emotions, mistakes, worries, craziness, etc. When your life moves on to the next scene, there are nudges from people - wrapped up in their own backstory, side-jokes, and characters that are strung together with countless other stories - whom you will never see. You'll never know they exist, who might appear only once as you scroll through your phone at a coffee shop. Like a blur of traffic; a lighted window.

Nowadays, it seems like everyone is a bit egocentric. Sure, you are the Main Character - you matter. However, people hurl insults and are ruthless towards each other - as if other people don't matter. These insults are centered on if they are 'from this country' or are of 'that color'.

Recently, I talked to an elderly woman discussing this very issue, and her viewpoint is something I would like to share with you. A time will come, or perhaps already has, when you will remember your life. You will ask yourself, why were you put here?

Looking through your entire life, you will see the muted tones - blues morphing to teals and reds degrading to maroons. Memory is a harsh dictator - only the most important moments and feelings power through. A trusted smile between someone you love; a struggle you have helped out on. The fear of an ordinary life wrecks your mind. You continue scanning your life, looking for something beautiful.

Then you might remember all the times in your life where you were clearly negative - you hurt someone for your own pleasure. Perhaps it was to feel better about yourself in that split second gratification of being better than them. But now, years later, you will regret it, and this regret will hurt and haunt you. So just be nice to one another. We all came in this world, not knowing the difference between expats and Kuwaitis - or black and white. We came on a confusing lifelong mission to figure out why we are here, with no choice but to trust each other.

This article is dedicated to both expats and Kuwaitis, because we can all learn to accept each other.

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Cat cafes are here to stay

Story and photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

When you enter the Gahwa w Gatwa Cat Cafe in the early afternoon, you probably won't find any cat to play with. The place is very tranquil, and even your steps can't be heard, since you have to take off your shoes before stepping on the carpeted floors. So where are the cats? You walk a little until you find a cat tree in the middle with two cats in deep slumber inside. A few steps away, another three cats are curled up to shield their eyes from the light from the shop front windows, right on top of a MEOW-shaped shelving unit. And if you don't open your eyes wide, you won't be able to notice the fur ball sleeping in a recess. They need to sleep before the long hours ahead of them to entertain the cafe's customers!

A Persian ginger cat Whistle, on the contrary, follows you as you complete your tour to get his cuddles. "He is never tired of cuddling - he's such a clingy boy," said the cafe's manager Manal Mohammed, as she surrenders to his Puss in Boots look, picking him up from the floor. Meanwhile, Lenny, a young gray ragdoll cat, loves to hook up with the cafe's owner Fahd Al-Refaei, joyfully jumping into his lap.

The history of cat cafes goes back between 1996 and 1998 in Thailand, and then on to many other countries. Since the opening of the cat cafe in Kuwait, it has faced a few challenges. Not to mention that you cannot get a license for a place that mixes live animals and food. So, how did Fahd make it happen?

"I rented two shops next to each other with two different licenses - one for a pet shop and the other for a coffeehouse. I don't sell animals - as a matter of fact, I'm against selling animals. All the 19 cats here were removed from a local shelter that was closing down, and all of them are up for adoption," Refaei told Kuwait Times.

"One of the main challenges we face is to keep the cats clean and healthy. A vet checks the cats every week to detect any sign of disease. The biggest challenge, from my experience, is customers falling foul of the guidelines for handling cats," he added.

Over 300 people of all ages have visited the café since it opened. A few weeks after the opening, the café had to set one day aside only for minors under the age of eight to play with the cats, to ensure that more volunteer supervisors are present. Children may mishandle cats inadvertently while playing, and some older customers do not have enough experience and may refuse to listen to the supervisor, on the grounds that they also own cats and are not in need of anyone's advice. The cats can also get disturbed as strangers play with them every day - cats need a long time to adapt to humans.

"We tried to make the atmosphere of the cafe more comfortable for the cats, so we have limited the number of people that can enter at a time, so that the place is not crowded and the

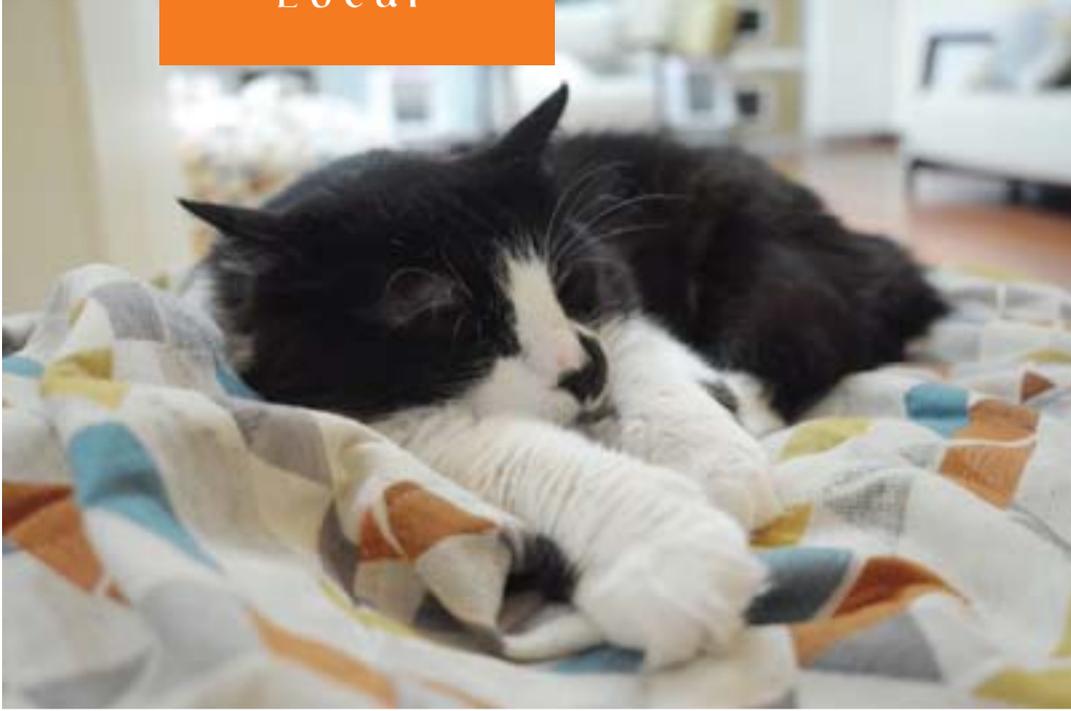
cats do not panic. In general, all our cats are friendly and love to get petted by visitors." Refaei said.

On the other side of Kuwait, in Qurain industrial area, another young Kuwaiti man is preparing to launch his own cat cafe, as well as a pet store to sell animals, pet supplies and grooming services. Ahmad Al-Azmi opposes the presence of cats inside a coffee shop, and their constant intermingling with strangers. Azmi will not follow in Refaei's footsteps of mixing cats and humans with food and beverages. "Not all cats love to be stroked. And not all cats want to socialize with other cats. There are felines who want to be left alone. Even if they allow you to stroke them, they will certainly begin to shrug off your hand or claw you after a few minutes," Ahmad told Kuwait Times.

Azmi also runs a cat hotel. He seeks to educate his followers on social media about raising pets and avoiding infections in order to correct misconceptions about cats. He and a team of volunteers also administrate WhatsApp groups



Ahmad Al-Azmi will open a cat-themed coffeeshop in Qurain to encourage the cat loving community in Kuwait, proving meeting nights, tips and more.



raising awareness about cats and encouraging people to welcome them at home. Each of them is unique in his own way. Azmi will be hosting talks and meet-ups at his cafe, while Refaei will be attempting to break the barrier of fear of cats through direct engagement. He believes his cafe will encourage visitors to decide whether it's time to introduce a new furry four-legged member of the family!

to reply to any inquiry and provide helpful answers and affordable solutions. He believes it is better to have a cat cafe devoid of cats!

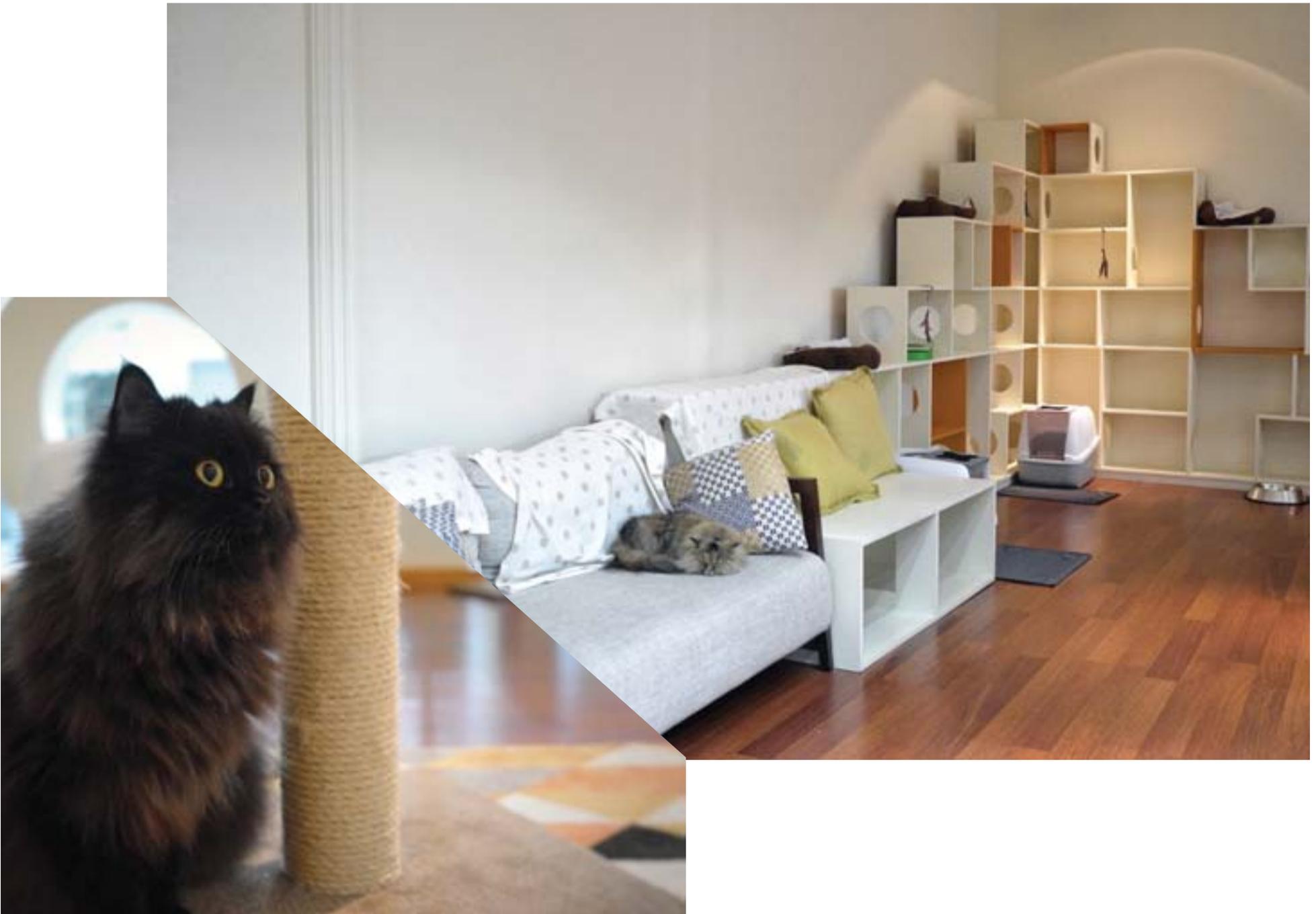
"It's a feline-themed cafe. From the interior design to the menu, everything will be linked to cats of all types and breeds. Most significantly, we must not forget that cats were not created for entertainment - they are souls like humans; they need someone who loves them and cares for them and considers them to be members of the family," Azmi added.

Refaei, in his defense, said the cats in his cafe were homeless despite all the efforts made at the shelter, and at present they live a better life. "I gave them a new chance to live, instead of being put down after a while if they couldn't find someone to adopt them. No food and drinks are allowed where our cats are. There is a designated area outside the coffee shop, because as I noted earlier, this is prohibited by the ministry of health and the municipality," he concluded.

Both Ahmad and Fahd have the same goal -



Fahd Al-Refaei, owner of a cat café in Salmiya and his many cats. The cats are part of a new enterprise that encourages people to engage directly with cats and visit with them in order to develop greater awareness about the care and needs of cats in Kuwait.



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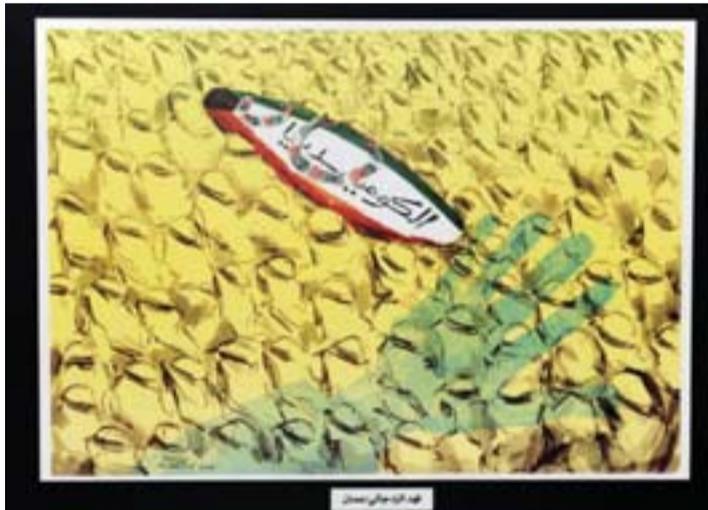
INFO MINISTER GRIEVES OVER SINGER'S DEATH

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti minister mourned the passing away of renowned musician Hussein Jassem, who passed away yesterday aged 73, just weeks after the death of legendary actor Abdulhussein Abdulredha. In a statement obtained by KUNA, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said that Kuwait has lost an extraordinary

musician whose works still resonate with the masses to this day.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, who is also Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, said that Jassem has left an indelible mark on the hearts of Kuwaitis through his artistic contributions that include national and cultural songs. He pointed out that the level of fame and

success that Jassem has achieved was unparalleled, hailing him as a patriotic zealot who returned to the Kuwaiti music industry in 1991 amid a wave of jubilation after the liberation of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti minister extended his deepest condolences to Jassem's family as well as the people of Kuwait and the Gulf region over this painful loss, saying his works will forever stand the test of time. — KUNA



Director of Muse Lounge Bookstore and Cafe Abdullah Al-Falah

CARICATURE GALLERY IN MEMORY OF ABDULREDHA

KUWAIT: Rasem El-Basma, a caricature gallery that opened at Muse Lounge, Symphony Mall, on Wednesday, features 21 cartoons by 20 artists from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states as a tribute to Kuwait's great artist Abdulhussein Abdulredha. The three-day event is the fruit of cooperation among a number of cartoonists in the

region and the cultural seminars forum. The cartoons on display shed light on the various stages of Abdulredha's artistic life over 55 years, Abdullah Al-Falah, director of Muse Lounge Bookstore and Cafe said.

The gallery is a token of appreciation for Abdulredha's rich contributions to artistic movement

in Kuwait and the Gulf region at large, he pointed out. Abdulsalam Maqboul, a Kuwaiti cartoonist, said the works on display reflect the creativity of the participating artists and their loyalty to the late artist. Abdulredha, a hugely popular actor, director, playwright and producer passed away in London on August 11 at the age of 67. — KUNA





KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Minister of State for Housing and Services Affairs Yasser Hassan Abul, accompanied by a number of citizens. — KUNA

GOVT KEEN ON IMPLEMENTING AMIR'S HOUSING GUIDELINES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah affirmed yesterday that his government is keen on implementing His Highness the Amir's instructions for tackling housing issues. His Highness the Premier renewed the pledge in this respect during a reception, at Seif Palace, of Minister of State for Housing and Services Affairs Yasser Hassan Abul, accompanied by number of citizens interested in the housing issue.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak reaffirmed his government's keenness on proceeding with measures to implement His Highness Amir's desire to improve housing services and overcome obstacles facing mega residential projects. Execution of new housing ventures is proceeding, covering services and facilities for the citizens, in a manner that would attain their grand aspirations in this regard, His Highness the Prime Minister stressed.

He lauded success of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare in minimizing red tape and procedures for securing residential units for the Kuwaiti families, also praising the lawmakers who dedicate special concern for this issue. The government is quite aware of the housing issue and its significance concerning the citizens, he said, urging State departments to provide required services and utilities at the new towns, speedily. — KUNA

WORLD BANK EXTOLS AMIR'S INITIATIVES

KUWAIT: The World Bank (WB) is eager to partnership with Kuwait to help in the reconstruction of recently liberated areas in Iraq, said a regional WB official yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, the World Bank's Country Manager in Kuwait Firas Raad lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his initiative to hold an international conference for the reconstruction of Iraq.

"The World Bank is honored to be part of this partnership opportunity," said Raad who took the chance to extol Kuwaiti diplomacy, which led in recent years to the organizing of several humanitarian conferences for victims of war-torn and disaster-inflicted countries. On July 11th, Kuwait announced that it would hold a conference to help Iraqis overcome the destruction left by the so-called Islamic State (IS).

This initiative displays Kuwait's utter commitment to global relief aid efforts

and it adds another milestone to the country recognized as a UN global humanitarian center, said Raad. Last month, Kuwait-through the Foreign Ministry-began contacts with Iraq and global partners in preparation for the conference to be held on its soil possibly in the first quarter of 2018. The World Bank, established in July of 1945, is a global financial institute, which has around 189 member states and 120 bureaus around the world. Kuwaiti national, Dr Merza H Hasan serves as Executive Director and Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of World Bank Group (WBG).

Relief aid in Basra

Meanwhile, Kuwait continued to deliver aid to Iraq's third largest city of Basra yesterday, the latest installment of a campaign put together by a Kuwaiti charity. Speaking to KUNA, the head of Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS)



World Bank's Country Manager in Kuwait Firas Raad

delegation in Basra Ahmad Al-Fagaan pointed out that the aid is for the displaced people in Basra and that around 11,000 families are beneficiaries of the Kuwaiti aid campaign. On the aid, he noted that it included food baskets and 500 pre-paid coupons distributed all across the Iraqi city. The KRCS official added that Kuwait as a nation throws its weight behind such initiatives that reach out to needy people in Iraq.

20 sailors found dead

In another development, the bodies of 20 Iraqi sailors have been recovered after their ship sank following a collision off the country's southern coast, the transport ministry said on Thursday. The Al-Mesbar sank in Iraqi waters on Saturday following the collision with a foreign-flagged vessel, after which eight sailors were rescued and the bodies of four others found. The ministry said in a statement that 16 more bodies were found when the ship was raised on Thursday. Iraqi authorities have ordered the foreign vessel impounded following the collision, which took place in the Khor Abdullah maritime canal between Iraq and Kuwait.— Agencies

KUWAIT ASSURES PILGRIMS OF CONVENIENCE AS HAJJ NEARS

JEDDAH: Kuwait will make sure that its pilgrims will be well looked after during the forthcoming Hajj season, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. After meeting with the bodies involved in Kuwait's Hajj campaign, including the ministries of health, information and interior, among others, the head of the campaign Khlaif Al-Athena assured Kuwaitis that preparations were well in place for the annual Islamic pilgrimage.

Al-Athena, who is also in charge of technical affairs and foreign relations

at Kuwait's ministry of Awqaf, commended all the meticulous efforts made to ensure that the pilgrims will have access to all necessities. He also called on Kuwaiti pilgrims to abide by all rules and regulations set by Saudi authorities, who recently decided to permit illegal residents to undertake the Islamic journey, to ensure a smooth and successful Hajj season. Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, is a mandatory religious duty for adult Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime. — KUNA

Crime

Report

INJECTING COLLAGEN

KUWAIT: An Egyptian was recently arrested for injecting a number of young men with collagen to build up their muscles. Security sources said that the suspect had no medical license. He gave over 40 shots to a client in a very short time which resulted to several health problems. A case was filed and further investigations are still in progress.

Citizen summoned

A citizen working in a Jahra Citizen-Service Center reported that another citizen had insulted him while he was on duty because he did not like the procedures which he claimed is too long and complicated. A case was filed and the citizen has been summoned for further investigations.

Fighting over a girl

Two young men were recently arrested in a Mubarak Al-Kabeer cafe for fighting over a girl who did not even notice either of them, said security sources noting that fight was triggered by an altercation over who will go for the girl.

Instantly killed

A Syrian in his forties was instantly killed when he was run over by a speeding vehicle in Shuwaikh industrial area. Security sources said the driver (a Kuwaiti) has been arrested pending further investigations.

Death threats

A Kuwaiti man recently filed a case accusing his old friend of threatening to kill him over some unsolved disputes, said security sources. The man asserted that he had been receiving death threats from his former friend. The suspect has been summoned by police.

Woman attacked

A Syrian woman reported that someone had attacked her while walking home in Jahra and stole her bag. The woman added that the thief assaulted her when she tried to resist and finally managed to snatch the bag and ran away. —Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

KUWAITIS RANKED THIRD IN TURKISH REAL ESTATE

ANKARA: Turkish Statistical Institute said yesterday that Kuwaitis ranked third in terms of foreigners buying real estate in the country after the Iraqis and Saudis. According to latest statistics, Kuwaiti bought 142 properties last July to be third after Iraqis who bought 293 and Saudis with 248 units. House sales for foreigners reached 1,726 increasing 65.3 percent compared to the same month from previous year.

Istanbul was the first province with 528 sales for foreigners, then Antalya with 386 house sales, Trabzon with 121, Bursa with 102, and then it comes Aydin with 100 house sales and Yalova with 80 houses. In Turkey, house sales increased by 42.4 percent in July 2017 compared to the same month of previous year with 115869 house sales. Istanbul had the highest share of house sales all over Turkey with 15.6 percent and 18083 sold house. Followed by Ankara with 11669 house sales and Izmir 6509 house sales then Ardahan province with 8 house sales.—KUNA



Real estate in Turkey



KUWAIT: Children and adults join the indoor sport club - a sanctuary where many activities takes place away from the scorching heat. — KUNA photos

SANCTUARIES FENDING OFF SUMMER HEAT INDOOR SPORT CLUBS

KUWAIT: For those brave souls who decided not to travel this summer, indoor sport clubs have been sanctuaries where many activities took place away from the scorching heat. Whether pursuing physical activities such as Judo, swimming, and Karate or just enjoying the air-conditioned facilities, indoor sport clubs have proven themselves as locations attracting Kuwaitis of all ages. — KUNA



RUSSIA SUPPORTS KUWAITI EFFORTS

KUWAIT CHIEF OF STAFF IN RUSSIA

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday reiterated its support to the Kuwaiti efforts aimed at resolving the dispute between a number of Arab states and Qatar. Speaking to the press, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar on a regional tour between August 27-30. Lavrov, she said, is expected to meet with top Kuwaiti officials during his visit, indicating that issues such as the GCC crisis, the situation in Syria, and other major issues will be on the table of discussions. Russian and Kuwaiti officials are expected to discuss matters related to ways to bolster bilateral relations on all possible levels, Zakharova indicated.

Meanwhile, the visiting Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodher yesterday affirmed that his mission in Russia is aimed at boosting bilateral relations between the nation and Kuwait. Lieut General Al-Khodher said he is in Russia to re-affirm Kuwait's keenness on cementing the bilateral relations with various brotherly and friendly nations worldwide. The



Kuwait's Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodher

chief of staff's visit is in response to an invitation from Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu to attend an international military forum. Al-Khodher indicated that he would discuss with Russian officials the prospects of attaining greater cooperation between the two nations in various domains. The chief of staff, accompanied by military officers, arrived in Moscow in August 21 on a visit due to end today. — Agencies

KUWAIT SURGEON ASSISTS SYRIA REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN TURKEY

ANKARA: Kuwaiti surgeon at Al-Farwaniya Hospital Dr Faisal Al-Hajri has conducted 12 urological surgeries to Syrian refugees in Al-Rihaneya, Hatay province southern Turkey. Al-Hajri said that he started his seventh volunteering trip to Al-Amal hospital on Tuesday and was able to examine more than 100 patients and performed operations on 12 people with complications in urethral delivery system. Dr Al-Hajeri has conducted 12 surgeries; four of them took 12 hours in the operation room.

The trip, which lasts for three days, includes training of Syrian doctors working at the hospital on such surgeries. The Kuwaiti surgeon has performed more than 60 operations during his six previous trips, which started on November 2015. The last trip was in May 2017. Al-Rihaneya province is located on borders with Syria near (Bab Al-Hawa) cross point, with a population of 90,000 Turkish people while Syrian refugee population exceeds 130,000. Turkish government

allows injured Syrian refugees to cross into the Turkish region to get medical treatment at its hospitals at a rate of 20 cases per day.—KUNA



Kuwaiti surgeon conducts medical operations to Syrian refugees in southern Turkey. — KUNA

International

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017

8 missing after
landslide in
Swiss Alps

13



Within 24 hours,
a pair of different
Trump speeches

15



India's top court
rules privacy a
fundamental
right

16



DOHA: In this June 5, 2017 file photo, passengers of cancelled flights wait in Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar after Saudi Arabia and other Arab powers severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and moved to isolate the energy-rich nation. — AP

QATAR RESTORES DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH IRAN

'THE NATION HAS SHOWN IT IS GOING TO GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION'

DUBAI: Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran early yesterday, disregarding the demands of Arab nations now locked in a regional dispute with the energy-rich country that it lessen its ties to Tehran. In announcing its decision, Qatar did not mention the diplomatic crisis roiling Gulf Arab nations since June, when Qatar found its land, sea and air routes cut off by its neighbors over Doha's policies across the Mideast. However, the move comes just days after Saudi Arabia began promoting a Qatari royal family member whose branch of the family was ousted in a palace coup in 1972.

"Qatar has shown it is going to go in a different direction," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University who lives in Seattle. "It could very well be calculated toward reinforcing the point that Qatar will not bow to this regional pressure placed upon it."

Qatar's Foreign Ministry announced early

yesterday that the country's ambassador would return to Tehran. Qatar pulled its ambassador in early 2016 after Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric sparked attacks on two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran, a move to show solidarity with the kingdom.

"The state of Qatar expressed its aspiration to strengthen bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," a short Foreign Ministry statement said. Iranian state media acknowledged the development, without elaborating. Despite recalling its ambassador in 2016, Iran and Qatar maintained their valuable commercial ties. Qatar and Iran share a massive offshore natural gas field, called the South Pars Field by Tehran and the North Field by Doha. That gas field's vast reserves made Qataris have the highest per capita income in the world, as well as funded the nation's Al-Jazeera satellite news network and secured hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Since the diplomatic dispute with Arab nations began in June, Iran has sent food shipments to Qatar.

There was no immediate reaction from the Arab nations boycotting Qatar. On Wednesday, the Central African nation of Chad announced it would close its embassy in Doha, accusing Qatar of trying to destabilize it from neighboring Libya. The diplomatic crisis began June 5, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar over allegations including funding extremists and being too close to Iran. Qatar long has denied funding extremists.

The boycotting countries later issued a list of 13 demands to Qatar, including that Doha shut its diplomatic posts in Iran. Qatar ignored the demands and let a deadline to comply pass, creating an apparent stalemate in the crisis. Attempts by Kuwait, the U.S. and others have failed to make headway.

In recent days, however, Saudi Arabia announced it would allow Qataris to make the annual hajj pilgrimage, which is required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their life. Saudi state media said that came in part due to an

intercession by Qatari royal family member Sheikh Abdullah Al Thani, who met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and later a vacationing King Salman in Morocco. But Sheikh Abdullah has no role in Qatar's government and his last position was as head of the equestrian and camel racing federation decades ago. Sheikh Abdullah's grandfather, father and brother were rulers of Qatar until a palace coup ousted his branch of the royal family in 1972 and a prominent Saudi columnist has suggested the sheikh could be the start of a Qatari government-in-exile.

Ulrichsen cautioned that so far, the Saudi moves appeared to be more needling than anything else. "Given that a formal escalation in terms of sanctions is probably off the table for now, we're seeing this informal pressure on Qatar ... to try and perhaps stir the pot," the professor said. "I think the informal pressure is increasing because of the lack of formal alternative measures they can realistically hope to place on Qatar." — AP

THOUSANDS OF SALEH SUPPORTERS RALLY

SANAA: Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis descended on Sanaa yesterday in a major show of force for ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose alliance with the country's Houthi rebels has been shaken by mutual distrust. Tensions have been rising between Saleh and his one-time foe, rebel chief Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, who in 2014 joined ranks in a shock alliance that drove the government out of the capital and into the southern province of Aden.

The rally marking 35 years since the founding of Saleh's Arab nationalist General People's Congress sends out a signal that the strongman remains a force to be reckoned with. Crowds filled the four-square-kilometer square and poured into the streets of the capital, waving the blue flag of the GPC and carrying pictures of the 75-year-old Saleh. Saleh ruled Yemen with an iron fist for more than three decades before stepping down in 2012 after a bloody year-long uprising. But the strongman retained the loyalty of some of the best-equipped units in the military and later joined forces with the Houthis, after they overran the capital in 2014.

The ensuing civil war between the Saudi-backed government and the Houthi-Saleh alliance has killed thousands and brought the Arabian Peninsula country to the brink of famine. Saleh's supporters had travelled to Sanaa from across the impoverished country, camping out in Sabaeen Square overnight ahead of the rally. An AFP reporter in Sanaa said the Houthis had set up checkpoints at the main entrances to the city. But they did nothing to stop the demonstrators from reaching the square, where the rebels had also deployed but did not interfere with the rally.

Saleh—who survived the Arab Spring protests that saw a string of his peers ousted from Egypt to Libya—appeared in person at the rally and gave a brief speech behind bulletproof glass, surrounded by heavily armed guards. "We are political pioneers with a solid anchor, and we have been facing conspiracies against us since 2011," he told the cheering crowd, referring to the start of protests in Sanaa that eventually led to his resignation.

'Allies for show'

Saleh said he was ready to deploy "tens of thousands of fighters to the frontlines", on condition the rebel-led government train and pay them. Analysts have said the rally serves in part as public protest against the Iran-backed Houthis, who with Saleh have run the capital since 2014. The rebels have rapidly risen in a parallel government in Sanaa, and now hold clout in the city's economy, defense and educational ministries. Former troops and civil servants in the parallel rebel-run government have not been paid for months. Saleh's second-in-command in the General People's Congress, Aref Al-Zouka, yesterday criticized the Houthis for financial mismanagement and corruption, saying the party refused to be "allies for show". A war of words between Saleh and Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, whose rebel group have historically clashed with Saleh's troops, has escalated in the past week.

The two have publicly accused each other of treason, with Saleh hinting his allies were merely "a militia" and the rebels warning the former president he would "bear the consequences" of the insult. The Houthis reportedly suspect Saleh has been negotiating with a Saudi-led Arab coalition that supports the Yemeni government.—AFP



RAMALLAH: A Palestinian activist holds a collage showing of US President Donald Trump during a protest against the visit of US delegation in the West Bank city.— AP

PESSIMISM AS KUSHNER HOLDS ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN JOINT TALKS

JERUSALEM: White House aide Jared Kushner held talks on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict yesterday with the aim of restarting long-stalled peace efforts, but pessimism was high over President Donald Trump's pledge to reach the "ultimate deal". The visit comes with both Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not in position to make major concessions, some analysts say, and no details have emerged of how Trump's team would overcome that.

Trump also faces a range of crises in addition to controversies at home that may make it difficult for him to focus on the complexities of a major Israeli-Palestinian peace push. "We have a lot of things to talk about—how to advance peace, stability and security in our region, prosperity too," Netanyahu said in brief public remarks as he met Kushner in Jerusalem. "And I think all of them are within our reach."

Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, said: "The president is very committed to achieving a solution here that will be able to bring prosperity and peace to all people in this area."

The US delegation was to meet Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday evening. A US official said earlier that Trump "remains optimistic that progress toward a deal can be achieved".

The visit is part of a regional tour by Kushner, Trump aide Jason Greenblatt and Deputy National Security Adviser Dina Powell. They have also held talks with Egyptian, Saudi, Emirati, Qatari and Jordanian officials. "I think (the Israeli-Palestinian conflict) clearly remains important, important enough that senior officials continue to engage on it, including Jared Kushner," Dan Shapiro, US ambassador to Israel under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, told journalists this week. "But given the very poor prospects of a significant political breakthrough, I'd be surprised if it warrants a major investment by the president."

Palestinian leaders have grown frustrated with the White House after ini-

tially holding out hope that Trump could bring a fresh approach to peace efforts despite his pledges of staunch support for Israel. Trump aides have held a series of meetings with both sides, portraying them as hearing out concerns before deciding on a way forward, while the US president himself visited Israel and the Palestinian territories in May. But Palestinian leaders note that the White House has not even said clearly whether its focus will be a two-state solution to the conflict, which has been longstanding US policy. The two-state solution envisions an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, a concept which has been the focus of international diplomacy for years.

When Trump met Netanyahu at the White House in February, he said he would support a single state if it led to peace, delighting right-wing Israelis who want to annex most of the West Bank, but raising deep concern among Palestinians. Signalling their frustration, some Palestinian leaders have spoken of taking a harder line in recent days.—AP

UAE IMPRISONS TRANSGENDER SINGAPOREAN AND HER FRIEND

DUBAI: A transgender Singaporean and her friend have been sentenced to a year in prison in the capital of the United Arab Emirates for dressing in a feminine way, friends and family say. Abu Dhabi police did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday, but the two's arrest and quick sentencing show the danger that the LGBT community can face in the Mideast nation home to the famous nightclub scene of Dubai.

Nur Qistina Fitriah Ibrahim, a transgender woman who has not undergone a sex-change operation, and her friend, freelance fashion photographer Muhammad Fadli Bin Abdul Rahman, were arrested in Abu Dhabi on Aug. 9, friends say. Police stopped them

at Yas Mall as they tried to eat at a food court, said Radha Stirling, CEO of the advocacy group Detained in Dubai.

Fadli at the time of his arrest was wearing a white T-shirt, a bow tie and earrings, his brother Muhammad Saiful Bahri Bin Abdul Rahman said. "I hope to bring my brother back to Singapore as soon as possible," he said. "My brother is a friendly, selfless and jovial person. It's ridiculous to be jailed for his dressing."

Ibrahim, who is known by the nickname Fifi to friends, is a frequent traveler to Abu Dhabi and hadn't had any trouble in the past, friends said. The two believed they would sort out the issue and return home quickly, but were sentenced to a year in

prison in a court hearing, Stirling said. She alleged the two did not retain lawyers at the advice of the Singapore Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Chan Zhi Wei, an official at the Singaporean Embassy, called the allegation that consular officials advised against getting a lawyer "incorrect," without elaborating. "The embassy is currently rendering the necessary consular assistance to the individuals in question and their families are being assisted to seek legal advice," he said.

Abu Dhabi advertises itself as a tourism destination and is home to the long-haul air carrier Etihad Airways. However, the emirate bordering Saudi Arabia is more conservative than Dubai, the UAE's commercial heart. But

even trips to Dubai can pose risks to LGBT travelers and others as laws sometimes contradict social attitudes, Stirling said. A British man in the UAE faced charges of "cross dressing" last year, but Stirling said she helped him leave the country after paying a fine of 5,000 dirhams (\$1,360).

Meanwhile, alcohol possession for foreigners is technically illegal without a government-issued license obtainable only after gaining their employer's permission, though liquor and beer is widely available in bars and clubs in both cities. Foreigners also have faced charges in the past for having sex outside of marriage. Such laws are common in other Mideast nations, based in part on Islamic legal codes.—AP

TURKEY'S RIVALS TUSSELE FOR POLITICAL POSITION

ISTANBUL: In Turkey, the political temperature is so high that one could be forgiven for thinking that elections are just around the corner. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan gives near daily speeches rousing the ruling party faithful, an emboldened opposition is planning unprecedented events and rumors fly of big changes in the political landscape.

In fact, the next elections will not be until local polls are held in March 2019, followed by elections in November the same year to choose parliament and president. But the April referendum on expanding Erdogan's powers—which he narrowly won—altered Turkish politics to such an extent that all parties are now working in overdrive.

The tensions will come to a head this weekend—just before the country packs up for over a week of holidays—when both Erdogan and the head of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) — hold competing events on the same day. Erdogan will host a mass rally on Saturday in the eastern town of Malazgirt, commemorating the anniversary of a 1071 battle where pre-Ottoman Turkic tribes defeated Byzantine forces in a victory that helped open up Anatolia to Turks.

Almost at the opposite end of the country, CHP chief Kemal Kilicdaroglu will begin hosting a four-day "Justice Congress" in the western region of Canakkale, complaining of judicial abuses in the crackdown that followed the July 2016 failed coup. Kilicdaroglu will be seeking to build on the surprising success of his "Justice March" earlier this summer where he walked from Ankara to Istanbul and rallied hundreds of thousands in the biggest opposition event in Turkey in years at its climax.

The combative president and the mildly-spoken opposition leader have traded bitter insults, with Erdogan's accusations against Kilicdaroglu even sparking speculation the CHP chief could be arrested, something the government denied. In the latest spat, Erdogan mocked Kilicdaroglu for being photographed wearing an underwear vest while eating during the march. "It's an insult to my citizens," snorted the president.

'No easy task'

The referendum transformed Turkish politics not just by handing Erdogan more powers—which will apply only if he wins the 2019 polls—but allowing him to again become chief of his Justice and Development Party (AKP) — which took effect immediately. Erdogan was party boss while he served as premier from 2003-2014, but under the old constitution was forced to sever his links with the party when he became president in 2014.

With the referendum won, he rapidly resumed his old job. But the narrow victory contained troubling signs for Erdogan and the AKP, despite a campaign heavily skewed in their favor. Turkey's three biggest cities—Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir—all voted 'No' while many Kurds were put off by the AKP's alliance with nationalists. "By responding to the ballot box signals, Erdogan is preparing the AKP for the 2019 polls," wrote Abdulkadir Selvi, the conservative commentator for the Hurriyet daily.

Since resuming the leadership, Erdogan has sought to reassert his dominance over the party bureaucracy, warning it was suffering from "metal fatigue", urging the need for renewal and saying that only he will determine the party's style. "Erdogan's preparation to reshuffle the party grassroots organization is a reflection of his desire to realign the party with the new reality of a single leader," said Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, Ankara Office Director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. —AFP



ANKARA: Turkey's Nationalist Movement Party's leader (MHP) Devlet Bahçeli speaks during a press conference at the party headquarters.—AFP



PARIS: In this Jan 11, 2016 file photo, French President Francois Hollande, right, and French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius, second right, talk with former Syrian Prime Minister Riad Hijab, left, coordinator of the Syrian opposition team during a meeting with delegations at the Elysee Palace. —AP

SYRIA OPPN TOLD TO COME TO TERMS WITH ASSAD'S SURVIVAL

'EVERYONE INCLUDING THE US RECOGNIZES ASSAD IS STAYING'

BEIRUT: As Damascus reverses military losses in much of the country's strategically important west, and foreign states cut support for rebel forces, diplomats from Washington to Riyadh are asking representatives of Syria's opposition to come to terms with President Bashar Assad's political survival.

The country's civil war has crossed the halfway point of its sixth year and Assad and his allies are now in control of Syria's four largest cities and its Mediterranean coast. With the help of Russian air power and Iranian-sponsored militias, pro-government forces are marching steadily across the energy-rich Homs province to reach the Euphrates River valley.

Western and regional rebel patrons, currently more focused on advancing their own interests rather than accomplishing regime change in Damascus, are shifting their alliances and have ceased calls on Assad to step down. "There is no conceivable military alignment that's going to be able to remove him," said former US Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, now a fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, DC. "Everyone including the US has recognized that Assad is staying."

The war has settled into a familiar, lower-intensity grind, with the Syrian government now in control of most of the populated west while Islamic State group militants and al-Qaida affiliates, U.S.-backed Kurds and Turkey-backed rebels hold on to remaining pockets in the north, east and south. Russia-sponsored so-called de-escalation zones have significantly reduced violence in rebel-held territory although fighting continues to rage in some areas.

Peace talks

With another round of UN mediated peace talks on the horizon in Geneva, the opposition's chief representative group, the High Negotiations Committee, is being told by even its

closest patrons it risks irrelevance if it does not adapt to the new realities. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, according to an interlocutor briefed on the matter, told the opposition it was time to formulate "a new vision."

"He didn't explicitly say Bashar is going to stay, but if you read between the lines, if you say there needs to be a new vision, what is the most contentious issue out there? It's whether Bashar stays," said the interlocutor, who mediates between the opposition and state capitals and requested anonymity so as not to compromise his work. It is a difficult pill to swallow for the opposition, which has been holding a series of meetings as part of a months-long stock-taking process where they are expected to narrow their aims and refresh their leadership.

At a two-day meeting in Riyadh this week meant to try and bridge differences between the three main political opposition groups and come up with a unified vision based on the new political and military reality, divisions were however once again on full display. The opposition's chief representative group, the Saudi-based High Negotiations Committee (HNC), publicly held on to its position that Assad must step down before any political transition. In a statement, it said the opposition group known as the "Moscow Platform" insisted Assad's departure must not be a precondition for talks.

"We refuse any role for Assad during a transitional period," insisted spokesman Ahmad Ramadan of the National Syrian Coalition, the leading bloc in the HNC, which has always staked out a maximalist position against Assad. But internally, there is talk of restructuring the HNC to give weight to the more conciliatory voices among the opposition - representatives based in Cairo and Moscow that groups within the HNC have long derided as the "internal opposition" for their per-

ceived cozy relations with Damascus.

It comes at the urging of the UN's top Syria envoy, Staffan De Mistura, who spent much of the last Geneva talks trying to reconcile the HNC and the Cairo and Moscow groups. De Mistura set expectations last week that those efforts would bear fruit. He said the opposition was in the midst of "intensive internal discussions" in order to come up with "a more inclusive and perhaps even more pragmatic approach" to negotiations, saying he hoped an outcome could materialize by October.

Changing priorities

The shifts reflect the changing priorities of the opposition's chief backers - the US, Europe, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia - which are now more concerned with preserving their own, narrowly conceived strategic interests, than they are with unseating Assad. For the US, that means focusing on fighting the Islamic State group and containing Iran's influence in Syria, to protect its ally Israel. Saudi Arabia, too, wants to contain its regional archrival, Iran, as well as wrest influence away from Qatar, which is seen as a key backer to the HNC and some rebel groups on the ground. Ankara's top priority is to contain the U.S.-backed Kurdish PYD group in north Syria, which it fears will inspire Kurdish separatism in east Turkey.

Indeed, these nations have never seriously challenged Assad's hegemony, militarily, leaving Russia and Iran holding the cards. Former US President Barack Obama fastidiously avoided striking Assad's forces, even after his administration concluded Damascus had trespassed the president's "red line" against chemical warfare; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is reported to have told the UN's general secretary in July that President Trump's administration would leave Syria's fate in Russia's hands.—AP

8 MISSING AFTER LANDSLIDE IN SWISS ALPS

GENEVA: Eight hikers are missing after a massive landslide swept away an entire mountainside in the Swiss Alps, ripping apart buildings and forcing the evacuation of a village, police said yesterday. The landslide, which struck on Wednesday, sent mud, rocks and dirt flooding down the Piz Cengalo mountain into the outskirts of the village of Bondo, near the Italian border.

About 100 people were evacuated, some airlifted out by helicopters. Police in the canton of Graubunden had initially announced that no one was hurt. But yesterday they acknowledged that rescue workers were flying over the area in search of mountain climbers and hikers who might have been hit by the massive slide. "In the region of Val Bondasca, eight people who were there at the time of the landslide have not been found," said a police statement, adding that the missing were German, Swiss and Austrian citizens.

Swiss daily Blick reported that four of the missing were German, while two were Swiss and two Austrian. A police spokesman told the 20 Minuten daily that there were no children among the missing, who were all believed to be hikers. Six of the eight had been reported missing by their relatives, police said, adding that the search for them had intensified overnight, with a Swiss army helicopter taking part.

Shook like an earthquake

The event was so severe that the vibrations set off seismometers across Switzerland, which measured the equivalent of a magnitude 3.0 earthquake, according to the Swiss Seismological Service. Images showed an



GRAUBUENDEN: A view of the village Bondo in Graubunden in South Switzerland. — AP

unstoppable mass of thick mud and sludge moving down the mountainside like lava, ripping apart at least one building in its path and partially engulfing others.

A broad swathe of farmland was engulfed in the river of debris. Police said 12 farm buildings, including barns and stables, had been destroyed, while Graubunden's main southern highway was closed to traffic. "The affected area was really vast," said Simona Rauch, a Protestant minister at a church in Val Bregaglia, a valley that groups several villages

including Bondo. She told AFP that there were always many tourists hiking there at this time of year. But she said mobile phone coverage is spotty at best in the area, which could explain why it had not yet been possible to get in touch with the missing people.

Police on Wednesday evacuated Bondo, and had also evacuated two Alpine cabins, pointing to the risk of further landslides. Residents have not yet been permitted to return home. Authorities said they would reevaluate the situation yesterday afternoon.

No water, no power

"People left immediately leaving everything behind. They didn't bring anything, because they thought they would be returning quickly," Rauch said. "No one expected this kind of catastrophe. "We don't know how long they will need to stay away from their homes, because for the time being there is neither water nor electricity in Bondo village," he added. Residents were being housed in nearby hotels, including in the village of Castasegna on the Italian border. Rauch said many Bondo residents had also spent the night at a retirement home in the nearby village of Spino, where they had received food, a bed and medication for those who had left theirs behind. She said her church was preparing to receive four other Bondo residents.

Wednesday's landslide was not the first to hit Piz Cengalo, in 2012, nearly 400 million cubic meters of mud, rocks and gravel—the equivalent of 4,000 standard-sized houses—poured down the mountainside, landing in an uninhabited valley. Following that incident, an automatic debris alarm system was installed. That alarm was set off when Wednesday's landslide barreled down the mountain at 9:30 am (0730 GMT), police said, sparking an immediate deployment of emergency services.

The last deadly landslide to hit Switzerland was in November 2014, in the city of Davesco-Soragno, killing two people and injuring four others. One of the worst such accidents in the wealthy Alpine country in recent years happened in 2000, when 12 people perished and four others were declared missing after floods in the southern canton of Valais. — AFP

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CANDLELIT MARCH FOR ITALY QUAKE VICTIMS

ROME: At exactly 3:36 am yesterday, the town clock in Amatrice rang 249 times in memory of the number of people who died there last year in an earthquake that devastated central Italy at exactly that moment. The 6.0 magnitude quake which ripped through communities in the rugged, hilly region in the early hours of August 24, 2016, claimed a total of 299 lives and still haunts the country.

The disaster razed much of Amatrice, claiming the lives of 249 people who lived there and in the neighboring village of Accumoli. Just before midnight, residents paid their respects to each of the victims by read-

ing out their names as well as an anecdote about their life in a two-hour ceremony punctuated by applause. They then gathered for a silent candlelit march which began at the local football pitch, where last year's mass funerals were held, which wound its way through the streets where many houses still lie in ruins.

Amatrice Mayor Sergio Pirozzi also unveiled a memorial to the dead called Fidelis Amatrix, after the words engraved on an ancient local coin. Other villages and hamlets where another 60 people died will hold their own ceremonies later yesterday, with memorials planned in Accumoli, Arquata del Tronto

and Pescara del Tronto. Amatrice was observing a day of mourning yesterday with locals joining a mass late morning which was also attended by Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni. The quake devastated a huge area, causing damage to homes, schools, hospitals and churches costing an estimated 23.55 billion euros (\$27.7 billion). Three more violent quakes hit the same region in late October as well as one in mid-January that wiped out a hotel, killing 29 people. On Monday, a relatively small 4.0-magnitude quake leveled several houses on Ischia, an island off Naples, killing two people. — AFP



ROTTERDAM: A policeman stands as police evacuate the concert venue Maassilo, after a concert was cancelled because of a terror threat. — AFP

DUTCH ACT ON 'CONCRETE' INFO OF PLANNED CONCERT ATTACK

ROTTERDAM: Dutch police yesterday stepped up a probe into a planned terror attack against a Rotterdam concert by a US rock band, having received a "concrete" tip-off from Spanish authorities. "There was concrete information from the Spanish police that an attack would be committed on that date, at this place and against this rock band," the port city's police chief Frank Paauw told reporters.

Spain was rocked last week by twin vehicle attacks which killed 15 people and wounded 120, but it remained unclear whether the tip-off to the Dutch came before or after Spanish police began investigating the incidents.

After cancelling a planned concert by the Californian band Allah-Las in Rotterdam, Dutch police swooped on a house in the southern Brabant region before dawn yesterday "and arrested a 22-year-old man regarding the terror threat Wednesday evening in Rotterdam".

They also carried out "an extensive search" of the premises, police said in a statement. But there were growing doubts that another man, arrested late Wednesday in the port driving a van with Spanish license plates and carrying gas canisters close to the Maassilo concert hall, was linked to the terror threat. The van driver, a mechanic who "appeared to be under the influence of an alcoholic substance, was detained and transferred to a police facility" on Wednesday, police said, adding officers had found a "couple of gas canisters" in his van.

"His house was searched last night and no link with the terror threat was found. The man is still detained and will be questioned when sober," police said in an English statement. While Spanish police appeared to rule the man out of the

inquiry, Paauw said his team were still investigating but it seemed likely "the man had had the bad luck to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Concert attacks

The news follows a suicide bombing of a concert by US singer Ariana Grande in the English city of Manchester in May which killed 22 people. And in November 2015, 130 people were killed in Paris when as part of a series of attacks jihadists hit the Bataclan concert hall where US rock band Eagles of Death Metal were playing.

"After what happened in Barcelona, I think the police really took the situation seriously and didn't want to take any risks in Rotterdam," witness Usama Mohamed told AFP. Spanish police said yesterday they had identified the remains of the last suspected member of the cell believed to have carried out the August 17 attacks in northeastern Spain. Youssef Aalla died in an accidental blast at the jihadists' bomb factory on the eve of the assault. The blast forced the group to use vehicles instead as weapons, ploughing into pedestrians on Barcelona's busy Las Ramblas boulevard and a promenade in the resort of Cambrils.

Dutch authorities decided to cancel the Allah-Las concert after the tip-off from Spanish police around 5:30 pm. The four-piece band, from Los Angeles, was escorted from the concert hall by police wearing bullet-proof vests. In a statement sent to AFP, they said they were "unharmful and are very grateful to the Rotterdam police and other responsible agencies for detecting the potential threat before anyone was hurt". — AFP

CULT-LIKE SPAIN TERROR CELL EVADED DETECTION

MADRID: The jihadist cell behind last week's twin attacks in Spain was built around a "guru" and went completely offline to avoid detection by anti-terrorist police, experts said. The group managed to evade authorities so well that even a giant explosion at their bomb factory in Alcanar, where police later uncovered massive quantities of ingredients to build TATP, was not at first linked to the jihadists. Investigators only made the connection after their vehicle rampages in Barcelona and the nearby seaside town of Cambrils.

Experts say the key reason was the way the group was formed. The "propaganda and recruitment techniques" are like those of a cult, said Lurdes Vidal, director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean. "The role of the family is emphasized, the group is a closed circuit, and everything is done to stop things from getting out," she said. And at the heart of the group, "there is a central person who unites everyone, who provides Salafist answers to youths who may have lost their bearings," said French former intelligence officer Alain Rodier.

That key person in this case was the Moroccan imam, Abdelbaki Es Satty, who was killed in the blast accidentally triggered by the jihadists themselves. He may have presented two different faces to people of Ripoll, the small town where he and many of the suspects lived, said Alberto Bueno, a member of the International Observatory of Studies on Terrorism.

"He shows one face when he preaches at the prayer hall in Ripoll, and the other of radicalization," said Bueno, a researcher at the university of Granada, in Southern Spain. The unity of the group is further compounded by the fact that many of its members are siblings, noted the expert, pointing out that among the dozen suspects are four sets of brothers.

Yves Trotignon, a former member of France's anti-terrorist authorities, noted that the set-up featuring relatives was also seen among the perpetrators of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in New York or the March 11, 2004 train bombing in Madrid. Rodier, a former officer in French intelligence, said Spanish experts were fully aware that such groups formed around families are particularly tight, because, "you're not going to betray your brother". The family connections also ease the process of indoctrination, he said.

'Reconquering Spain'

While Spain's attackers had prepared their assaults for months, it is likely that the process of radicalization began a long time ago, he said. Alberto Bueno noted that the group had eschewed online social networks and stayed off mobile phones, at a time when anti-terrorist police scour the internet for signs of radicalization among users.

"This classic model, with people who know each other and a guru who accompanies the development of the cell goes back 15 to 20 years earlier," said Alain Rodier. The experts also noted that the youth of many of the suspects—some of them as young as 17—was no accident. This is a period of life that is potentially volatile, Vidal said, noting that "religion was used to get to the youths, in order to have a very strong emotional impact in the construction of their identity. "These are Muslims, not converts. An imam is necessary, an incubator who comes from among them, and who convinces them that their faith requires them to take action," said Rodier. "They may have viewed themselves reconquering Spain as Muslims, ... as suggested in the letter found in Alcanar," he added. In the rubble of the Alcanar house, police found a sheet of paper slipped into a green-colored book. It read: "A brief letter from the soldiers of the Islamic State on the territory of Al Andalous to the crusaders, the sinners, the unjust and the corrupters." Al Andalous is the name of the territories in modern Spain that until 1492 were by Muslims. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump salutes as he steps from Maine One to walk across the South Lawn of the White House. — AP

WITHIN 24 HOURS, A PAIR OF DIFFERENT TRUMP SPEECHES

RENO: Within a 24-hour span, US President Donald Trump delivered one speech in which he tore into the media and members of his own party, and a second in which he called for national unity and love. The about-face seemed to reflect the president's real-time internal debate between calls for moderation and his inclination to let loose. On Wednesday, the president spoke in measured tones and stuck to his prepared remarks as he praised veterans at an American Legion conference in Nevada as examples for a nation yearning to set aside its differences.

"We are here to hold you up as an example of strength, courage and resolve that our country will need to overcome the many challenges that we face," he said. The night before, the president cut loose in Arizona, defying instructions from his aides to stick to the script and angrily renewing his fight with the press over its coverage of his comments about the race-fueled violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. The public push-and-pull in Trump's message mirrors the internal dynamics at the White House, where new chief of staff John Kelly has organized and regimented the West Wing staff but has been unable to rein in the president's tendency to veer off course.

The president's speech in Reno was full of the calls for patriotism and national healing that would not have seemed out of the ordinary had they been uttered by previous occupants of the Oval Office. But his rally in Phoenix on Tuesday night was uniquely Trump. He opened his remarks with a talk of unity but quickly erupted in anger, blaming the media for the widespread condemnation of his response to the violence in Charlottesville at a protest organized by white supremacists.

Trump read from his three responses to the racially charged violence, becoming more animated with each one. He withdrew from his suit pocket the written statement he'd read the day a woman was killed by a man who had plowed a car through counter-protesters. But he skipped over the trouble-causing part that he'd freelanced at the time: his observation that "many sides" were to blame.

That, as well as his reiteration days later that "both sides"

were to blame for the violence that led to the death of Heather Heyer and two state troopers, led Democrats and many Republicans to denounce Trump for not unmistakably calling out white supremacists and other hate groups. By the time he arrived at the American Legion conference, Trump seemed more congenial. He even thanked Sen Dean Heller, a Nevada Republican with whom he has openly and repeatedly feuded. He discussed his early efforts to restructure and improve the Department of Veterans Affairs. Later in the speech, Trump said Americans aren't defined by the color of their skin, the size of their paycheck or their political party.

Lightning-rod

Since Kelly took over last month as chief of staff, he has ousted lightning-rod chief strategist Steve Bannon and hard-charging communications director Anthony Scaramucci while limiting dissenting voices, restricting access to the president and steering the president toward a desired outcome on key decisions.

He has urged Trump to more closely follow a game plan. But Trump's broadside against the "damned dishonest" media, which he says is out to get him, was one of several detours he took from remarks prepared for the Phoenix rally. Trump unabashedly acknowledged that his own advisers had urged him to stay on message, and that he simply couldn't. His diatribe against the press wasn't in his prepared remarks, according to two people familiar with the plan but not authorized to speak publicly about the president's decision.

Though he was subdued in speaking to the veterans, Trump often resurrects his free-wheeling 2016 campaign style when in the comforting presence of his most fervent fans. He flings insults at perceived enemies and meanders from topic to topic. In Phoenix, his ease was apparent. As he discussed his responses to Charlottesville, Trump interrupted himself to add: "I didn't want to bore you. You understand where I'm coming from. You people understand." Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report. — AP

FLEEING MADURO CRITIC: VENEZUELA IS NOW LAWLESS

BRASILIA: Venezuela's fugitive former top prosecutor resurfaced in Brazil on Wednesday claiming to possess "a lot" of proof of President Nicolas Maduro's corruption and warning that her life remains in danger. Days after a dramatic escape from chaotic Venezuela, Luisa Ortega, 59, turned up the heat on Maduro, who has asked Interpol to issue a "red notice" warrant for the arrest of his critic.

Ortega-speaking at a crime-fighting conference in the Brazilian capital with representatives from the Latin American regional trading alliance Mercosur — said Maduro enriched himself in a massive corruption scheme uncovered at Brazilian construction conglomerate Odebrecht. "I have a lot of proof, concretely in the Odebrecht case, which implicates many high-ranking Venezuelans, starting with the president of the republic," she said. "The rule of law has died" under Maduro, she said, suggesting the country has become a criminal haven where evidence in organized crime cases tends to "disappear." "There are many in Venezuela who have an interest in stopping investigations of corruption cases or cases related to drug trafficking or terrorism," she said.

The move came as US Vice President Mike Pence vowed Washington would not allow "the collapse of Venezuela," amid a political crisis triggered by Maduro's decision last month to set up a new constitutional body, in a move widely seen as a power grab. "The collapse of Venezuela will endanger all who call the Western Hemisphere home," Pence said in remarks delivered Wednesday before some 600 people at a Catholic church in Doral, the heart of Miami's Venezuelan community. "We cannot and will not let that happen," he said, adding that "working with our allies in the Latin American region, the US will confront and overcome all who dare to threaten our wellbeing."

'Death threats'

Ortega, who fled to Colombia from Venezuela with her husband German Ferrer last Friday, said she was still in danger. "I have received threats that there may be an attempt against my life and I hold the Venezuelan government responsible if this happens," she said at the conference, which she attended after flying to Brasilia from Panama. Brazil's prosecutor general said in a statement that he had personally invited Ortega, adding to the intrigue since she was fired by Venezuela's socialist president this month and charged with misconduct.

The prosecutor appointed under Maduro to take Ortega's place dismissed her allegations, saying "they have no legal validity." "They would have validity if she had presented these supposed proofs before the judicial system," said the chief prosecutor, Tarek William Saab, in Caracas. Saab described Ortega's statements as "libelous propaganda" and suggested there was a hidden agenda behind her traveling in exile. "We should see who is supporting these trips."

On Tuesday, Maduro said Ortega and Ferrer had committed "serious crimes" and should be apprehended. Ferrer is accused by Maduro's government of corruption and extortion. However, neighboring Colombia and Brazil have come to Ortega's defense and firmly condemn Maduro's handling of violent political unrest and economic collapse in his oil-rich country. Venezuela has been suspended indefinitely from the Mercosur group. — AFP



SAN CRISTOBAL: This file photo taken on December 16, 2016 shows people holding up 100-Bolivar notes during a protest over lack of cash as the new bank notes have not yet appeared, at the "Troncal 5" road in San Cristobal in Venezuela's Tachira state. — AFP

WANT TO JOIN CHINA'S ARMY? THEN STOP MASTURBATING

SHANGHAI: The Chinese military is fretting about the growing number of would-be recruits failing its stringent fitness test, but says it has the answer: avoid masturbation and computer games. People's Liberation Army chiefs aim to ensure that applicants are in tip-top condition to join the rank and file of the world's largest military force.

This month the official PLA Daily spelt out on social media 10 reasons why so many potential recruits fall at the first hurdle. It said 20 percent were overweight while eight percent were refused because they had an enlarged testicular vein. The newspaper did not spell out how army officers knew about the vein issue but said the problems were caused by too much masturbation, too many video games and not enough exercise.

Obvious or oversized tattoos were also a no-no, it said, pointing out that others failed the test because of liver problems associated with too much alcohol. The PLA Daily said that in one city alone more than half the candidates were rejected after failing to show they were fit and healthy enough. Beijing said the PLA had high standards. "China's recruitment process has strict rules and procedures," the defence ministry said in a statement. "The quality of our recruits is guaranteed and the headwaters of our military will flow long and strong." That did not stop some Chinese internet users from having a bit of fun with the news.

"Going online everyday on the computer or phone, late-night gaming and masturbating, it would be weird if they were actually healthy and fit!" said one user on Weibo, China's version of Twitter. Another saw a more serious side: "Young people nowadays are living too comfortably, they're turning into couch potatoes." It is not the first time this month that military officials have railed against modern lifestyles. The same army newspaper said officers were worried about young soldiers getting so addicted to the online battle game "King of Glory" that they would struggle to remain focused during an actual war.

"Once a soldier is cut off from the game for an urgent mission, he could be absent-minded during the operation if his mind remains on the game," the PLA Daily warned gravely. Since coming to power in 2012 President Xi Jinping has trumpeted the need to build a stronger combat-ready military, while leading efforts to centralise the Communist Party's control over it. China's military budget had seen double-digit increases for several years until last year, when it was raised 7.6 percent. —AFP



HYDERABAD: This file photo taken on January 18, 2017 shows an Indian visitor giving a thumb impression to withdraw money from his bank account with his Aadhaar or Unique Identification (UID) card during a Digi Dhan Mela, held to promote digital payment. — AFP

INDIA'S SUPREME COURT RULES PRIVACY A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

CIVIL LIBERTIES CAMPAIGNERS HAIL LANDMARK DECISION

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that citizens have a constitutional right to privacy, a landmark decision that could jeopardize a government program holding biometric data on over a billion people. Privacy is not explicitly mentioned in the Indian constitution and the government has argued that the country's 1.25 billion people have no absolute right to it. But the top court said the right to privacy was enshrined in the constitution, a ruling which civil liberties campaigners hailed as a milestone.

"The right of privacy is a fundamental right," the nine judges deciding the case said in a unanimous ruling. "It is a right which protects the inner sphere of the individual from interference from both State and non-State actors and allows the individuals to make autonomous life choices." The Supreme Court had set up a special bench to rule on the issue after a legal challenge to the government's Aadhaar biometric program, which has recorded the fingerprints and iris scans of

more than one billion Indians.

Prashant Bhushan, one of the lawyers working on the Aadhaar challenge, said the ruling was a blow to the right-wing government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It is a big jolt for the government because they argued that privacy is not a fundamental right," he told reporters outside the court. Aadhaar was set up as a voluntary scheme to streamline benefit payments to millions of poor people and reduce fraud. But in recent years it has become compulsory for a growing number of services, including opening a bank account and paying taxes. Opponents say that its use for what are effectively essential services means their right to privacy is increasingly being violated.

'Surveillance state'

Technology law expert Mishi Choudhary called the ruling a "milestone" in the global history of privacy rights. "If I can stop smiling, then I'll be able to comment. The world's largest democracy has

spoken," said Choudhary, legal director at the Software Freedom Law Center in New York. "People who said that this (Aadhaar) is the creation of a surveillance state, they are not engaging in hyperbole. "I personally think the mission creep of Aadhaar is very worrying. It started with one particular thing, to give an ID card to people below the poverty line, and slowly it becomes this hydra for everything... now I have a digital leash around my neck."

The government has rejected suggestions that the program, set up in 2009, poses a threat to civil liberties, despite personal data being leaked in security breaches. In May Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi dismissed the idea that Indians could refuse to provide their iris scans or fingerprints to the government, telling a court "the concept of absolute right over one's body was a myth". Legal experts had said the case would be a test of Indian democracy, with potentially far-reaching consequences if individuals were allowed to challenge laws on the basis of individual rights.—AFP

US GENERAL VOWS ALLIES WILL DESTROY IS IN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: Afghanistan's security forces, with the help of US and NATO ground and air support, will annihilate the Islamic State group affiliate in the country and crush remnants of Al-Qaeda, Gen John Nicholson, the top US general in Afghanistan, vowed yesterday. Nicholson also had a message for the Taliban: "Stop fighting against your countrymen. Stop killing innocent civilians. Stop bringing hardship and misery to the Afghan people. Lay down your arms and join Afghan society. Help build a better future for this country and your own children."

Nicholson and Hugo Llorens, the US Embassy's Special Chargé d'Affaires, told reporters in the capital Kabul that President Donald Trump's new strategy for Afghanistan announced Monday was a promise to Afghans that together they would defeat terrorism and prevent terrorist groups from establishing safe

havens. "We will not fail in Afghanistan," Nicholson said. "Our national security depends on it, as well as Afghanistan's security, and our allies and partners."

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid was defiant in a telephone interview with The Associated Press: "We are not giving our guns to any one and our Taliban are fighting until the last US soldier is no longer here in Afghanistan." Senior US officials have said that Trump may send up to 3,900 more troops, with some deployments beginning almost immediately. Nicholson did not offer a time frame for deployment, however, saying only that "in the coming months, US Forces Afghanistan and NATO will increase its train, advise and assist efforts in Afghanistan. And we will increase our air support to Afghan security forces."

Nicholson had particular praise for

Afghanistan's commandos and Special Forces known as Ktah Khas, saying they had yet to lose a battle and plans were being made to double their size. "The Taleban have never won against the commandos and Ktah Khas," he said. "They never will." Nicholson told reporters that the losses among Taleban foot soldiers have exceeded those of the Afghan National Security Forces, though he didn't offer figures.

The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in its latest report released July 31 said 2,531 Afghan service members were killed in action in just the first five months of this year and another 4,238 were wounded. Nicholson said efforts were being made to tackle corruption within the Afghan security force, an issue that was flagged in the same July Inspector General report that identified more than 12,000 Afghan Ministry of

Defense personnel that were "unaccounted for," fearing some could be so-called "ghosts" who exist only on paper.

Trump too addressed the need for reforms by the Afghan government in his Monday night speech. "The American people expect to see real reforms, real progress, and real results. Our patience is not unlimited," Trump said. "We will keep our eyes wide open." Reporters questioned both Nicholson and Llorens about how the US would force Pakistan to close Taleban sanctuaries in its territory. Trump was uncompromising in his demand that Pakistan close the safe havens that the US and Afghanistan have repeatedly accused them of allowing on their soil. "For its part, Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence and terror," he said. "That will have to change, and that will change immediately." —AP

INDIAN CITIES ON LOCKDOWN FOR GURU'S RAPE VERDICT

PANCHKULA: Several north Indian cities were under a security lockdown yesterday, a day before a court was expected to issue a verdict in a rape case involving the flamboyant leader of a quasi-religious sect. With tens of thousands of followers camped along roads near the barricaded courthouse, police and paramilitary soldiers fanned out across the town of Panchkula and nearby areas.

The bearded guru, who calls himself Saint Dr. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Ji Insaan, has denied the charges of raping two of his female followers in the Dera Sacha Sauda sect. "We are here because we stand with guruji. We have come here to support him," said 20-year-old Nishu Rani, who had traveled to Panchkula

with 20 family members from the neighboring state of Punjab. They joined thousands of men and women, some with children and babies, who had spread out blankets and bedsheets and settled down to wait for the verdict. The sect claims to have 50 million members, promotes vegetarianism and campaigns against drug addiction. "People who throw away their girl child, or abandon them, guruji is adopting those girls and treating them as his own daughters," Rani said. "Why would someone like him do something so heinous? That is why we are here to support him."

The case was being tried in a special court run by India's top agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation. Fearing violence in the event of a guilty verdict, some

6,000 police and paramilitary had spread out in Panchkula alone, with thousands more were on standby or deployed to nearby areas including the neighboring city of Chandigarh.

Police were testing drones to use for aerial surveillance and had water cannons at the ready. Three sports stadiums have been set aside in Panchkula and Chandigarh to act as makeshift prisons in case violence breaks out, police said. Chandigarh also sealed its borders for the next two days to prevent any mayhem from spilling over. Religious sects like the Dera Sacha Sauda have huge followings in India. It's not unusual for leaders of these sects to have small, heavily armed private militias protecting them. — AP

COMMISSION CALLS ON MYANMAR TO END ROHINGYA RESTRICTIONS

YANGON: Myanmar must scrap restrictions on movement and citizenship for its Rohingya minority if it wants to avoid fuelling extremism and bring peace to Rakhine state, a commission led by former UN chief Kofi Annan said yesterday. Rights groups hailed the report as a milestone for the persecuted Rohingya community because the government of Aung San Suu Kyi has previously vowed to abide by its findings.

The western state, one of the country's poorest, has long been a sectarian tinderbox and mainly Buddhist Myanmar has faced growing international condemnation over its treatment of the Muslim Rohingya there. Annan was appointed by Suu Kyi to head a year-long commission tasked with healing long-simmering divisions between the Rohingya and local Buddhists. Speaking at the unveiling of its landmark report in Yangon, the former UN chief warned that failure to implement its recommendations could lead to more extremism and violence.

"Tensions remain high and the status quo cannot continue," Annan told reporters. "There is no time to lose, the situation in Rakhine state is becoming more precarious." Among the key recommendations by the nine-member panel was ending all restrictions on movement imposed on the Rohingya and other communities in Rakhine, and shutting down refugee camps—which hold more than 120,000 people in often miserable conditions. It also called on Myanmar to review a controversial 1982 law that effectively bars some one million Rohingya from becoming citizens, to invest heavily in the region and to allow the media unfettered access there. "The commission has chosen to squarely face these sensitive issues because we believe that if they are left to fester, the future of Rakhine State, and indeed Myanmar as a whole, will be irretrievably jeopardized," Annan said.

Security crackdown

The commission's task became increasingly urgent after the army launched a bloody crackdown in the north of Rakhine following deadly October attacks on police border posts by a previously unknown Rohingya militant group. More than 87,000 Rohingya have since fled to Bangladesh bringing with them stories of murder, mass rape and burned villages in what the UN says could constitute crimes against humanity.

The Annan commission's findings will put pressure on Suu Kyi's government to implement its calls for sweeping changes in Rakhine. But she faces stiff opposition from Buddhist nationalists, who loathe the Rohingya and want them expelled. Suu Kyi also has little control over Myanmar's powerful and notoriously abusive military. Many in Myanmar view the Rohingya as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, even though many can trace their lineage back generations.

Until October's attacks the Rohingya had largely avoided jihadist militancy or violence. Rights groups welcomed the report, saying its recommendations tallied with what they had long argued for. "These apartheid-like restrictions drive communities apart rather than together, eroding security and heightening the risk of mass killing," said Matthew Smith from Fortify Rights. Phil Robertson from Human Rights Watch said Suu Kyi's government faced a "key test". "Myanmar needs to throw its full weight behind these recommendations, and especially not blink in dealing with the harder stuff," he said. — AFP



WEST BENGAL: Indian residents wade through flood waters in Malda. — AFP

DEATH TOLL FROM SOUTH ASIA FLOODS TOPS 1,000

NEW DELHI: The death toll from floods sweeping South Asia has climbed above 1,000, officials said yesterday, as rescue teams try to reach millions stranded by the region's worst monsoon disaster in recent years. Thousands of soldiers and emergency personnel have been deployed across India, Bangladesh and Nepal, where authorities say a total of 1,013 bodies have been recovered since August 10 when intense rainfall started falling.

All three countries suffer frequent flooding during the monsoon rains, but the Red Cross has termed the latest disaster the worst in decades in some parts of South Asia. It says entire communities have been cut off and many are short of food and clean water. "It has been a difficult year," said Anil Shekhawat, spokesman for India's national disaster response force. "In the last few months there have been floods in western, eastern and northern parts of the country," Shekhawat told AFP.

Twenty-six bodies were found Wednesday in Bihar, a hard-hit state in India's east, taking the death toll there to 367, said Anirudh Kumar, a top state disaster management official. "We still have nearly 11 million people affected in 19 districts of the state," he told AFP, adding nearly 450,000 flood evacuees had taken shelter in government refuges. In neighboring Uttar Pradesh, floods have swamped nearly half the vast state of 220 million, India's most populous.

Disaster management agency spokesman TP Gupta said 86 people had died and more than two million were affected by the disaster there. The state borders Nepal, where 146 people have died and 80,000 homes destroyed in what the United Nations is calling the worst flooding in 15 years. Nepal's home

ministry warned the death toll could rise as relief teams reach more remote parts of the impoverished country.

Widespread destruction

In India's northwest, landslides caused by heavy rain have claimed 54 lives, the vast majority in one huge avalanche of mud that swept two buses off a mountainside. The situation was slowly easing in West Bengal and Assam, two states in India's east and northeast where 223 people have died. Floods in Assam—the second wave to hit the state in less than four months—have wrought widespread destruction, killing 71 people and forcing animals in a local wildlife sanctuary to seek higher ground.

One Bengal tiger and 15 rare one-horned rhinos were found dead and conservationists feared there could be further loss of life as poachers sought to capitalize on the exodus. In the low-lying state of West Bengal, where 152 people have died, hundreds of thousands have escaped submerged villages by boats and makeshift rafts to reach government aid stations.

Across the border in Bangladesh, water levels were slowly returning to normal in the main Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers. The government's disaster response body said yesterday the death toll stood at 137, with more than 7.5 million affected since flooding hit the riverine nation. Every year hundreds die in landslides and floods during the monsoon season that hits India's southern tip in early June and sweeps across the South Asia region for four months. Last year nearly 1,500 people died and half a million homes were destroyed in floods across the country, according to India's home ministry. — AFP

GERMANY HOLDS VIETNAM 'AGENT' OVER COLD WAR-STYLE ABDUCTION

BERLIN: Germany yesterday remanded in custody a suspected Vietnamese agent accused in the brazen kidnapping of a fugitive state company official in Berlin last month, a case that has badly strained bilateral ties. The target-Trinh Xuan Thanh, 51, who was in Germany seeking asylum-was spirited back to Vietnam last month, where he faces corruption charges that carry the death penalty.

One of the alleged agents involved in snatching him from Berlin's Tiergarten park was arrested by Czech authorities soon after the kidnapping. On Wednesday, he was extradited to Germany, where a judge a day later ordered him to be held in custody. He was identified only as 46-year-old Long NH, in keeping with German privacy rules in judicial cases. He is accused of working for a foreign intelligence service and aiding in an abduction, which each carry sentences of up to 10 years' prison.

German prosecutors say the suspect rented a Volkswagen van in Prague and drove it to Berlin, where several armed men on July 23 dragged Thanh into the vehicle before he was "taken against his will to Vietnam, where he is in state custody". Thanh's lawyer has told a Berlin newspaper that he may have been taken in an ambulance to an eastern European country and flown out from there. The unprecedented case angered Germany, which summoned the Vietnamese ambassador, kicked out the representative of the Vietnamese secret service, and decried the "scandalous violation" of its sovereignty. Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned of further steps over the kidnapping, which he said evoked "thriller movies about the Cold War".

The one-party state of Vietnam has waged an aggressive anti-corruption purge but analysts say it is often driven by infighting within the wealthy business-political elite as much as a true commitment to ending graft. Thanh, the former head of PetroVietnam Construction Corporation, has been accused of mismanagement that caused losses worth \$150 million (127 million euros), and vilified in state-controlled media for flaunting his wealth by driving a Lexus. Also facing an embezzlement charge related to real estate deals which carries the death penalty, he had quietly slipped out of Vietnam in July last year. Days after his abduction, a stone-faced Thanh reappeared on Vietnamese state television, which reported he had turned himself in. —AFP

'NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK' TO FIND MISSING US SAILORS

ABOARD A COASTGUARD BOAT OFF JOHOR: Off the coast of southern Malaysia, rescuers peered through binoculars at vast expanses of ocean yesterday as they zipped along in a speedboat, in a desperate search for US sailors missing after a warship accident. The coastguard vessel Petir 12, part of a multinational search effort scouring hundreds of square miles, crashed through large waves in the South China Sea, as planes and helicopters buzzed overhead.

Four days after the USS John S McCain collided into a tanker off Singapore tearing a huge hole in the destroyer's side in the latest accident involving a US warship-hopes are fading that any of the 10 sailors who went missing will be found alive. The US Navy has already confirmed that remains of some of the sailors have been discovered in flooded compartments on the guided-missile destroyer, but have not said how many were found or remain unaccounted for.

The Malaysian coastguard-which along with the Malaysian navy is involved in the search-have basic equipment, relying only on binoculars and keen eyesight. "We don't have any special sensors to detect bodies in the sea, we have to do everything by sight," Captain Amran Daud, a Malaysian coastguard official, told AFP. The Malaysian navy did discover a body Tuesday a considerable distance from the accident site but the US Navy has concluded that it was not one of the missing sailors. Before setting out from a jetty in Tanjung Pengelih, Johor state, coastguard officials huddled together by a map showing the sea around the accident site, with the search area measuring some 900 square nautical miles. As well as Malaysia, ships, aircraft and divers from the US, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia have joined the hunt. —AFP



MACAU: A fireman (C) is seen next to a fire truck in a cordoned off residential area in Macau yesterday, a day after Typhoon Hato hit the city. — AFP

TYPHOON HATO LEAVES 16 DEAD AFTER LASHING SOUTHERN CHINA

STORM LEAVES A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

MACAU: The death toll from Severe Typhoon Hato rose to at least 16 yesterday after the storm left a trail of destruction across southern China, blacking out Macau's mega-casinos and battering Hong Kong's skyscrapers. Eight died in the gambling hub of Macau, where images showed cars underwater and people swimming along streets. The enclave's famed mega-casinos were running on backup generators.

A man was killed by a wall that was blown down, another fell from a fourth-floor terrace and one was hit by a truck. The Macau government said two bodies were found in a flooded car park early yesterday, and that two more died when they were trapped in the basement of their shop. Details of the remaining death was not immediately available.

Footage published yesterday on the website of Apple Daily showed water gushing into an underground car park, with people wading through neck-deep water littered with debris as one man shouted in panic. It was not clear if it was the same car park where the bodies had been found. "I have never seen Macau like this since I came here in the 70s," a taxi driver aged in his 50s who gave his name as Lao told AFP. "It's like they were trying to gamble with their luck," Lao said adding that authorities had reacted too slowly and did too little to alert residents of the coming storm.

Blacked-out slot machines were seen at the largely empty Wynn Macau casino where there was no air conditioning and a musty atmosphere. However, a few dozen gamblers ignored the heat and tried their luck at four baccarat tables. A staff member at the enclave's sprawling Venetian resort said yesterday its casino and shops were open, but there was no air conditioning. A source had said on Wednesday that the complex was running on back-up power.

But at the Grand Lisboa Hotel in central Macau, an employee told AFP it was still without electricity and water and that its casino and restaurants were closed. The city's gambling industry generated over 220 billion patacas (\$27.29 billion) in revenue in 2016, over half of its annual GDP, as it hosted more than 30 million visitors. Debris was

scattered on roads and a shipping container was washed up on its side in front of a temple.

Thousands evacuated

Streets were lined with trash and shattered glass and residents holding plastic buckets queued for water from fire hydrants. "We've been going without water and electricity for more than 24 hours. It's so hot," May Lee, in her 40s, who was in line for water, told AFP, adding that there was not even water for flushing the toilet. Ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong resumed yesterday morning but passengers said they experienced delays.

In Hong Kong, Hato-whose name is Japanese for "pigeon"-sparked the most severe Typhoon 10 warning, only the third time a storm of this power has pounded the financial hub in the past 20 years. The city could have suffered losses of HK\$8 billion (\$1.02 billion), Chinese University of Hong Kong economics professor Terence Chong told AFP, referring to the value of its daily GDP. More than 120 were injured as the city was lashed with hurricane winds and pounding rain.

In the neighboring southern Chinese province of Guangdong, at least eight people have died, state broadcaster CCTV reported, while around 27,000 were evacuated to temporary shelters, the official Xinhua news agency said. Nearly two million households were briefly without power. CCTV said four of the mainland deaths had occurred in Zhuhai, three in Zhongshan and one in Jiangmen. In Zhuhai which borders Macau, some 275 homes had collapsed, with the typhoon causing an estimated 5.5 billion yuan (\$826 million) in damage, according to state-run Beijing News.

Hato was downgraded to a tropical depression yesterday afternoon as it travelled further into China Hong Kong and the surrounding region is regularly battered by typhoons between July and October. The city saw its strongest storm in 1962 when the eye of Typhoon Wanda passed over and gusts of 284 kilometers per hour were recorded. It killed 130 and left 72,000 people homeless in Hong Kong alone. — AFP

Friday Times

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net

**Oman's foggy
cool monsoon
season and festival
draws tourists**

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File photo shows a model wears a creation from Fiziwoo which reflects on a floor as she walks the runway during the Fashion Week Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. — AP

GEORGE STRAIT, DOLLY PARTON, LATE GLEN CAMPBELL GIVEN HONORS



The country music community honored the late Glen Campbell during the 11th annual Academy of Country Music Honors in Nashville, Tennessee, following his death this month at the age of 81. Campbell's family was in attendance Wednesday night to watch the performance by Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Maren Morris at the Ryman Auditorium. Morris sang "Galveston," a signature hit for the country star, actor and television personality with boyish good looks and friendly tenor. Campbell announced in 2011 that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

"It's just really comforting to us to know that Glen

is so well respected and admired and that he has influenced so many entertainers throughout the years," Kim Campbell, his widow, told The Associated Press prior to the show. His son, Cal Campbell, said there has been an outpouring of messages from fans all over the country since his death on Aug 8. He was buried in a private funeral in his hometown of Delight, Arkansas.

"People just talking about how he changed their life, gave them a reason to pick up the guitar, helped them turn their life around and leave substance abuse behind," Campbell said. Other country icons were also honored during the awards show, which was taped

and will air on CBS on Sept. 15. Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire and George Strait were all feted with performances by Brad Paisley, Hillary Scott, Kimberly Schlapman and Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town, Chris Stapleton and Alan Jackson. Additional honorees were the late author and songwriter Shel Silverstein, Toby Keith, Kelsea Ballerini, songwriter Lori McKenna, radio host Bob Kingsley and the cast and crew of the TV show "Nashville." The ACMs also recognized several musicians, producers and engineers, as well as musical venues. — AP

Swift ends intrigue, announces new album in November

Yes, Taylor Swift fans, Wednesday was a lucky one for you. The pop star who whipped her army of Swifties into a frenzy with video snippets of slithery snake parts on social media posted the title of her new album, "Reputation," and announced online it will be out Nov 10. The first single, she said in a series of posts, will drop Thursday night. And she threw in the album's cover art for good measure: a black-and-white photo of

herself - head and shoulders, in slouchy sweater, hair swept back - against a backdrop of newsprint reading, simply, "Taylor Swift" over and over again.

Swift, who is followed by millions on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, wiped her feeds clean Friday and replaced the black void Monday with the first of three reptilian videos, each offering just a tad more of a snake, from tail to squirmy middle and finally its beady red eyes and ominous fangs lunging briefly at the camera. The teasers put fans on high alert, and the snake imagery evoked snake emojis used against her in various dis-fests last year, including one with Kim Kardashian West after West claimed Swift knew about hubby Kanye's reference to Swift in his song "Famous."

The album would be Swift's sixth studio effort and the first since the 2014 release of "1989," which is the last time she teased fans online, that round with mysterious Polaroid photographs. She scrubbed her feeds Friday of everything from profile pictures to accounts she follows. It was three years to the date from when she dropped the song "Shake It Off" and announced "1989" - and just a few days after her courtroom assault trial victory against a former radio DJ in Denver. Word of a new album lifted Swift to a top trending topic around the world Wednesday on Twitter ahead of Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, to be hosted by Katy Perry, a former friend. — AP



This cover image released by Big Machine shows art for her upcoming album, 'reputation,' expected Nov 10. — AP



File photo shows Sam Beam, of Iron & Wine, during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas. — AP

Coming full circle for balladeer Sam Beam

Songwriter Sam Beam prefers to think of his career direction less as looking back and more as going full circle. Whatever terminology is employed, Beam - who records under the name Iron & Wine - has returned both to the Sub Pop label where his career started and the warm, acoustic sound of his early material. His sixth album, "Beast Epic," comes out Friday and is much anticipated in the indie rock world. Some dates in his fall tour of small theaters are already sold out.

"You can't really listen to this record and say it sounds like the old records," Beam said. "There's a lot more going on. But at the same time, the approach felt familiar again. I was writing more introspective songs and approached the making of this record in a more intuitive way. It felt similar, but it felt like it took me doing all of the other records to get to this one." The North Carolina-born Beam was a film professor who painted and wrote songs on the side before he caught the attention of Sub Pop, which released the first Iron & Wine disc in 2002.

He describes much of his subsequent work as trying on different sounds and styles to see what fits. "I was just sort of doing music for a hobby and won the lottery, basically, and had a music career," he said. "So I had to figure out what I wanted to be, because I hadn't thought about it." Beam makes some of the loveliest music in the indie rock world. He dates his melodic sense to the hymns he heard while going to church as a boy, and his parents' Motown records. He enjoys listening to harder stuff, to punk and metal, but he recognizes his strengths and what fits his voice.

Jonathan Poneman, co-founder of Sub Pop, said Beam has a devotion to craft with a rival impulse to cast aside orthodoxy. "Sam is thoughtful, rebellious but disciplined, so that he can leverage a huge natural gift to serve something as fleeting as a mood, idea or feeling and do so with an unerring feel - what some would call soul," Poneman said. Beam left Sub Pop to record at a couple of larger labels but returned for "Beast Epic." Poneman said Sub Pop isn't big on prodigal son stories, but Beam "is so beloved and respected in our organization that doing anything other than proceeding would have felt wrong."

Like many artists, Beam likes something to tie an album together; his 2007 album, "The Shepherd's Dog," had a dog in every song. This time the characters in his songs all had some degree of frailty. Now 43, this father of five daughters is less interested in the problems of youth than in people who persevere after being knocked around by life. The cover of "Beast Epic" is a caricature of Beam - you can tell it's him by the guitar and big, bushy beard - with a blindfold.—AP

Afropunk to celebrate 12th year with Solange, SZA and more

Afropunk festival co-founder Matthew Morgan remembers when the musical event carried out as a small gathering on New York's Lower East Side with 25 people. Now, celebrating its 12th year this weekend in Brooklyn, New York, the festival has also expanded to an international celebration, even traveling to South Africa for the first time in December. "We're giving people an opportunity to gather and celebrate being a person-of-color," Morgan said. "It's

very, very, very important that we connect to our community globally."

Afropunk returns to Brooklyn's Commodore Barry Park on Saturday and Sunday with performances by Solange, Gary Clark Jr, Raphael Saadiq, Willow Smith, SZA and Anderson.Paak. About 60,000 people are expected to attend. The festival launched in 2005 and was inspired by the 2003 documentary, "Afro-Punk," produced by Morgan and directed by festival co-founder James

Spooner. The film examined notions that challenged stereotypes about musical artists of color and focused on black performers in the punk rock world.

And this year's festival continues to challenge those perceptions, Morgan said. "I kind of booked it like a mix tape," he said. "I want people to be open and free enough to experiment within the space." Clark Jr, known for mixing rock, soul, blues and hip-hop sounds, has performed at three Afropunk festivals. The Grammy-winning musician said Afropunk "feels right at home." "I play at a lot of festivals and Afropunk is one of the few where I play and show up and see folks that look like me, and that feels good," he said.

The Afropunk festival has been eclectic over the years, featuring performers such as Grace Jones, Lauryn Hill, Sharon Jones, Lenny Kravitz, D'Angelo, Kelis and Unlocking the Truth. The festival has been held in Atlanta, Paris and London, and will visit Johannesburg in December. Morgan even said he is working to expand to Brazil. Solange, who experimented with a variety of genres on her 2016 album celebrating black pride, "A Seat at the Table," will also curate a stage at the festival. —AP



This combination photo shows performers, from left, Gary Clark, Jr at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas, Solange Knowles during the FYF Fest in Los Angeles, and SZA at the BET Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

Single ticket scoops \$758.7 million US jackpot

The second largest jackpot in US history, \$758.7 million, has been won by a single ticket bought in small town Massachusetts in an historic individual bonanza, lottery officials said yesterday. Wednesday's winning numbers were 6, 7, 16, 23 and 26, drawn from five white balls, and 4 as the so-called Powerball number on a red ball in the multi-state lottery. Powerball said it was "the highest jackpot won on a single ticket and the biggest lottery prize ever awarded to one single person."

The identity of the winning ticket holder was not immediately revealed. The lottery said the ticket was bought from a convenience store in Chicopee, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Boston. The player has one year to claim their prize, choosing between taking the jackpot as an annuity spread over 30 years or a one-off cash lump sum of \$480.5 million, depending on state taxes.

The \$758.7 million jackpot is Powerball's highest since the January 2016 world record prize of nearly \$1.6 billion, which was split between three ticket holders who each took home \$528.8 million. A mad rush for tickets pushed Wednesday's jackpot up from an originally announced \$650 million as lines formed out of shopping malls and grocery stores, Powerball said. The drawing also created 40 overnight millionaires with 34 players matching five numbers and six ticket holders matching five numbers, the lottery announced. The January 2016 jackpot was scooped by winners who bought tickets in Tennessee, California and Florida. — AFP



Powerball tickets are shown outside of a liquor store Wednesday in Fremont, Calif. — AP



These undated photos provided by Candice Caldwell show books folding projects hanging on the wall of her Chicago home. — AP photos

A new use for an old book? Fold it into a work of art

Books have more uses than might be obvious. Sure, you can press flowers in a heavy one and set out the pretty ones as decoration. You can read the darn things. But have you tried turning a book into three-dimensional sculpture? The process can be quite simple; the result a beautiful conversational piece. There are many permutations of book folding, an art form that involves folding pages of a hardcover book - sometimes combined with cutting the paper - within the book's own binding. The finished work pops off the page three-dimensionally, and may be hung on a wall or placed atop a table. Groupings of three or more are the most dynamic.

"They look impressive on the wall," says Candice Caldwell of Chicago. "A group of six of these on the wall together can look really beautiful, and they're just really simple folds." Caldwell, who blogs about repurposing everyday items such as books at "the ReFab Diaries," was turning old books into clocks when, in 2003, she saw a simple book-folding project in a do-it-yourself magazine and gave it a try. She has since taught several friends and her mom how to fold books into wall art. "It's very, very forgiving," says Caldwell. Clare Youngs, author of "Folded Book Art" (CICO Books, 2017), also says book folding is easy. Her book includes instructions for folding a butterfly and other patterns.

"It looks as if it is complicated and unachievable, but it is really easy to do," Youngs said in an email from her home in Kent, England. "You just don't tell anyone how easy it is and they will be amazed at your creations." Find book-folding tutorials on YouTube ("Introductory Book Sculpture Lesson" by Johwey Redington is a good one) and at crafting blogs - Caldwell shares links to many helpful sites. Instructables, the website that lists "how-to" instructions about homes, crafting and technology, shares a "three-step" tutorial. Or buy a \$3 to \$5 kit from an online Etsy seller, says Ann Martin, author of "All Things Paper" (Tuttle Publishing, 2015).

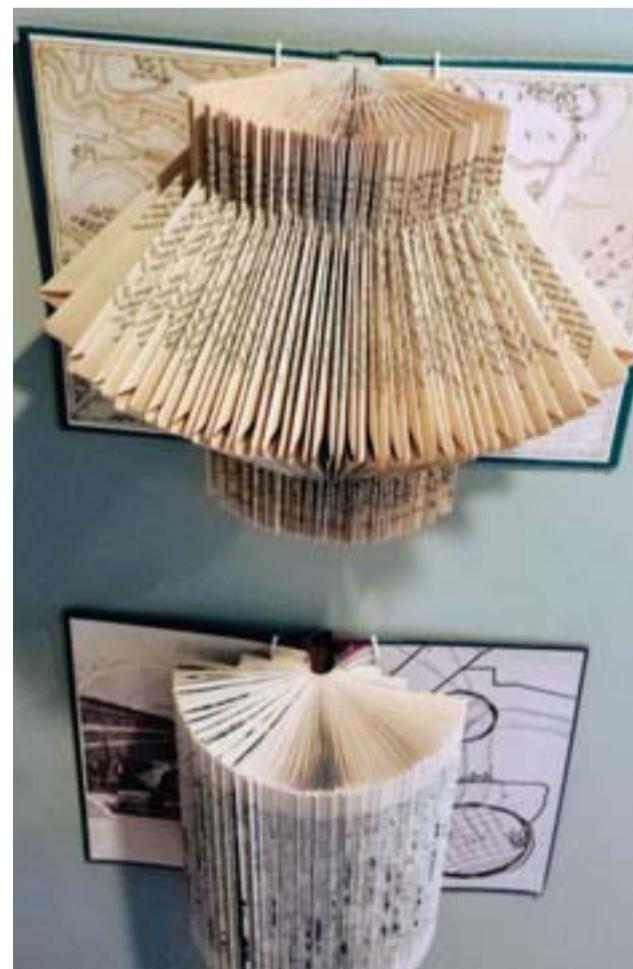
"For several dollars you'll receive a pattern geared toward what you're wanting to fold," says Martin, of Wilmington, Delaware. "You can even fold letters in different fonts. It's mind-boggling how many patterns are out there."

Patterns include animals, geometric designs, numerals and inspirational words, and both patterns and finished pieces are sold at Etsy.com. Care to see or purchase a sophisticated upcycling of this craft? Visit Crizu, an Italian company that transforms books into elegant 3-D sculpture. "My mouth is always hanging open when I find these people (such as the Crizu artists)," says Martin. "I can't get over the creativity that people come up with for a plain ol' book. They turn it into something completely different."

Youngs began folding pages into art several years ago when she saw images of the craft online at Pinterest. She watched a few YouTube tutorials before folding her daughter's age into a book. "It is quite a therapeutic activity," says Youngs. "You get into a rhythm of scoring and folding that is relaxing, and it's very satisfying to see the shape develop." Martin has a quick comeback for those who think book folding is an act of destruction.

"Let's be realistic here. Sometimes old books are better suited for a new purpose," Martin says. "I feel it's OK to go ahead and take that old, unused book that's going to be tossed anyway and turn it into a work of art." For projects that require hardcover books, some of the best include "Reader's Digest Condensed Books," with their pretty inside covers, says Martin. Caldwell recommends old recipe and photography books, and any hardcover that has gold-tipped edges or marbled interior covers. Find them at thrift stores and library sales.

"If it's really visual and really colorful when you start to fold it, you get a whole new look on the wall," says Caldwell. Other book-folding projects require paperback books; the finished pieces generally are standing 3D shapes. Hang a finished hardcover work of art with a ceramic plate hanger; place a dowel or pencil horizontally behind the book cover for support. — AP





People sitting in the Jabal Ayoub mountains north of Salalah, Oman.—AP photos



A man snaps a selfie in front of a blowhole erupting with sea water from the Arabian Sea at Al-Mughsayl, in southern Oman.

Oman's foggy cool monsoon season and festival draws tourists



Mohammad Al-Bariki, right, leads his half-brother Sagheer Al-Bariki, across a cliff ledge in the Jabal Ayoub mountains north of Salalah, Oman.

On the eastern edge of the Arabian peninsula, a region disappears under sky-wide blankets of fog as the desert blooms green. This is the Omani monsoon: a phenomenon that draws hundreds of thousands with cooler weather and stunning vistas for three months, beginning this year June 21. A 60-day festival draws about 50,000 people nightly for dagger-dance competitions, musical performances and Sufi exorcisms performed in celebration of Oman's cultural diversity of Arab, African, and Asian roots intertwined by the summer rain clouds.

So far this year there are twice as many tourists than last year when more than 650,000 visited the fog-drenched mountains and verdant valleys of the Dhofar region, according to the Omani statistics agency. The port town of Salalah, Oman's second-largest city at 200,000 people, swells with visitors from across the Arab world. The monsoon has long attracted seasonal visitors. Ruins show trade between coastal and mountain communities developed over 5,000 years, tying Asia, Europe and Africa together,



An Omani man films waves crashing onto the rocky shore in Al-Maghseel, southern Oman.

according to Alexia Pavan, an archaeologist who heads the restoration of an ancient fort designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site called Al-Baleed. "It worked like a bridge between cultures," Pavan said. "Goods, people, ideas, skills, all of them passed through Oman and spread to different continents."

The festival

The government of Dhofar established the monsoon festival in 1998. Twenty years later, the festival draws acts from 40 countries, said festival director Talal Al-Masahli. He said 60 percent of visitors come from within Oman, the rest from Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar with few visitors from outside the Arab world. Sprawling festival grounds include faux fort walls, turrets and ornate gates with three stages, life-size models of traditional Omani homes and vendors selling grilled meat, fruit and frankincense. Each night, a different Omani city takes control of the main stage to show off songs, handicrafts, dances, clothes, and games. The port of Sohar staged a giant maritime-themed show with canons and an enormous replica wooden ship; the next night a



A group of dancers wait to perform a sword-dance during the annual summer monsoon festival in Salalah, Oman.



A tree hangs off a cliff of the Jabal Samhan mountain, above clouds, during the summer monsoon near Mirbat, southern Oman.

group from Bidbid chanted with swords as a trumpeter blew a ram's horn and kids played old games with rocks, cards, rope, sand and balls.

At a Dhofari dance competition called "Al-bara'a," two men jump, spin and wave small daggers. Votes via SMS from audiences watching on Oman TV determine who gets the winning gold daggers. Salem Ashoor, leader of the local Ahmad al-Kabir Sufi order, said diverse groups use the festival to share, and thus preserve, their culture far and wide. The Sufi order performed musical exorcisms, with 12 dancers beating drums and singing as a man inhaled frankincense and took off his shirt, eyes ablaze with possession by a "jinn" or spirit in Arabic.

The 500-person audience, gender segregated into a half of women in black robes and men in white, watched in silence. The man poked his stomach with a small knife, bared his teeth and drew a saber across his throat as the Sufis chanted prayers to cleanse the spirit. When the jinn left, the man sank, exhausted, as others laid comforting hands on him.

The region

The mountains ringing Salalah trap moisture from the Indian Ocean monsoon, said chief regional meteorologist Khalid Al-Najar, pointing out a satellite photo of a small rain-gray patch on an otherwise scorched-brown Arabian peninsula. Air pressure pockets above Saudi Arabia and Tibet drive air currents to Oman as the temperature difference between scorching sands in the Arabian peninsula and cooler waters churned up by Indian Ocean winds produce rain-heavy clouds. Despite heavy fog, thousands of people visit the lush mountains and coasts. Along the road, stalls sell coconuts, papaya and bananas. Nearer the mountains, vendors roast camel fat and meat on hot rocks. Islamic calls to prayer ring out from a golden seaside mosque in a foggy palm grove.

Atop Iteen mountain, hundreds visit the shine of the Prophet Job, or "Nebi Ayoub" in Arabic: a green coffin covered in gold moons and stars in a tomb above a spring where legend says Job was miraculously healed. On a fog-shrouded plateau, picnickers sing and snap selfies below emerald mountains. Above the monsoon, a few peaks are visible with crystal-clear vistas of white clouds, blue sky and golden sun. At the coast, a faint rain falls incessantly. Vendors sell umbrella hats and plastic ponchos alongside mango and grilled meat to crowds hiking the stone cliffs of Al-Maghsayl, where waves have bored tunnels through seaside rocks. The blow-holes roar, then burst jets of water, wetting giddy visitors.

The government is investing in Salalah's potential as a year-round destination, with a \$780 million airport, new roads and a coastal land grant to the new five-star Anantara resort. The resort hosts Arab tourists seeking moderate summer temperatures and Europeans in winter. "It's magical," said Muna Al-Ajmi, an Omani chemical engineer visiting with two children. "Compared to Dubai this is just fantastic because you can be outdoors all the time," said Thomas Wagmann, an Anatara guest on holiday from Dubai. "You don't even have to worry about sunburn because there's no sun." — AP



Members of a dance troupe, in traditional garb, wait to perform next to a giant sail adorned with a portrait of the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Al-Said, during a festival celebrating the monsoon season, in Salalah, southern Oman.



Members of a dance troupe, in traditional garb, perform during a festival celebrating the monsoon season, in Salalah, southern Oman.

MANTLE MASTERPIECE MOVES FROM RUBBISH PILE TO THE MFA

When interior designer Heidi Pribell spotted a dust-covered mantelpiece in the basement of a client's newly purchased home, it was the start of a long relationship. The ornate white marble mantelpiece, with two caryatids flanking each side, was sitting amid rubble and construction debris. But Pribell, a Boston-based designer and antiques dealer, convinced her client the mantelpiece was worth keeping. That was in 1999.

Fast forward to 2011, and Pribell purchased the mantelpiece—roughly 6 feet wide and 4 feet high—from the client. Her "obsession" with the piece led her down a historical rabbit hole in search of its provenance. And this year, more than two decades after the basement discovery, Pribell sold the once dilapidated mantle to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for an undisclosed sum. "It was no secret, I adored it," she says.

It's the kind of story that makes television shows like "American Pickers" and "Antiques Roadshow" so popular. Many people are looking for the next undiscovered masterpiece. "It's more common than you think," says Ezra Shales, a professor of art history at

Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Once-popular works often get thrown out when society's tastes change, he says. "The cycle of forgetting and then remembering our history is part of the cycle of art history," says Shales.

As a trained antiques dealer, Pribell knew how to qualify items in terms of good, better, best. (Museum-quality artworks are, in general, sold in excellent condition with original fixtures and the like.) This piece, Pribell says, was "exquisite." "It was all about the quality and depth of the carving," she says. The mantelpiece also had a story befitting a museum-quality artwork. The Carrera marble mantelpiece, crafted in 1805 in Italy, had stayed in the same building on Joy and Beacon Streets, across from Boston Common, through three different owners.

It was originally commissioned by diplomat and art importer Thomas Appleton, who acquired it for wealthy apothecary Dr. John Joy, whose mansion was on Joy Street. During Appleton's time as a rising diplomat in Europe, he imported many artworks to the United States, including a bust of George Washington that's in the White

House. "He was a true visionary," Pribell says. "He was so sure of his tastes." The mantel's history of ownership adds to its value. Over the years, it was passed down through the hands of some notable early Americans, including Frederic Tudor, who made a fortune selling ice blocks from Walden Pond. "We relate to decorative art objects and preserve them because of the story of their ownership," says Shales.

Appleton is a big name harkening back to Boston's earliest days. "It's likely the Metropolitan Museum in New York wouldn't have been interested in this piece, but it's a Boston story, so it makes sense for the MFA to acquire it," Shales says. Pribell has sold other works to museums, including the Chicago Art Institute, Los Angeles County Museum and even Mt. Vernon, George Washington's estate in Virginia. If you happen to be a treasure hunter, her advice is: Cultivate your own tastes, and get to know the difference between good, better and best. "Buy what you love," she says. "Become an expert in things that intrigue you." — AP



This undated photo provided by interior designer Heidi Pribell shows an 1805 marble mantelpiece with two female caryatids in high-waisted Roman costume flanking the fireplace opening and supporting a lintel with a projecting central tablet carved with classical goddesses.



A detail of the mantelpiece lintel with a carved with classical goddesses.



This undated photo shows a caryatid on an 1805 marble mantelpiece.— AP photos



Gorge on late-summer fruit with this tangy orange fruit dip

By Melissa D'arabian

Late summer fruit is perhaps my favorite. Berries are juicy and sweet, in their last flourish before slipping away into elite and expensive status. Peaches and plums are soft and caramel-like in flavor. Even the humble pebbly-skinned cantaloupe boasts rich orange flesh and syrupy-sweet flavor.

Like most in-season produce, it is least inexpensive this time of year, which makes my wallet happy. I'll admit: I almost always overbuy late summer fruit. Perhaps it's the threat of my favorites disappearing, or maybe it's the great prices and vitamin supply. But now is the time when I find myself serving fruit plates to my family to finish every meal, and I reach for a basket of berries for snacking. Dessert for summer barbecues almost always star sweet fresh fruit.

The perfect addition to your fruit repertoire is today's incredibly easy Tangy Orange Fruit Dip. It has only three ingredients, so it's whipped up in seconds, not minutes. And it's healthy enough that if you end up eating a whole recipe yourself, you'll still feel great, and celebrate the big boost of protein you just had. (This might be the voice of experience.)

The base of the dip is low-fat plain Greek yogurt, which gives it tang, and the aforementioned protein. Simply stir in a surprise ingredient: orange juice concentrate. A little goes a long way, but this sweet gem of an ingredient magically transforms acidic yogurt into a tangy-sweet delight that brings out the best in ripe, almost-oversweet fruit. Add some finely chopped fresh mint leaves, and you have an unbeatable combination that will complement your late summer fruit stash.

TANGY ORANGE FRUIT DIP

Ingredients

Servings: 6
Start to finish: 5 minutes
3/4 cup 2 percent plain Greek yogurt
3 tablespoons thawed orange juice concentrate
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint
3 cups halved strawberries, or other berries or cut fruit

Preparation

Stir the yogurt and orange juice concentrate together in a small bowl. Top with the mint. Serve with fruit for dipping, or spoon on fruit for eating with a spoon.

Nutrition information per serving:

49 calories; 7 calories from fat; 1 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 2 mg cholesterol; 10 mg sodium; 8 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 3 g protein. — AP

SERVE SPICY SAUTEED FISH WITH PINEAPPLE MANGO SALSA

By Sara Moulton

When it comes to landing dinner on the table on a weeknight, fish fillets are among the very quickest dishes you can prepare, rarely requiring more than five minutes to go from raw to ready to eat. And given the relative mildness of a fish's flavor, they're a natural canvas for a vast palette of seasonings (and acid, too), meaning they turn out just about exactly as flavorful as you make them.

For Spicy Sauteed Fish with Pineapple Mango Salsa, white fish fillets are dusted with flour spiked with Creole spice mix, after which they're crisped up in a skillet. The famously potent spice mix - spearheaded by cayenne and black pepper - is built into the DNA of Louisiana cuisine. Virtually all of New Orleans' Hall of Fame chefs - including Paul Prudhomme and Emeril Lagasse - developed signature versions of this mix and used it

liberally and to great effect in just about everything they cooked. Fair warning: If you're not a fan of blazing heat, you won't be a fan of Creole spice mix.

Unless, of course, you balance it with one key ingredient - sugar. Sugar will balance any spicy dish. If you dig into a bowl of chili and discover that you've overdone the hot sauce, just sprinkle in a little brown sugar. If your barbecue sauce sets your mouth on fire, tame it with a dab or two of honey. Conversely, if you've added too much sugar to one of your savory dishes, even it out with some heat. The goal is to add just enough of sweet and heat so that you're not bowled over by either of them. In this recipe, the fiery Creole spice mix is countered by the natural sugars built into the pineapple mango salsa. The additional herbs and fresh lime contribute some festive end-of-summer flair to this weeknight entree.

Spicy Sauteed Fish with Pineapple Mango Salsa

Ingredients

Start to finish: 35 minutes

Servings: 4

3/4 cup finely diced pineapple

3/4 cup finely diced mango

1/4 cup finely chopped red onion, soaked in ice water for 20 minutes and patted dry

2 to 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice

3 tablespoons chopped fresh mint or cilantro or a mix

1/3 cup all-purpose flour

3 tablespoons creole spice mix (recipe below)

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

Four 6-ounce firm-fleshed white fish fillet pieces, such as tilapia

Preparation

In a bowl combine the pineapple, mango, onion, lime juice and herbs; add salt to taste. On a piece of parchment, combine the flour and the spice mix; stir well. In a large skillet, heat the oil over high heat until hot. Reduce the heat to medium-high. Dip the fish in the flour mixture, coating it well on all sides, shaking off the excess, and add it to the skillet. Cook it until golden brown, about 2 minutes a side and transfer a portion to each of 4 plates. Top each portion with a heaping spoonful of salsa.

Creole Spice Mix

2 teaspoons hot paprika

1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder

1 teaspoon salt

3/4 teaspoon onion powder

3/4 teaspoon cayenne

3/4 teaspoon oregano

3/4 teaspoon thyme

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

In a bowl, mix all the ingredients together well.

Nutritional information:

328 calories; 106 calories from fat; 12 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 85 mg cholesterol; 573 mg sodium; 21 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 36 g protein. — AP



A Conversation of Ice and Fire: Diving into the world of Game of Thrones



Episode VI

By Aakash and Vishal Bakaya

What better way to celebrate 'Game of Thrones', the world's biggest cultural phenomenal than sitting down and criticizing it with my brother. My elder brother Vishal and I are both mega fans of 'A Song of Ice and Fire' and we'll be taking a look at each episode this season and provide a run-down and re-cap of all the major and minor moments. Episode 6 'Beyond the Wall' left both critics and audience alike bewildered, appalled and questioning how the quality of a once great show has dropped so low. Let's dive right in.

General thoughts

A: So I was coming into this episode somewhat excited. I liked the cheesy, C-grade action movie plot they set up with the 'capture a wight' mission last week and I hoped it wouldn't be as insultingly-illogical like previous subplots. Those hopes ended up being crushed pretty swiftly. The romp beyond the wall started off decently but it kept getting more and more ridiculous. On the other side, hinging the rest of the episode on a horrible, character-assassinating Winterfell story left me physically in pain. 'Beyond the Wall' is the episode where 'Game of Thrones' totally drops the ball. I've been critical of the show in the past and I am seeing those criticisms being shared more and more often. Everything from the character plot armor, the glaring inconsistencies and a genuine weak story structure has greatly reduced the quality of the show and all of those concerns were front-and-center in this episode.

V: I thought it was quite a fantastic episode. I loved Dany coming in to save the day - it looked really cool. Let's not forget the 'Magnificent Seven' coming together was refreshing and amazing in every way. I thought the Arya and Sansa scenes were great because of the nerve-racking mystery

that was being set up. Arya transforming from a deep, complex character into this murderous, creepy psycho confused at how people should act in hostage situations is a testament to 'Game of Thrones' fantastic portrayal of human elements in this high-fantasy story.

A: Human elements?

V: (Laughs) Alright so I was being sarcastic if that was not obvious all ready. It was definitely another low-point of the series. Apart from the visuals, nothing made any sense from a story perspective and at no point is this wight quest justified. They risked the lives of seasoned warriors not to mention the freaking King of the North just to capture a zombie. On top of that, they lost one of their three dragons in the process so I doubt any congratulations are in order.

A: These issues make it obvious that the plot was written backwards. They wanted an undead dragon and they wanted Jon and Dany to bond romantically without much thought put towards getting these characters there naturally. Instead we get an hour of plot convenience that makes you shake your head in disbelief rather than in wonder. The fact of the matter is, the problems of 'Beyond the Wall' have become the problems of the entire show and more people





are pointing that out. It's about damn time.
V: Absolutely. It's also evident with Benjen's last line of 'there's no time' which strangely sums of the show and the producers thought of 'there's no time, let's just get this over with'.

Some kind of monster

A: Before we get to the rest of the episode let's talk about the monster in the room - the Winterfell plot. With all the problems I've had with the show, I'm finding it hard to think of a plot-line worse than the one we are currently witnessing in Winterfell. Arya in Braavos was almost as bad but at least then it didn't involve too many of our main characters. Here with Sansa, Littlefinger, Bran, Brienne and the other Northern lords all in the mix as well - it makes this particular story-line even harder to stomach. I think it's the worst thing they've ever done.
V: I still think Dorne and everything revolving around Dorne is worse.
A: Okay, maybe Dorne is still worse...thinking about it, it's on par with the Dornish story-line.
V: One of my main issues with Winterfell is just how meandering it all feels, it's just not going anywhere. While every other plot is moving at Flash-like speeds, here we get episodes stretched out with petty arguments and lame attempts at 'intrigue'. It's all the more infuriating because so much of this strife can be settled with one or two basic conversations and sit-downs. While our 'Magnificent Seven', most of whom are strangers to each other, are having call backs and interactions - the Stark siblings can barely have a normal word spoken between them.
A: Even when Sansa and Arya speak to each other, it feels like their animosity towards each other has barely moved forward from season 1 where they were arguing about their pre-destined roles and Arya's wanting to move away from that. Yet again this episode Arya brings up Sansa growing up stitching clothes like that's some bad thing? Somebody has to make the clothing, it's an important profession in the age they're in - so why are the show-runners trying to insert modern society roles onto these characters like it's a bad thing? It's ridiculous and completely takes me out of the show. It is also ground we've covered better and with more depth in earlier seasons.
V: It's the same argument repeated, but escalated to a point where they are scared of each other and thinking about murder. This plot

is driven and based on stunted conversations and is devoid of even the slightest bit of insight. Sansa should have simply asked Arya where she got the letter from and then she could rebuke her by saying Littlefinger is secretly collecting these letters without her knowledge. They can then realize they are being played by him and work together. That's it -the end!

Disposable heroes

A: Let's move on from Winterfell because I'm getting a headache just thinking about it. So 'Beyond the Wall' is the name of the episode and also where most of it takes place. The beginning spurts of dialogue, sprinkled between pairs of our main characters were...odd to say the least. It brought moments of levity but was so predictable and sit-com like. It felt more like 'Game of Thrones' tribute show rather than the realistic, grounded dialogue we've grown to expect.
V: It did feel like that and that's to be expected from a show in its 7th season. In 'Cheers', there was this element of comfort for the audience seeing Norm and Cliff at the end of the bar just being themselves. Similarly watching Tormund and Sandor riff off each other like we knew they would brings a kind of familiarity, ie, no matter how bad our situation is we shall remain ourselves.
A: I would have loved to see a camp-fire like scene with all of them together discussing their past, their future etc but alas we get a generic polar bear fight...wow. After all our characters have had their time in the spotlight, the convenience train has to make

another stop - at our season's first White Walker. For all the talk about 'End game' for the show, it's shocking that we finally get an interaction with a WW only in the second last episode.
V: That entire scene was beneath even the worst 80's action films in terms of just how ideally everything pans out. They catch a stray zombie scouting party (scouting for what?) which is dispatched off with utter ease (White Walkers put up zero fight now?) which then leads to the rest of the wights



dying because now if you kill a WW, you kill everything he has re-animated as well (Hardhome ret-conned?) but luckily one wight remains standing (somehow?) and screams for help (with its lungs?). For a show that was propped up and built on realism, they keep coming up with ways to topple that notion.
A: It was such a ridiculous plan that neither the characters nor the writers knew how to make any sense of getting this right and it shows. The episode also brought up the same frustrations I've had with the Night's King. Who is he? What does he want exactly? How do we know nothing of him even here at a turning point for his arc and connection to our leads. He kills Viserion in this most ham-fisted way that I simply shrugged and thought 'ok that happened'. It had zero impact whatsoever. Also the plot armor was distributed only to those characters that have actual lines except for poor Thoros who didn't receive his hand-out.
V: The entire battle sequence was rushed and the fact that they kept adding more and more randos to get killed reminded me of WWE. Drogon, the Brock Lesnar of the dragons comes away from the confrontation without a scratch while Viserion, the neg-

lected, chained one is killed for dramatic effect. Plus, there are some current WWE storylines doing better than GOT at this point.

To live is to die

A: Finally we have our final scene with Dany and Jon, a major point both for our characters and the story. Jon is just waking up after being rescued by his uncle (don't worry he's dead again) and he and Dany have their first heartfelt conversation. It was a well-acted

scene no doubt but it didn't depict how crucial this talk was. It showed some restraint in keeping their relationship friendly which I also liked. That restraint is definitely going to be tossed aside next episode but that doesn't diminish it here.
V: Acting-wise, those were good performances from Emilia and Kit and I appreciate that at least, I didn't cringe immediately after watching it. Later on when I thought more about it I did cringe heavily but not when I watched it the first time - that's a positive I guess. I get that they are developing feelings for each other but can they please have one substantial conversation before that. It was not the case here.
A: The romance is totally unearned and ending it with Dany determined to fight the Night's King and Jon ready to bend the knee is mind-numbingly cheap. Jon wakes up on a ship and doesn't question where they are going or most importantly why he's not going to Winterfell after nearly dying.
V: Kind of wraps up this episode really. People only have the plot-driven conversations - not the ones they should actually be having. It was easily the worst penultimate episode in the series history and only a miracle in the finale can save this season now.



Friday Times

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017

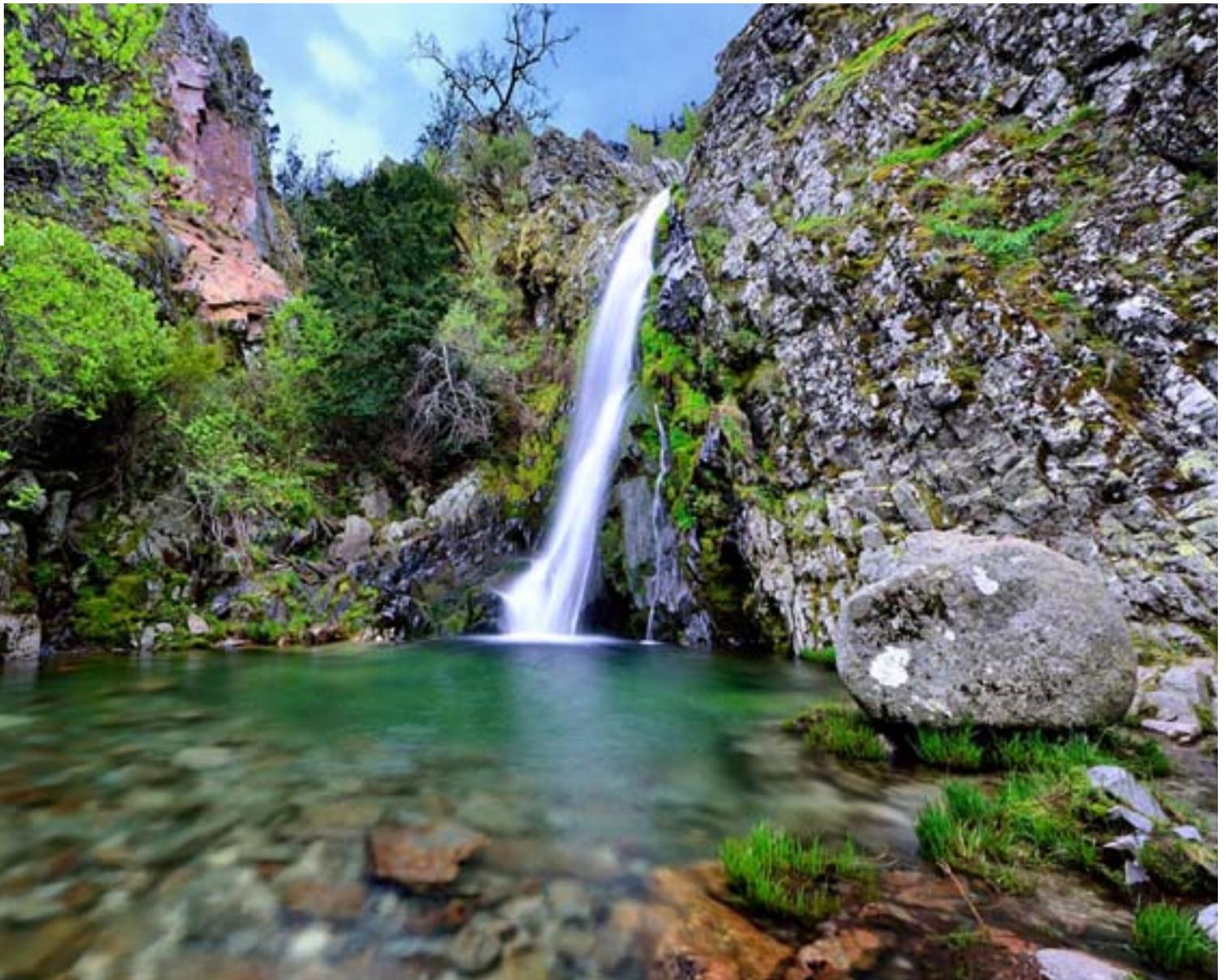
Travel



Jagged peaks and a
glacial lake in the
Parque Natural da
Serra da Estrela

**Take a selfie at
Torre, Portugal's
highest peak**





You can explore the lovely scenery at Poço do Inferno on the Trilhos Verdes trail network.

Despite its incredible natural features - thick forests, hidden lakes and a lofty peak - Portugal's Serra da Estrela mountain range is often overlooked. It is beautiful, for sure, and offers great opportunities for exploring nature. But look closely and you'll discover quirkier jackpots, including the region's own cheese, dog species and design hotspot.

Located in the middle of Portugal, the Parque Natural da Serra da Estrela is easy to access. You can reach one of the region's main villages, Manteigas, via several routes; the most scenic way is from Covilhã, where the road rises steeply through pine forests before reaching a boulder-topped plateau. Visiting Torre, mainland Portugal's highest peak (1993m), is a rite of passage for many Portuguese travelers. Ski crowds flock here in winter, while at other times of year visitors come for a selfie by one of the radar stations: giant 'golf balls' that are so retro they could beam you back to the 1950s.

Meander along the Zézere Valley

The real beauty lies a couple of kilometers from here, with views of - and a journey along - the Zézere Valley. It's one of Portugal's greatest road trips, best done in spring and summer when the roads are free of ice. East of Torre, the road corkscrews for several kilometers, before straightening out to head north along the valley towards pretty little Manteigas.

The remarkable U-shaped, glacial valley was formed more than 20,000 years ago. Its landscape is strewn with granite outcrops, and here and there, the wiggly lines of man-made terraces traverse the hill. Below is the Zézere River (the Serra da Estrela is the source of two other rivers, Mondego and Alva), where small shepherd huts dot the shore. The area is rich in flora and fauna, with over 150 bird species, plus the likes of stags and mountain lizards, otters and wolves.

Hit the Trilhos Verdes trail network

There's no better way to experience the region's lakes, peaks and gullies than on this superb 200km network of green trails.



Torre is the highest point in Portugal



Stone houses in the medieval village of Piodao

The walks, with such evocative names as 'PoÁo do Inferno' (Hell's Well, a lovely waterfall), take between one and eight hours. While many head through cork forests or granite-strewn plateaus, others incorporate cultural landmarks such as churches and historic wells. En route, you can plunge into the various natural lagoons and waterfalls. Our favorite trail, the Beech Route, passes under a canopy of massive beech trees before emerging at the tiny St Lawrence chapel. You then descend through thickets of sycamore and Douglas fir trees. For those who prefer pedalling, hit the trails on mountain bikes; or for an upper body workout, rent a kayak and paddle from the kiosk at Represa de Vale Rossim, the lake just beyond the village of Penhas Douradas.

Drool over Serra's guard dog

The cao de Serra da Estrela, the local shepherd dog, is believed to be one of the most ancient breeds on the Iberian Peninsula. These days, shepherds still use them to guard their livestock (the dogs' spiked collars dissuade wolves should they attack). If you're lucky, you might pass a shepherd with his dog and herd while you are wandering on one of the beautiful trails; the sheep here produce the milk that is used to make the region's Queijo Serra da Estrela, a rich and goopy artisanal cheese that contains a thistle in place of rennet.

Go contemporary at the Burel Factory

When in the village of Manteigas, don't miss a tour of the Burel Factory. After all, for centuries wool has been a part of Portuguese artisanal and industrial culture; throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, large manufacturers were based here. In recent years, a creative couple rehabilitated one of the factories, using original techniques and machines to make burel, a woollen fabric. This felt-like material of eye-popping lime-green, mauve and orange hues is then incorporated into an array of furniture and home decor items. Other products, such as the pure woollen blankets, feature the original factory's retro,



The sunlit mountain village of Manteigas

mid-century patterns. (Tip: if you miss a tour here, Burel Mountain Originals shops are located in both Lisbon and Porto).

Sleep and dine in stellar surrounds

The stunning Casa das Penhas Douradas is the park's other star. This small luxury guesthouse, located in Penhas Douradas, just north of Manteigas, evokes its natural surroundings in its simplicity and construction from environmentally-friendly materials, such as cork. If you think you recognise the mid-century decor, you're right: the same folk run the Burel Factory. The accommodation even has an indoor-outdoor swimming pool and, after a day of hiking, you can relax over a massage or spa treatment. Even if you're not staying there, drop in for a top-notch gourmet meal, or request a picnic lunch - great for munching along the way, or by the shores of the nearby lake.

Hang out in historic villages

Both within the park, and surrounding its base, are 12 fascinating villages, all designated as aldeias historicas (historic villages). Of these, we love Monsanto, where small stone cottages sit next to granite rock formations, as though a giant has scattered a toy town set amongst his marble collection. One of Portugal's most beautiful routes links Manteigas with PiÚdao, another of the villages. Although it's only 70km long, allow over two hours to tackle the winding roads and absorb the landscape of pine trees, streams and steep agricultural terraces. PiÚdao itself comprises quaint cottages made entirely of schist; the blue-and-white church, Nossa Senhora da ConceiÁao, is a beacon amid the grey stone. It's easy to see why many have compared the village to a nativity set.

For further insight into the park, visit the Centro de Interpretacao da Serra da Estrela; there are two locations, one in Seia and the other in Manteigas. Informative 3D models showcase the Serra's geology, natural habitats and flora and fauna, and an informative film depicts the valley as though you're flying overhead. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a very strong speaker and will communicate just what is needed. Words just flow out and you have the attention of an audience, co-workers or authority figures. An emotional impact will bring the subject matter home to your listeners. Everyone knows you are a born doer with an incredible drive to accomplish and achieve in most circumstances. Be careful not to allow others to take advantage of you just now. Your ambitions are backed up by the will to get things done. You can be very emotional and others might find you a bit aggressive. You try hard and you tend to push forward in order to reach your goals. This could be a time of career challenges. Your home life will lay the foundation for greater confidence at work.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You cannot help but overindulge today. This does not necessarily mean food. You enjoy challenges and put yourself in the line of fire often. Although you are not dangerous to yourself or others, you do enjoy overcoming difficult situations. Most people look at problems with great dread but you look at problems as the next challenge to test your skills. You have a natural sense of organization and may come across as being a little too sober in the workplace. When it comes to friends you enjoy the interaction between people. You are always available to help others but you enjoy the contact that brings about laughter, jokes and cheerful chatter. Marriage, contracts and partnerships are seen as keys to happiness, with plenty of lessons.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unexpected backing-your efforts will be successful. You could have new heights of creativity. You may feel that you can take on any projects after this but remember that life and the current energies seem to enjoy testing us with new things so that we don't always walk away the winner. You should walk in humble ways and just quietly know that you will be able to achieve most anything that is placed in your path. This is also a good time for public relations-you will accomplish much. There is a satisfaction that comes with helping others. You influence people through your optimism. Enjoy some laughter tonight!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your talents are clearly measurable. You can expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. The original Sherlock Holmes, you are able to find information and all kinds of secrets. You are research oriented and security minded. The boss or the customer may become much more interested in your talents today. With a shrewd and penetrating mind, you enjoy mental effort and discipline. You could be working long and hard with some project this afternoon. If you are a student, you will find your studies quite interesting. An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of you is emphasized now. Diet, exercise and work mean more at this time: you want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from subordinates or young people at this time. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects and in all aspects of your life. There is time today to clear away any unfinished business. A few opportunities arise for you to help guide others in the right direction, and you have a good attitude about interruptions. This is a good time; good fortune and plain old luck surround you. As you make correct decisions, find the right path and move forward where career and success are concerned, it is time to turn to the personal side of life. Use exercise and physical activity as a means to release any tension and find ways to laugh.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A lot of energy goes into getting things scheduled and organized. Now is the time to make that outward push to increase your income. This is the best time you will have to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the cycles are working in your favor. This is also a time when you may marry or take on a new role in the community or with other people. You will be in demand and recognition is inevitable. This is a time during which things will come to you easily. You may find yourself wanting to shoulder more responsibilities connected with your family, neighborhood or personal business affairs. Friends and a social life are in order-an easy and untroubled life can be enjoyed.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your career decisions may need a little more organization and self-discipline-you will be happy with the results of this effort. You will find a great deal of improvement in your abilities to respond and gain insight. New habits are developed successfully at this time. You may have enough work time now to plan ahead for a vacation. You may enjoy chatting with your co-worker friends about some of their vacation choices. Making money and multiplying what you have are not only fun but also great habits to get into, and you are good at them. You may find requests from friends for advice on money. To prepare for the worldwide changes that you will be involved in the rest of this year, increase your network of friends.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues this morning. You are working within your limitations instead of feeling hemmed in by them. You may be well-advised to accept the counsel of others concerning decisions relating to your career or life path. Careful-there could be a tendency to go too far, expand too fast and overindulge. Counseling will make it easier for you to understand the areas in which adjustments could be made. Enjoy the progress you are now making! There are emotional beginnings and that feeling of a fresh start-perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns-or just getting rid of old ones. Make sure these new patterns are good ones because they will set the tone for quite some time to come!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It may seem like it is forever before you find the answers you need in the workplace today. Your sense of humor is what sees you through as the delays may be outside your control. Customers are rushed-perhaps because of the weather. Many subjects need your attention. One thing at a time and you will be where you need to be. Looking at customers and smiling with the answer they like to hear is supreme. Customers love to hear the words that say you appreciate their patience, etc. You are well-regarded for your attempts to respond quickly to others and remain polite during the frustrations. This evening you will find a great way to relax through a favorite hobby or fun activity. Bicycling or walking with a friend would be helpful and fun.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that the foggy thinking has lifted, and with a little research you will be able to find the foods, atmosphere or conditions that may have caused the difficulty. This new information will help you understand and correct any physical problems that may exist. You may soon have the opportunity to consider a part-time job. If you can swing it for a temporary assignment, it might just work out to your benefit. You successfully set out to make new friends and go to new places this evening. Be prepared to mingle with some very important people who can give your hopes a big boost. If you have a business card available to hand out to these new people, you will leave a positive impression. Dress as conservatively as possible for this evening's event.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Successful career moves may demand conformity and cost you personal freedom, perhaps toning down a few of your unconventional habits. A kind of magic seems to dawn in your life now. Prosperity and security take center stage in your thinking and you are determined to work hard for the financial results that you seek. You excel as a social being and should make a career out of your deep-seated interest in other people, partnerships and relationships. Strengthen your mastery of difficult problem-solving details. This is a month where you can pull a few strings and gain help from your co-worker friends or your other friends. This may mean research money or small errands that a customer may have requested. Tonight you can enjoy sharing a foot massage.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are riding a high now in terms of taking advantage of the changes that are happening in your life. It is important that you secure any advances you have made recently. In other words, call to confirm things like hard-to-get appointments, price quotes, analysis results, recommendations, etc. There is a change of direction for you, away from the material and glitter, toward inner needs and security. You will find yourself more concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. This time should be easy and filled with opportunities and friendships. Enjoy them. More demanding times will be coming a little further down the road. Be sure to set aside some prime time for your sweetheart this evening.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina Faso	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00238	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Bad Dog
02:35 Gator Boys
03:25 Whale Wars
04:15 Whale Wars
05:02 North America
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Gator Boys
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Bad Dog
10:05 North America
11:00 Gator Boys
11:55 Whale Wars
12:50 Whale Wars
13:45 Bad Dog
14:40 North America
15:35 Untamed & Uncut
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
18:20 The Vet Life
19:15 Bad Dog
20:10 Gator Boys
21:05 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
22:00 The Vet Life
22:55 North America
23:50 Untamed & Uncut

02:10 Megaquake: Hour That Shook Japan
03:00 Finding Bigfoot
03:50 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
04:15 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Playhouse Masters
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Science Of The Movies
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15:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
15:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
16:10 Science Of The Movies
17:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
17:50 Superhuman Showdown
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
20:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
22:00 Superhuman Showdown

12:50 I Am Homicide
17:00 Bad Blood
17:25 Bad Blood
19:30 Blood Relatives
20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
22:00 Evil Lives Here
22:50 Evil Stepmothers
23:40 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
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05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 The Zhuzhus
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Bizaardvark
09:00 Austin & Ally
09:25 Austin & Ally
09:50 Good Luck Charlie
10:15 Good Luck Charlie
10:40 Alex & Co.
11:05 Lolirock
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Welcome To The Ronks
12:15 Hank Zipzer
12:40 Dog With A Blog
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Lolirock
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 The Swap
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Sunny Bunnies
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 Jessie
20:35 Cracked
20:40 Alex & Co.
21:05 Austin & Ally
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo

03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 Goldie & Bear
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:30 PJ Masks
09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
10:10 Little Mermaid
10:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
11:50 Goldie & Bear
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 Miles From Tomorrow
13:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Harry And Bip
15:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Goldie & Bear
16:50 Doc McStuffins
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
20:05 The Lion Guard
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:50 Harry And Bip
22:00 Little Mermaid
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 How Do They Do It?
02:12 How Do They Do It?
02:35 Impossible Engineering
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Last Chance Hospital
07:30 Cooper's Treasure: The Hunt For A Secret Fortune
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 How Do They Do It?
09:25 Kings Of The Wild
10:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
10:55 Gold Rush: Remembering John Schnabel
11:40 Devil's Canyon
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Fast N' Loud
13:32 Sacred Steel Bikes
14:17 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
15:02 Fast N' Loud
15:47 Fast N' Loud
16:35 Fast N' Loud
17:25 Fast N' Loud
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Sacred Steel Bikes
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Deadliest Catch



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Mech-X4
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Gravity Falls
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 K.C. Undercover

08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 Kickin' It
10:45 Kickin' It
11:10 Mighty Med
11:35 Mighty Med
12:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
12:30 Lab Rats Elite Force
12:55 K.C. Undercover
13:20 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
13:45 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
14:40 Flashback Friday - Your Winner
15:05 Bolt
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Milo Murphy's Law
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Disney11
19:25 K.C. Undercover
19:50 Marvel's Ant-Man
19:55 Milo Murphy's Law
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Kirby Buckets Warped
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Ant-Man
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:50 Famously Single
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
07:00 Just Jillian
08:00 E! News: Daily Pop
08:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
11:45 Celebrity Style Story
12:15 Rob & Chyna
13:10 Rob & Chyna
14:05 Life Of Kylie
14:30 Life Of Kylie
15:00 E! News: Daily Pop
15:55 Botched
16:45 Botched
17:35 Botched
18:30 Celebrity Style Story
19:00 E! News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 Botched
23:55 Botched



00:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
00:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:00 Smollett Eats
01:30 Smollett Eats
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Cooking For Real
10:30 Cooking For Real
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Cooking For Real
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
20:30 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
21:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of Thailand
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



00:00 Don't Tell The Bride
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
05:15 Couples Come Dine With Me
06:05 Don't Tell The Bride
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
10:00 Couples Come Dine With Me
10:50 Don't Tell The Bride
11:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:45 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
15:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
16:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
17:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
18:45 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
21:00 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
21:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street



00:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
01:00 Clash Of Warriors
02:00 Missing In Alaska
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
04:30 How 2 Win
05:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Clash Of Warriors
08:00 Missing In Alaska
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Patton 360
11:00 The Universe
12:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
13:00 Clash Of Warriors
14:00 Missing In Alaska
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Patton 360
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
19:00 Clash Of Warriors



00:20 Lost Worlds
01:10 Lost Worlds
02:00 Ax Men
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Hunting Hitler
06:50 Time Team
07:40 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
08:30 Sean Bean On Waterloo
09:20 Swamp People
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Lost In Transmission
13:30 Pawn Stars
13:55 Pawn Stars



00:15 EastEnders
00:45 Holby City
01:45 Carters Get Rich
02:10 Mum
02:40 Uncle
03:15 Benidorm
04:05 The Coroner
05:00 Carters Get Rich
05:25 Mum
06:00 Holby City
06:55 EastEnders
07:20 Casualty
08:15 The Musketeers
09:10 The Musketeers
10:05 The Musketeers
11:00 EastEnders
11:30 Holby City
12:25 The Moonstone
13:15 Father Brown
14:00 Father Brown
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 The Musketeers
16:15 The Musketeers
17:15 The Musketeers
18:15 Casualty
19:05 The Moonstone
20:00 Top Of The Lake
21:00 Paula
21:50 Benidorm
22:40 Carters Get Rich
23:05 Uncle



00:05 Lip Sync Battle
00:30 The Half Hour
01:20 Idiotsitter
01:45 Chappelle's Show
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:05 Bondi Ink
05:55 Hungry Investors
06:50 Disaster Date
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Framework
09:20 Bondi Ink
10:10 Catch A Contractor
11:00 Ridiculousness
11:30 Bondi Ink
11:50 Ridiculousness
13:05 Disaster Date
13:55 The It Crowd
14:45 Nathan For You
15:10 Nathan For You
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Lip Sync Battle
16:30 Impractical Jokers
17:45 Lip Sync Battle
18:10 I Live With Models
18:35 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:58 The It Crowd
19:23 The It Crowd
19:47 Kroll Show
20:09 Workaholics
20:33 Important Things With Demetri Martin
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The President Show
22:00 Live At The Apollo
22:50 Show Me The Funny
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Vanity Fair Confidential
01:20 I Am Homicide
02:10 Murder Comes To Town
03:00 Evil Online
03:48 I Am Homicide
04:36 I Am Homicide
05:24 I Am Homicide
06:12 I Am Homicide
07:00 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
07:25 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
07:50 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
08:15 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
08:40 Young, Hot & Crooked
09:05 Young, Hot & Crooked
09:30 Young, Hot & Crooked
09:55 Young, Hot & Crooked
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 Evil Online
12:00 I Am Homicide



00:00 The First 48
01:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 It Takes A Killer
03:30 It Takes A Killer
04:00 The First 48
05:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
06:00 It Takes A Killer
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Cold Case Files
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Crime Stories
18:00 It Takes A Killer
18:30 It Takes A Killer
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Cold Case Files
22:00 Jack The Ripper
23:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars



00:05 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
00:30 Playhouse Masters
01:20 Weather Top Tens

14:20 Pawn Stars
15:10 Counting Cars
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Alone: Lost And Found
16:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Car Hunters
19:20 Counting Cars
19:45 Counting Cars
20:10 Mountain Men
21:00 American Pickers
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Pawn Stars
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 101 People Who Made The 20th Century



00:15 Eat Street
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Wineroads
01:40 Bad Trip
02:35 Carnival Eats
03:00 Carnival Eats
03:30 One Man & His Campervan
03:55 Wineroads
04:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
05:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 Bad Trip
08:05 Carnival Eats
08:30 Carnival Eats
09:00 One Man & His Campervan
09:25 Wineroads
09:55 Confucius Was A Foodie
10:50 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 Bad Trip
13:35 Carnival Eats
14:00 Carnival Eats
14:30 One Man & His Campervan
14:55 Wineroads
15:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
16:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Cesar To The Rescue
19:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
20:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Cesar To The Rescue
22:55 Bad Trip
23:50 Carnival Eats



00:10 Supercar Megabuild
01:00 Big Fix Alaska
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
03:00 The Living Edens
04:00 Supercar Megabuild
05:00 Street Genius
05:30 Street Genius
06:00 No Man Left Behind
07:00 Airport Security: Colombia
08:00 Seconds From Disaster
08:30 Seconds From Disaster
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Inside The American Mob
12:00 Two Tales Of China
12:30 Two Tales Of China
13:00 No Man Left Behind
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
14:30 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 Airport Security: Colombia
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
18:00 Undercover USA
19:00 Surgery Ship
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
20:50 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
21:40 Undercover USA
22:30 Surgery Ship
23:20 Seconds From Disaster
23:45 Seconds From Disaster



00:20 Kings Of The Kill
01:10 My Life Is A Zoo
02:00 Boss Croc
02:50 World's Deadliest Animals
03:45 Nature's Greatest Talents
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Boss Croc
06:30 World's Deadliest Animals
07:25 Nature's Greatest Talents
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Badlands

11:05 Last Devils
12:00 Wild 24
12:55 Grizzly Empire
13:50 World's Deadliest Animals
14:45 Nature's Greatest Talents
15:40 Animals Gone Wild
16:35 Snakes In The City
17:30 Untamed Americas
18:25 Soul Of The Elephant
19:20 Nature's Greatest Talents
20:10 Animals Gone Wild
21:00 Snakes In The City
21:50 Untamed Americas
22:40 Soul Of The Elephant
23:30 Wild 24



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Swindle
12:36 The Loud House
13:00 The Loud House
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 The Loud House
14:12 The Loud House
14:36 The Loud House
15:00 The Thundermans
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:02 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:46 The Day Henry Met
00:51 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:42 Zack & Quack
02:04 Team Umizoomi
02:27 Olive The Ostrich
02:32 Olive The Ostrich
02:38 Paw Patrol
03:01 Little Charmers
03:13 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:25 Dora The Explorer
03:47 Max & Ruby
04:09 Nella The Princess Knight
04:32 Shimmer And Shine
04:55 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:28 The Day Henry Met
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies

07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 Shimmer And Shine
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:15 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:40 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
11:38 Shimmer And Shine
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Team Umizoomi
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:30 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:44 Max & Ruby
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:29 The Day Henry Met
17:34 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:13 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:22 Paw Patrol
21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:40 Zack & Quack
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:38 Shimmer And Shine



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 Modern Family
01:30 Modern Family
01:55 The Big C
02:25 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Suburgatory
05:40 American Housewife
06:05 Breaking In
06:30 Mom
06:55 Less Than Perfect
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Suburgatory
10:40 Mom
11:05 Less Than Perfect
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Seinfeld
12:45 Seinfeld
13:10 The Middle
13:35 The Middle
14:00 George Lopez
14:25 Suburgatory
14:50 Mom
15:15 American Housewife
15:40 Breaking In
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 Powerless
19:30 Baby Daddy
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Seinfeld
21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 Modern Family
22:30 Modern Family
23:00 The Big C
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:40 Better Call Saul
01:30 Claws
02:25 Blindspot
03:20 APB
04:10 Quantico
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Better Call Saul
09:20 APB
10:10 Quantico
11:00 Blindspot
11:45 The Night Shift
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Quantico
17:00 APB
18:00 Blindspot
19:00 Time After Time
20:00 The Fosters
21:00 Secret City
22:00 Feud
23:00 Blood Drive
23:50 The Strain



01:25 Attila
02:50 I Am Number Four
04:45 6 Ways To Sundown
06:30 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
08:45 Crossfire
10:20 I Am Number Four
12:15 Shanghai Knights
14:10 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
16:25 Insurgent
18:25 Mission To Mars
20:20 X-Men: First Class
22:35 Under Siege



01:25 Underdog
02:50 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
05:10 Alice In Wonderland
07:05 Up
08:45 Underdog
10:10 Brave
11:45 Alice In Wonderland
13:35 The Land Before Time: Journey Of The Brave
15:00 Minions
16:35 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House
18:05 Herbie Fully Loaded
19:50 Race To Witch Mountain
21:30 Minions
23:00 The Land Before Time: Journey Of The Brave



00:00 Claws
01:00 Blindspot
01:50 The Strain
02:40 Better Call Saul
03:30 Claws
04:25 Blindspot
05:20 APB
06:10 Quantico
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Better Call Saul
11:20 APB
12:10 Quantico
13:00 Blindspot
13:45 The Night Shift
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Quantico
19:00 APB
20:00 Blindspot
21:00 Time After Time
22:00 The Fosters
23:00 Secret City



00:00 Jackass 3
01:40 Death At A Funeral
03:15 Yoga Hosers
04:45 Daddy's Home
06:30 7 Chinese Brothers
07:55 Yoga Hosers
09:30 Daddy's Home

11:15 7 Chinese Brothers
12:40 Accidental Love
14:30 Baby's Day Out
16:20 Valentine's Day
18:35 Taxi
20:25 She's Funny That Way
22:15 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything



01:45 Wild At Heart
04:00 Rudderless
06:00 The Girl
07:50 Every Thing Will Be Fine
09:55 The Girl
11:40 Wildlike
13:30 The End Of The Tour
15:25 New York Stories
17:35 The Joy Luck Club
20:05 The Zero Theorem
22:00 Once Upon A Time In America



00:55 Operation Arctic
02:30 Yugo & Lala 2
03:50 The Wheelers
05:05 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
06:30 A.R.C.H.I.E.
08:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
09:25 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
10:50 Zodiac: The Race Begins
12:25 Operation Arctic
14:00 Yugo & Lala 2
15:20 Bee Movie
16:55 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
18:20 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
19:45 Micropolis
21:25 Bee Movie
23:00 Mamma Moo And Crow



00:55 Unbroken
03:25 War Of The Worlds
05:30 Ghostbusters II
07:30 How Do You Know
09:35 Up Close And Personal
11:45 War Of The Worlds
13:45 The Bad News Bears
15:40 Raising Helen
17:45 Die Hard
20:00 Pretty Woman
22:00 Wanted
23:55 Black Snake Moan



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 Science Of The Movies
03:00 Kings Of Construction
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 Science Of The Movies
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Kings Of Construction
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Science Of The Movies
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
11:26 Kings Of Construction
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Science Of The Movies
14:38 Kings Of Construction
15:26 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Science Of The Movies
17:50 Kings Of Construction
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 You Have Been Warned
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Science Of The Movies
22:00 You Have Been Warned
22:50 Kings Of Construction



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
02:12 Say Yes To The Dress UK
02:35 Belief
03:20 Our Little Family
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Your Style In His Hands
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Our Little Family
06:45 Our Little Family
07:30 Our Little Family
08:15 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love, Lust Or Run
11:17 Love, Lust Or Run
11:40 Love, Lust Or Run
12:02 Love, Lust Or Run
12:25 Love, Lust Or Run
12:47 Love, Lust Or Run
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Belief
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 7 Little Johnstons
17:50 Katie Price's Pony Club
18:50 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress
21:00 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 My Giant Life
23:30 Return To Amish



00:30 Summer X Games Highlights
01:30 WWE Smackdown
03:00 Monster Jam
04:00 WWE Wal3ooha
04:30 Summer X Games Highlights
05:30 Summer X Games Highlights
06:30 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
07:00 Monster Energy AMA Supercross Highlights
09:00 This Week In WWE
09:30 X Games Xtraordinary
10:00 WWE Wal3ooha
10:30 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
11:00 Summer X Games Highlights
12:00 WWE Bottom Line
13:00 WWE Afterburn
14:00 Formula-E Championship Highlights
15:00 Live FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour
23:00 FIBA 3 X 3 Basketball World Tour Highlights
23:30 WWE Wal3ooha



00:30 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour Highlights
01:30 Legends Football League
03:00 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
04:00 All Access: Mayweather v McGregor
04:30 UFC Reloaded
07:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
08:00 V8 Supercar Series Highlights
09:00 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
09:30 FIA World Touring Car Championship Highlights
10:00 Motul FIM Superbike Highlights
10:55 Live MotoGP
14:00 All Access: Mayweather v McGregor
14:30 All Access: Mayweather v McGregor
15:05 Live MotoGP
18:00 Mobil 1 The Grid
18:30 One Weekly
19:00 All Access: Mayweather v McGregor
19:30 All Access: Mayweather v McGregor
20:00 UFC Now
21:00 UFC Reloaded

WORD SEARCH

Physics 1

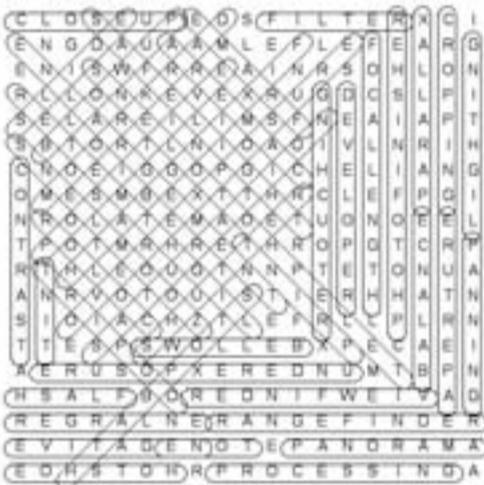
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell an Albert Einstein quotation.



- ACCELERATION
- ACOUSTICS
- AMPLITUDE
- ATOM
- BLACK HOLE
- BUOYANCY
- CENTRIFUGAL
- COLD FUSION
- CONVECTION
- DENSITY
- DISPLACEMENT
- DOPPLER
- EINSTEIN
- ELECTRON
- ENERGY
- ENTROPY
- EXPERIMENT
- FARADAY
- FREEZING POINT
- FULCRUM
- GRAVITY
- HAWKING
- IMPEDANCE
- ISOTOPE
- KELVIN
- LAWS
- LENGTH
- LEVER
- MASS
- MECHANICS
- MOMENTUM
- NEWTON
- OPTICS
- PASCAL
- PENDULUM
- POWER
- PRINCIPLES
- WORK
- QUARK
- REFRACTION
- SOUND
- STRING THEORY
- TESLA
- THERMOMETER
- TRAJECTORY
- VECTOR
- VISCOSITY
- WAVE
- WEDGE
- WORK

Yesterday's Solution

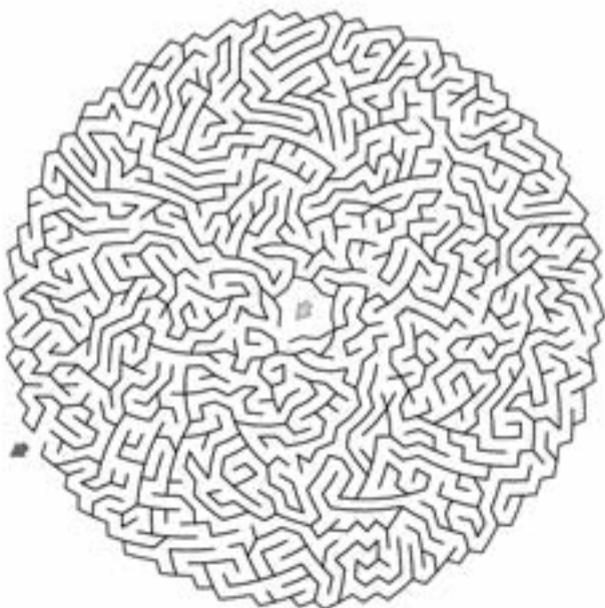
Photography



- APERTURE
- BALANCE
- BELLOWS
- BLOWUP
- CAMERA
- CLOSE UP
- COLOR
- CONTRAST
- CROPPING
- DARKROOM
- DEVELOPER
- ENLARGEMENT
- ENLARGER
- FILTER
- FIXING BATH
- FLASH
- FOCAL LENGTH
- FRAME
- HOT SHOE
- LIGHT METER
- LIGHTING
- NEGATIVE
- OVEREXPOSURE
- PANNING
- PANORAMA
- PARALLAX
- PHOTOFINISHER
- POSITIVE
- PRINT
- PROCESSING
- RANGEFINDER
- RETUCHING
- SAFELIGHT
- SATURATION
- SHUTTER
- SLIDE
- STOP BATH
- TELEPHOTO LENS
- TINT
- TOPE
- TRIPOD
- UNDEREXPOSURE
- VIEWFINDER
- ZOOM LENS

The hidden sentence is: SINGLE LENS REFLEX CAMERA

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1695



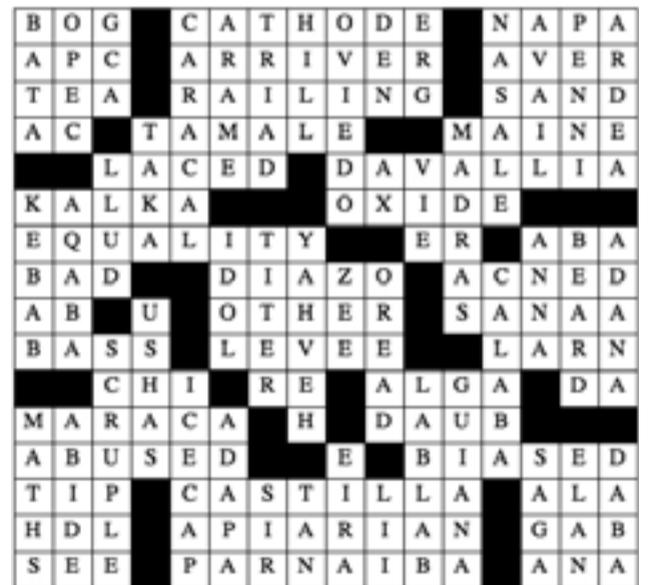
ACROSS

1. A group of African language in the Niger-Congo group spoken from the Ivory Coast east to Nigeria.
4. The sport of gliding on skates.
11. A speech defect that involves pronouncing s like voiceless th and z like voiced th.
15. The fatty flesh of eel.
16. United States historian (1912-1989).
17. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
18. A Powhatan Indian woman (the daughter of Powhatan) who befriended the English at Jamestown and is said to have saved Captain John Smith's life (1595-1617).
20. A musical work that has been created.
21. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
22. Preceding all others in time.
24. New World flycatchers.
28. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
29. The officer who presides at the meetings of an organization.
33. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
37. United States dancer and cinema actor noted for his original and graceful tap dancing (1899-1987).
38. A tool with a flat blade attached at right angles to a long handle.
39. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
42. British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888).
43. A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
46. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
48. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
49. Showing or feeling mirth or pleasure or happiness.
50. A small republic in the eastern Pyrenees between Spain and France.
53. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
54. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
56. A self-governing colony of Denmark on the Faroe Islands.
58. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
59. 32nd President of the United States.
60. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
66. A genus of Mustelidae.
69. The products of human creativity.
73. The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
74. Creation that is created again or anew.
76. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
77. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
78. Covered with or as if with a glossy and usually brightly colored coating.
79. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.

DOWN

1. (used of hair) Neat and tidy.
2. Physically and mentally fatigued.
3. Cause to change.
4. Marked or dyed or discolored with foreign matter.
5. A famous waterfall in Venezuela.
6. Very small free-living arachnid that is parasitic on animals or plants.
7. The fifth day of the week.
8. The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
9. Any of various volatile flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixtures.
10. Large African antelope having a head with horns like an ox and a long tufted tail.
11. A long-playing phonograph record.
12. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
13. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
14. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
19. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
23. Relating to or associated with or comprising a convolution of the brain.
25. Being nine more than ninety.
26. Dried bark of the cascara buckthorn used as a laxative.
27. A successful stroke in an athletic contest (especially in baseball).
30. Dignified manner or conduct.
31. (of farmland) Capable of being farmed productively.
32. (Greek mythology) A sea god son of Pontus and Gaea.
34. Region of western Asia Minor colonized by Ancient Greeks.
35. Any of numerous trees of the family Cupressaceae that resemble cedars.
36. A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
40. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
41. A resource.
44. Located inward.
45. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
47. A tricyclic antidepressant (trade names Imavate and Tofranil) used to treat clinical depression.
51. (sports) The chief official (as in boxing or American football) who is expected to ensure fair play.
52. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
55. A state in midwestern United States.
57. State in eastern India on the Bay of Bengal.
61. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
62. On, to, or at the top.
63. God of love and erotic desire.
64. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
65. Cook and make edible by putting in a hot oven.
67. A roll of photographic film holding a series of frames to be projected by a movie projector.
68. Type genus of the Anatidae.
70. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
71. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
72. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
75. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

			7	4		3	6
4				5	7	9	
						2	
		3	2		1		
8						5	
	4		8	6			
4							
1	9	8					4
7	2		1	3			

Yesterday's Solution

8	4	6	1	9	2	7	5	3
9	3	7	8	6	5	1	2	4
1	2	5	4	7	3	8	6	9
3	7	2	9	4	1	5	8	6
6	1	4	5	2	8	9	3	7
5	9	8	6	3	7	4	1	2
4	6	1	3	5	9	2	7	8
7	8	9	2	1	6	3	4	5
2	5	3	7	8	4	6	9	1

EGG SCARE SHOWS FLAWS IN FOOD ALERT SYSTEM: WATCHDOG

BERLIN: Recalls of unsafe food products often reach consumers too late or not at all, the campaign group Foodwatch said yesterday, calling for tighter oversight after a Europe-wide scare erupted over insecticide-tainted eggs. "The flawed communication about the fipronil-contaminated eggs is not an isolated case," the German branch of Foodwatch said in a report. "Consumers routinely don't know about important food warnings. Often the companies and authorities decide on recalls too late, or sometimes not at all."

Foodwatch said the failings in the food alert system "were once again on display with the lack of information from authorities in the recent scandal over the fipronil-contaminated eggs." Millions of eggs have been pulled from supermarket shelves and destroyed. The scare has spread to 18 European countries and even reached Hong Kong. Officials in Germany, as in several other countries, have come under fire for not going public early enough with their concerns.

In its report, "Calling for a recall", Foodwatch said a study of 92 recalls in Germany over a year showed that just 53 percent were flagged on time on a government-run food safety website (lebensmittelwarnung.de). In one case, a warning over possible listeria-tainted mushrooms only went online three days after the authorities were notified. It had come in over the New Year's break, when no-one was working, Foodwatch said.

Foodwatch said current food safety regulations were too vague and left "too much room for interpretation" as to when a recall is needed. It urged the government to take a more active role, as producers had a clear "conflict of interest" when it came to taking unsafe products off the market. It also said more efforts had to be made to tell consumers about recalls, using all possible means including social media, press releases and signs in supermarkets. "Food producers almost never use all the communication tools available to warn about unsafe products," Foodwatch said. In the case of the eggs scare, Belgium became the first country to officially notify the EU's food safety alert system on July 20, followed by the Netherlands and Germany. But the news did not go public until August 1. — AFP

IRAN'S DISABLED FACE ACCESSIBILITY CRISIS

TEHRAN: The chaotic, impenetrable streets of Tehran have left Navid, a multiple sclerosis sufferer, feeling like a prisoner in his home. Even for the able-bodied, the uncontrolled building spree of recent years means the Iranian capital can often seem like an assault course of narrow broken pathways, gutters full of rushing water, and cars shoved into every available inch of space.

For the thousands of disabled people in Tehran, the hilly streets are effectively a no-go zone. "My companions are the four walls around me. I'm so tired of staring at the ceiling," said Navid Salahi, a 30-year-old who is confined to a wheelchair after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis as a child. "I'm afraid to go outside on my own. It's horrible. Even at my front door, trying to get in a cab, I've fallen over twice because the street is so uneven. My mother does all my errands," he told AFP.

The city council offers a disability bus service, which must be booked two days in advance, and which gets him to work at a disabled rehabilitation centre every day. "Of course, once you make the reservation, it may or may not show up," said Navid. With a new reformist administration taking power in Tehran, disability activists are hoping for change. "Our disabled people are mostly housebound and depressed," said Fatemeh Nikbakht, who runs the Spinal Cord Injury Association with around 1,000 members. "Even an elderly person or a lady with a child cannot move easily in our urban spaces," she said.

'Just not accessible'

Official figures show there are 94,000 disabled people in Tehran, though advocates say the real figure could be far higher. Few are ever seen on its busy streets, nor on the city's bus and metro system because reaching the stations is near impossible.

The government is well aware of the problem. "A disabled person cannot go even 1,000 metres on Tehran's pavements or roads without facing obstacles," Transport Minister Abbas Akhoundi told the Etamad daily earlier this

year. "The streets have so many puddles, bumps, differences in ground level and widening or narrowing that even a healthy person cannot deal with them," he added. A building binge-fuelled by cheap credit and the hunt for secure assets amid sanctions and recession-means it is almost impossible to stand anywhere in Tehran without seeing cranes and the skeleton of a new apartment block or mall.

But little care has been given to accessing the buildings or designing them for disabled users, activists say. "Many parks, cinemas, shopping centres or public spaces are just not accessible," said Behnam Soleimani, a 34-year-old computer teacher who uses a wheelchair. He has been waiting several years for the council to respond to his request for a ramp at his building's entrance. "A broken cobblestone on the sidewalk may not even be seen by a healthy pedestrian but it's a crisis for someone in a wheelchair," he said.

Minimum wage

Bollards erected on pavements and in pedestrian alleyways to block motorbikes from using them to escape the traffic also inadvertently cause problems for the disabled. Some well-meaning measures have been ineffective. Social media users have ridiculed new lanes for blind people with pictures showing them heading directly into trees and gutters. The outgoing conservative mayor of Tehran, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, promised last month that 60 disabled-friendly buses would soon join the public transport fleet, and that accessibility improvements would form part of future transport budgets.

But disability advocates say they have been hearing these promises for a long time. A handful of pilot projects have done little for the disabled population as a whole. "Sadly, these are like dispersed islands and do not form a unified puzzle to allow disabled people to leave the house, move freely or use public transport," said Soheil Moeini, a blind journalist who runs a non-governmental organisation called the Bavar ("Belief") Association. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 4817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

BY DAY: Very hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 24/08/2017 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	35 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	32 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	31 °C		
BUBYAN	40 °C	33 °C		
JAHRA	47 °C	31 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	33 °C		
SALMIYAH	40 °C	35 °C		
AHMADI	38 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	43 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	46 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	45 °C	30 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	08/25	Very hot	47 °C	32 °C	NW-N	10 - 30 km/h
Saturday	08/26	Hot	46 °C	34 °C	NW-N	10 - 30 km/h
Sunday	08/27	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	46 °C	33 °C	NW-NE	10 - 32 km/h
Monday	08/28	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	45 °C	31 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:58
Sunrise	05:21
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:18
Isha	19:40

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	43 °C
MIN. Temp.	32 °C
MAX. RH	87 %
MIN. RH	25 %
MAX. Wind	SE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

FOR RENT

2 bedroom
1 bath, 1 kitchen
water & electricity
included

Salmiya, Amman street
Rent KD 175

Tel: **97997766**
25642054

FOR SALE

Toyota Corolla 2015 Model XLI, 2.0 CC, white pearl color, excellent condition, well maintained, with full option, alloy wheel rim, LED log lamps, bluetooth, rear sensor, remote key, price KD 3250. Please interested person call only.
Contact: 67031555.
(C 5340) 22-8-2017

EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry
about the Civil ID
card is

1889988



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaheel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017



UK hails double-decker bus order for Mexico

IRAN SECURES 8BN EURO LOAN FROM SOUTH KOREA EXIMBANK

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Page 39



NEW YORK: Members of the media get a look at the Samsung Galaxy Note 8 after it was unveiled at the Samsung Galaxy Unpacked 2017 event in New York. — AFP photos

SAMSUNG EYES RESET WITH NEW GALAXY NOTE BIXBY AVAILABLE IN NOTE 8 PHABLET, PRICE NOT DISCLOSED

NEW YORK: Samsung on Wednesday unveiled a new model of its Galaxy Note as it seeks to leave behind the debacle over exploding batteries in the previous generation of the device, and mount a renewed challenge to Apple and its soon-to-come iPhone 8. Introducing the Note 8 "phablet" at an event in New York City, executives repeatedly thanked fans who had remained loyal to the device.

"None of us will ever forget what happened last year," said Samsung president of mobile communications business DJ Koh. "But, I will never forget how millions of dedicated Note loyalists stayed with us, so let me express my deepest gratitude." But the device left some analysts underwhelmed by its lack of new features beyond a dual-lens camera for telephoto zoom—already available on the iPhone 7 Plus.

Shares in Samsung Electronics ended almost unchanged at 2,376,000 won, up just 0.08 percent, in its native South Korea yesterday with uncertainty over the fate of Lee Jae-Yong, the company's de-facto head, also weighing on market sentiment. The heir to the Samsung empire faces a verdict Friday in a corruption trial which could see him jailed for 12 years, threatening a leadership crisis at the world's biggest smartphone maker.

Analysts mixed

The South Korean giant laid claim to being

the first smartphone maker to field a "phablet" device—combining features of smartphones and tablets—when it introduced the first Note five years ago. Samsung did not disclose the price of the Note 8, which will hit shops on September 15 but will be available

for pre-orders starting Thursday. "All in all, it was a good day for Samsung," Moore Insights and Strategy analyst Patrick Moorhead said at the event.

"The Note 7 is clearly behind them and now it's onto the future with the Note 8." The ana-

lyst depicted the Note 8 as Samsung's best opportunity in years to gain market share in the fiercely competitive premium smartphone market. But Lee Kyu-Ha, an analyst at NH Investment & Securities said it was "somewhat disappointing" and said it had "no significant change" from the Galaxy S8 smartphone beyond the dual cameras.

iPhone turns 10

The Note 8 debut comes on the heels of Samsung launching new Galaxy 8 smartphones, and as the South Korean consumer electronics giant and fellow market leader Apple seek wow factors that can help them fend off challenges from rising Chinese-based manufacturers. Apple is under particular pressure to dazzle as the culture-changing California iPhone maker looks for a way to maintain its image as an innovation leader in a global market showing signs of slowing.

Apple is expected to unveil a 10th anniversary version of the iPhone in September. "Clearly, Apple wants to do something different," NPD Group analyst Stephen Baker said. Reports say the new iPhone will include a high-quality, edge-to-edge screen with a notch in the top for an extra camera supporting 3D facial recognition. Some speculate that the back of the new handset will be glass and will offer wireless charging. —AFP



NEW YORK: A woman tries the new Samsung Galaxy Note8 smartphone during a launch event in New York City.

TOP UK CELLPHONE SELLER BLAMES WEAK POUND FOR PROFIT WARNING

LONDON: Shares in Dixons Carphone PLC, Britain's biggest electricals retailer, slumped yesterday after the company warned that its profits this year would be lower than expected, partly because consumers are not upgrading their mobile devices as frequently as before in the wake of the pound's slump since last year's Brexit vote. In morning trading in London, Dixons' share price was down 21 percent at 1.80 pounds, meaning the company now has a market value of barely 2 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion). So far this year, the company has lost around a half of its value largely because of Brexit-related concerns.

Since last year's vote to leave the European Union, the pound has fallen by around 15 percent against its main competitors, including the dollar. As well as raising the cost for firms bringing products into Britain, the pound's fall has stoked inflation in the wider economy, a development that's eaten into household incomes and prompted consumers to take a more cautious approach to spending. That knock to spending is one reason why the British economy only grew by a quarterly rate of 0.3 percent in the second quarter, slower than any other Group of Seven economy.

In an unscheduled statement, Dixons Carphone said it has seen a "more challenging" environment in the British cellphone market as a result of currency fluctuations that have made handsets more expensive and a slower pace in technical innovation. "As a consequence, we have seen an increased number of people hold on to their phones for longer and while it is too early to say whether important upcoming handset launches or the natural life cycle of phones will reverse this trend, we now believe it is prudent to plan on the basis that the overall market demand will not correct itself this year," Chief Executive Seb James said.

Dixons also said that the scrapping of roaming charges within the 28-country EU would dent profits to the tune of 10-40 million pounds this year. As of June 15, using an EU handset in another EU country incurs no extra fees. Despite some bright spots including strong sales in the Nordic and Greek operations, the company said it now expected that its headline pretax profit for the 2017-18 financial year will be in the range of 360-440 million pounds. That compared with last year's equivalent of 501 million, a figure that most analysts had previously thought it would get fairly near to.

Dixons will be hoping upcoming launches from Apple and Samsung will help improve its core British business, especially if the pound doesn't recover from its post-Brexit losses soon. "The forthcoming generations of Samsung Galaxy and iPhone handsets claim to make big steps forward, but recent history hasn't delivered much that's revolutionary," said Nicholas Hyett, an analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. "Seb James will be hoping Tim Cook (Apple's CEO) has something big up his sleeve."—AP

US DEBT RATING IN DOUBT, FITCH WARNS

WASHINGTON: The top 'AAA' long-term debt rating of the United States will be in danger if lawmakers do not raise borrowing limits in a timely fashion, ratings agency Fitch warned Wednesday. Congress faces looming deadlines to approve spending for 2018 and raise legal limits on the amount the United States can borrow in order to meet immediate funding obligations—raising the prospect that the US could default on its sovereign debt for the first time ever and cause havoc on global markets. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the US Treasury has until October before exhausting the "extraordinary measures" it put in place in March, when the US reached its current \$19.8 trillion borrowing limit. Lawmakers return from August recess on September 5, making the window for action even tighter. "If the debt limit is not raised in a timely manner prior to the so-called 'x date,' Fitch would review the US sovereign rating, with potentially negative implications," the agency said in a statement.

The ratings agency Standard & Poor's in 2011 downgraded the US debt rating to AA+, a notch below its highest level, following battles among lawmakers over whether to lift the cap on borrowing. In the event the limit is not raised, prioritizing some payments over others, as some have suggested Washington may be forced to do, "may not be compatible with 'AAA' status," Fitch said.—AP



SEOUL: A currency trader walks by the screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea.—AP

EUROZONE RECOVERY ONGOING, FOCUS TURNS TO JACKSON HOLE

LONDON: The euro zone economy is on course for another solid quarter of economic growth, a closely watched survey indicated yesterday ahead of a keenly awaited speech from the European Central Bank's chief. In the run-up to Friday's big speech from ECB President Mario Draghi at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, financial information company IHS Market said its purchasing managers' index for the 19-country single currency bloc rose to 55.8 in August from 55.7 the previous month. The slight increase was unexpected - most forecasters were predicting a modest fall.

Given that anything above 50 indicates expansion, the survey of the euro zone's manufacturing and services sectors suggests that the region's momentum has continued through the summer despite the recent appreciation in the euro. The survey reinforces market expectations that the euro zone will for the second time in a row grow by a healthy quarterly rate of 0.6 percent in the third quarter of the year.

Particularly encouraging was the fact that the manufacturing sector was able to secure new export orders at the fastest pace in 6 1/2 years. That may allay some recent fears that the rise in the euro over the past few months was sapping exports by making euro zone products less competitive in international markets. In a little more than four months, the euro has risen more than 10 percent against the dollar, and earlier this month it breached the \$1.19 mark for the first time since the start of 2015. It's shown similar strength against the British pound.

Big repercussions

The euro's recent strength, which has been based largely on growing signs of economic momentum in the euro zone, has been one reason why many ECB watchers think the central bank will

tread carefully in reining back its stimulus measures, which has seen it slash interest rates including its main one to zero. It has also sought to keep market interest rates, which affect the costs of loans and mortgages, low by flooding the financial system with newly created money. The ECB is pumping 60 billion euros (\$71 billion) a month into the economy.

As well as potentially weighing on exports, the high currency has the potential to keep a lid on inflation by making imports cheaper. That's not ideal for a central bank which is aiming to stoke price pressures in the economy. The ECB aims for an annual inflation rate of just below 2 percent. In the year to July, it remained well short of that, at 1.3 percent. "We think that improvements in inflation to above 1.5 percent are unlikely for the coming months, so look

for a cautious Draghi at the end of the week," said Bert Colijn, senior euro zone economist at ING.

Draghi's upcoming comments have added resonance because they will be made just a couple of weeks before the ECB's next scheduled policy meeting on Sept 7. The prevailing view in financial markets is that the ECB will extend its stimulus measures into next year but with some reduction of the amount in monthly bond purchases. Any hints from Draghi that the prevailing view is wrong could have big repercussions across financial markets, not least in the value of the euro. For example, should he say the stimulus will be unwound faster than expected, the euro could rally further as markets price in a higher interest rate profile for the euro zone and fewer euros being pumped into the financial system.—AP

BAIDU SELLS FOOD-DELIVERY UNIT TO ALIBABA-BACKED ELE.ME

SHANGHAI: Alibaba-backed Chinese food delivery firm Ele.me will take over the food delivery unit of search engine giant Baidu in a deal that could be worth up to \$800 million, the firm and a report said yesterday. Shanghai-based Ele.me, which means "Are you hungry?" in Chinese, said it would take control of Baidu Waimai, which will continue to operate under its own name and management and also will receive shares of Ele.me. Further details were not given.

But the state-run China Business News reported that the deal will be financed with a mix of cash and Ele.me corporate shares that will value Baidu Waimai at \$500-800 million. Alibaba, which invested \$1.25 billion

in Ele.me in April 2016 together with its financial arm Ant, plans to inject at least another \$1 billion, Bloomberg News reported in May. Based on mobile apps, the food-delivery industry has boomed in China and especially in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai thanks to the growing number of mobile internet users and online payments in the country.

Ele.me has 260 million users in 2,000 Chinese cities served by three million scooter-riding delivery staff, its statement claimed. Ele.me has 42 percent of the market share, just ahead of its biggest competitor Meituan Waimai's 41 percent, according to Internet consultancy Analysys International. Baidu Waimai has 13 percent.—AFP



PITTSBURGH: In this photo, shoppers walk by the sign at a Sears store in Pittsburgh. — AP

SEARS TO CLOSE MORE STORES, SALES CONTINUE FALL IN 2Q

NEW YORK: Sears continued to struggle in its second quarter with declining sales amid heightened competition. It now says it will close even more stores. The retailer has been trying to cut costs by closing stores, including 180 this year and already had plans to cut another 150 stores. It now plans to shutter an additional 28 Kmart stores. "The retail environment remained challenging," Sears Holdings Corp. said in a statement. The Hoffman Estates, Illinois company reported that its second-quarter loss narrowed to \$251 million, or \$2.34 per share.

Losses, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to \$1.16 per share.

Revenue fell 23 percent to \$4.37 billion in the period. Sales at stores open at least a year, a key measure of a retailer's health, dropped 11.5 percent. In March, Sears said there is "substantial doubt" it could continue as a viable concern, with intense pressure coming from companies like Wal-Mart, Target and Amazon.com. It has insisted that its actions to turn around its business should help reduce that risk. The company said yesterday that it has used about \$605 million of its \$1.5 billion revolving credit facility due in 2020. Its cash balances were \$442 million as of July 29. Shares added 2 cents to \$8.59 in premarket trading. —AP

US REQUESTS FOR JOBLESS AID UP 2,000 TO 234,000

WASHINGTON: Slightly more Americans applied for jobless aid last week. Despite the small increase, the number of people seeking benefits remained close to historic lows. Weekly unemployment applications rose by 2,000 to 234,000, the Labor Department said yesterday. The less volatile four-week average declined 2,750 to 237,750. The increase in claims followed a large drop the previous week. The number of people collecting unemployment benefits has fallen 9.5 percent over the past 12 months to 1.9 million.

The job market appears solid as the US enters its ninth year of recovery from the Great Recession. Employers are holding onto workers with the expectation that business will continue to improve. Jobless claims - a close indication of layoffs - have come in below 300,000 for 129 weeks in a row. That's the longest such stretch since 1970, when the US population was much smaller. The economy revved up this spring after a weak start to the year, fueled by a surge in consumer spending.

The government says that growth in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, expanded at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. That's more than double the revised 1.2 percent in the first quarter. This year, the economy is expected to grow about 2 percent. That would be roughly in line with annual gains during the recovery. Consistent hiring has helped sustain the gradual recovery, although the expansion is starting to show its age as the pace of job gains has slowed this year.



LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May (2L) staff as she tours the Alexander Dennis bus and coach manufacturers factory in Guildford, south of London. — AFP

GREAT WALL SHARES SLIDE AS FIAT CHRYSLER HOPES DAMPENED

BEIJING: China's Great Wall Motor saw its share price slide Wednesday after saying it had "not engaged in negotiations" with Italian-American carmaker Fiat Chrysler to buy the Jeep brand. The Chinese manufacturer, known for its sport-utility vehicles, had signaled Monday its interest in Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), before moving to dampen speculation about a bid for Jeep. In an announcement Tuesday night, Great Wall said it had "not contacted" senior FCA staff, adding that "no real progress has been made" regarding any acquisition.

Great Wall ranks only the seventh biggest Chinese auto company in terms of sales — 1.07 million vehicles in China and 17,400 abroad last year-but any deal with FCA would take it to another level. An agreement would be a major coup for the Chinese auto industry but could cause political waves in the United States, where President Donald Trump has railed against his country's trade imbalance with the Asian giant. But Great Wall's stock fell 1.58 percent in Shanghai Wednesday after the firm's statement. —AFP

UK HAILS DOUBLE-DECKER BUS ORDER FOR MEXICO DEAL REFLECTS 'EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES'

LONDON: The export contract was modest, but its symbolism - 90 of Britain's famous red double-decker buses-prompted the government yesterday to declare the country had a bright post-Brexit future. The buses will head to Mexico City, under a contract worth £44 million (48 million euros, \$56 million). Prime Minister Theresa May said the deal reflected "exciting new opportunities ahead". "We are building a truly global Britain by helping UK companies win multi-million pound contracts to export their products across the globe," May said, as she inspected one of the buses at a factory in Guildford, a town southwest of London.

The red buses, famously associated with London streets, are produced by Alexander Dennis Limited at factories in Scotland and Guildford. The government said that the low-emission vehicles would "reduce congestion and pollution" on the Paseo de la Reforma, one of Mexico City's main avenues.

Alexander Dennis said it already sells the double-deckers to Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States. A company spokeswoman said the Mexico City contract was awarded in 2015 but the buses were only being delivered this year as they had to be adapted for the city's high altitude.

The Mexican capital is at an altitude of 2,240 meters (7,350 feet) compared to an average of just 35 meters for London. The buses are expected to begin transporting passengers in Mexico City by the end of the year. May has emphasized the commercial advantages for Britain of being able to strike its own free-trade agreements with third countries once the country leaves the European Union in 2019 as expected. "UK firms such as Alexander Dennis are taking advantage of the opportunities in fast growing markets like Mexico," International Trade Secretary Liam Fox said in a statement. —AFP

IRAN SECURES 8BN EURO LOAN FROM SOUTH KOREA EXIMBANK

BIGGEST DEAL SINCE ATOMIC ACCORD SIGNED WITH EXIMBANK

TEHRAN: Iran has secured an eight-billion euro credit line from South Korea's Eximbank, the Islamic republic's biggest loan deal since its 2015 nuclear accord, the Iranian central bank announced yesterday. "The biggest contract since the atomic accord was signed with South Korea's Eximbank today for the amount of eight billion euros (\$9.4 billion)," said central bank governor Valiollah Seif, in a statement carried by state news agency IRNA.

A spokesman for South Korea's export credit bank, contacted by AFP, said the deal would finance projects in Iran by companies from the Asian country. "We started signing with Iranian banks a framework agreement today. We did it with three Iranian banks today and will do so with nine other Iran banks in the coming week to complete the agreement," he said. "Under the agreement, Eximbank will provide an eight-billion euro credit line for those banks so that they can help finance various projects in Iran that are awarded to South Korean companies," said the bank spokesman.

Seif said the loan would facilitate "several development and production projects", and it showed the international

community was ready to restore "long-term" banking ties with Iran. Under the landmark July 2015 nuclear accord signed by Iran and world powers, Tehran has curbed its atomic program in exchange for an easing of international sanctions from January 2016. But Washington has maintained and increased unilateral sanctions over Iran's ballistic missiles program and alleged support for terrorist groups, deterring a full return to the Iranian market by some international players cautious over possible US punitive measures.

"One of the problems created by international sanctions was they put a halt to financial accords," said the central bank chief. US President Donald Trump, who took office in January, is a fierce critic of the nuclear deal, acting as a deterrent to normalization between the Iranian banking sector and major international banks. But with the Eximbank agreement sealed, "I hope we will be able to announce more good news in the days and months ahead," said Seif. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the country, a major oil producer, needs massive foreign investment to revive its economy and combat its high unemployment, officially estimated at 12.7 percent. —AFP



TEXAS: This photo shows a Whole Foods Market in San Antonio. —AP

REGULATORS, WHOLE FOODS SHARE-HOLDERS APPROVE AMAZON DEAL

NEW YORK: Whole Foods shareholders and federal regulators approved Amazon's \$13.7 billion acquisition of the organic grocer, a deal that could bring big changes to the supermarket industry and how people order groceries online. By buying Whole Foods, Amazon is taking a bold step into brick-and-mortar, with more than 460 stores and potentially very lucrative data about how shoppers behave offline. Two moves forward came Wednesday. Whole Foods shareholders gave their blessing to a union that its CEO had called "love at first sight."

And the Federal Trade Commission said in a brief statement that it had looked into competition concerns and would not block the deal. The FTC investigated whether the takeover "substantially lessened competition" or "constituted an unfair method of competition," said Bruce Hoffman, the acting director of the agency's Bureau of Competition. "Based on our investigation we have decided not to pursue this matter further."

A union that represents food-industry workers had asked the FTC to scrutinize the deal closely, saying it could hurt competition and lead to job cuts. Regulators tend to block deals when two direct competitors are combining, and Amazon - despite its dominance in the online marketplace - doesn't currently have a big groceries business. Still, rivals are scrambling to catch up with the e-commerce giant.

Whirlwind courtship

Walmart, which has the largest share of the US grocery market, is expanding its grocery delivery service with ride-hailing service Uber and announced Wednesday that it will join forces with Google to let shoppers order goods by voice on Google devices. Before the deal was announced in June, Whole Foods had been under intense shareholder pressure to improve results and retain customers who have more choices about where to get natural foods. As Whole Foods grew, more supermarkets offered similar organic and natural foods, but at cheaper prices.

Amazon and Whole Foods have not given many details about what might change for customers, though Whole Foods CEO John Mackey gave some general clues at a town hall with employees after the deal was announced. He said he thought Amazon would help with efforts on cost-cutting and a loyalty program. He noted Amazon is known for its innovation and said that company could turn Whole Foods from "the class dunce" to "valedictorian." Mackey had said the deal came about after a "whirlwind courtship" and that "it was truly love at first sight."

As part of the deal, Amazon will pay Whole Foods shareholders \$42 for each share they own. That was an 18 percent premium from its stock price the day before the tie-up was announced on June 16. Shares of Whole Foods Market Inc., which is based in Austin, Texas, ended Wednesday at \$41.68. Earlier this month, Amazon.com Inc. sold \$16 billion of bonds in order to pay for Whole Foods. Seattle-based Amazon has said it expects the deal to close before the end of the year. —AP



ENGLAND: This file photo shows a branch of travel agent Thomas Cook pictured in Birkenhead, in north-west England. — AFP

THOMAS COOK RESUMES TUNISIA HOLIDAYS AFTER BRITAIN LIFTS BAN

LONDON: British travel group Thomas Cook, one of the world's biggest tour operators, said it would resume organizing holidays to Tunisia, more than two years after a terror attack in which 38 people were killed. "At the end of July this year, the UK government changed its advice for Tunisia meaning that British holidaymakers can now travel to the majority of the country," Carol MacKenzie, head of customer welfare at Thomas Cook said in a blog post.

"As a result, and reflecting the interest we've had from customers, we are restarting our flight and holiday program from 13 February next year. "We're starting in just a few resorts, mainly near to Hammamet, and only eight hotels, where we're confident we can offer the high quality our customers expect," she added.

Thomas Cook brought more than 200,000 British tourists to Tunisia in 2014 across the summer and winter seasons. The

travel group suspended its holidays to Tunisia in June 2015 after a gunman killed 38 people, including 30 British tourists, in a shooting spree in the resort town of Sousse, in the north-east of Tunisia. The attack came three months after two gunmen shot dead 22 people at the National Bardo Museum in Tunis and prompted the British government to advise its citizens against all travel in the country.

Britain's Foreign Office (FCO) relaxed its stance late last month noting that the "Tunisian government has improved protective security in major cities and tourist resorts". However, it continues to advise against all travel to southern Tunisia, along the border with Libya. It also advises against all but essential travel along the western border with Algeria. "Terrorists are still likely to try to carry out attacks in Tunisia. Security forces remain on a high state of alert in Tunis and other places," said the Foreign Office travel advice. — AFP

UBER EARNING ENGINE PURRS DESPITE BUMPY ROAD

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber's financial engine appeared to be purring despite its image being dented so badly its chief was pressured to resign. Earnings figures first reported at news website Axios and confirmed by AFP showed that adjusted net revenue at Uber was \$1.75 billion in the second quarter, more than doubling from about \$800 million in the same period in 2016. Gross bookings at the leading smartphone-summoned ride service doubled to \$8.7 billion in the recently ended second quarter as the number of trips climbed 150 percent from a year earlier.

The San Francisco-based company's adjusted net loss fell nearly 14 percent to \$645 million from the same quarter last year, Uber confirmed. Meanwhile, Uber drivers have earned \$50 million in tips since a gratuity option was added to the ride-sharing application in June. Uber has been working to improve its relationships with drivers and riders after being hit with controversies that led to the resignation of founder and chief executive Travis Kalanick. The company is still searching for a new chief as rumors swirl that Kalanick is orchestrating a return behind the scenes.

Boardroom tumult

Four mutual funds this week marked down their stakes in Uber by as much as 15 percent in a sign that months of scandal were taking a toll on the private company's value of some \$68 billion, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal. Kalanick is asking for the dismissal of an investor lawsuit against him, calling it part of a personal attack aimed at sidelining him. A response last week to a lawsuit filed by early Uber investor Benchmark Capital said the litigation was part of a "shameful" effort to remove Kalanick from any role at the ridesharing giant.

The Benchmark lawsuit filed in a Delaware court accused Kalanick of fraud, breach of contract and of plotting to manipulate the board of directors to allow him to return as CEO following his resignation in June. But in his response, Kalanick claimed that Benchmark "began secretly planning an effort to oust him" and "executed its plan at the most shameful of times" following the death of his mother in a May accident.

Kalanick argued that the lawsuit—which has brought to light strains and infighting at the world's most valuable venture-backed startup—should be dismissed and that the dispute should be settled in arbitration. Kalanick said Benchmark seeks to "silence and sideline" him and effectively ban him from any major decisions at Uber. Benchmark has asked the court to bar Kalanick from tinkering with the Uber board in any way, arguing that the former CEO was trying to pack the board with loyalists to clear the way for his return.

Kalanick—who had been the driving force behind Uber's massive global expansion, but whose brash style had made him a liability—still holds a large voting stake in the company. The pioneering company has been facing pressure to rein in a no-holds-barred management style led by Kalanick, 40, and to reform its work environment. Kalanick's departure capped a rocky period for the global ridesharing giant, which has been roiled by disturbing reports of a cutthroat workplace culture, harassment, discrimination and questionable business tactics to thwart rivals.—AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: This file photo shows the building that houses the headquarters of Uber, in San Francisco.—AP



BUCHAREST: French President Emmanuel Macron, left, and Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, right, talk during a press conference at the Cotroceni Palace, the Romanian Presidency headquarters in Bucharest.—AFP

MACRON SETS SIGHTS ON EU CHEAP LABOR RULE

AUSTRIA, FRANCE KEY RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

SALZBURG, Austria: The EU is a "real step" closer to overhauling a controversial rule on detached workers, after talks with leaders from eastern and central Europe, French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday. The so-called Posted Workers Directive allows firms to send temporary workers from low-wage countries to other member states without paying local social charges. The regulation has come under fire from rich nations like France whose president has described it as a "betrayal of the European spirit".

Macron embarked Wednesday on a three-day diplomatic blitz through Austria, Romania and Bulgaria to drum up support for his ambitious plan to reform the directive at a summit in October. So far he has faced staunch resistance from eastern and central European countries, but there were signs of a breakthrough after discussions with the leaders of Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic in Salzburg. "We've firmly expressed our will to find a real compromise in October," Macron said on Wednesday evening at a joint press conference.

"Our talks mark a real step forward... and I'm glad about that." Although the issue affects less than one percent of the EU's workforce, experts say the trend is on the rise. The directive was launched in 1996 to help stimulate cross-border business, at a time when EU members broadly shared similar living standards. But critics argue that the bloc's eastward

expansion in 2004 has opened the system to abuse. Firms in former Communist countries pay much lower salaries, giving them a huge competitive edge when bidding for work abroad. In addition, they don't have to pay into the host nation's social system.

Stokes populism

Austria and France are among the bloc's key recipients of temporary employees. Backed by Vienna and Berlin, Paris now wants the duration of these job postings to be limited to 12 months, half the period proposed by the European Commission. "The single market and the free movement of people weren't created to help countries promoting the lowest social rights. This is what stokes populism in our countries," Macron had said ahead of Wednesday's talks. Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico acknowledged that finding a solution would be "good news for the EU", but said any such pact should have support from Budapest and Warsaw, two fervent opponents of Macron's reform. The hard-right leaders of Hungary and Poland were notably absent from Macron's meeting schedule, which took him to Romania yesterday and Bulgaria today.

Budapest and Warsaw have repeatedly clashed with Paris over the proposed reform. Poland is the country that benefits most from the Posted Workers Directive. An estimated 500,000 of its nationals are employed by Polish companies in other EU members. Top offi-

cials in Brussels however welcomed French efforts on Wednesday the European Commission and its president, Jean-Claude Juncker, "have made the fight against social dumping one of their key priorities", said Alexander Winterstein, a spokesman for the EU's executive body.

Under pressure at home

Macron hopes to reach an agreement at a Brussels summit on the EU directive on October 19-20. Ahead of that meeting, he will host leaders from Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands later this month. Franco-German unity is seen as a pre-requisite for an overhaul of the rule. Pierre Vimont, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Europe think tank, called changing the directive "a symbolic case" for Macron, whose popularity ratings have plummeted since he took office in May.

It is part of his broader election campaign promise to create a new "protective Europe" that helps shield citizens from the effects of cut-throat international competition. The 39-year-old centrist is also pushing for a new mechanism to screen non-EU investments, particularly from China, into strategic areas of the European economy, as well as tougher measures to block the dumping of cheap imports on the continent. He also wants much deeper integration of the eurozone, including giving the 19-country currency bloc its own budget, finance minister, parliament and borrowing capacity.—AFP

AOC CHIEF COATES DEFIANT AFTER DAMNING REVIEW

SYDNEY: An independent review of the Australian Olympic Committee's workplace practices released yesterday has revealed a dysfunctional culture out of step with the Games' ideals.

The review, following interviews and surveys with current and former AOC executive members and staff as well as with national sports federations, did not find a bullying culture within the organisation.

But it detailed an environment of "senior leaders undermining each other, working around each other, and openly displaying

hostility towards each other". Long-time AOC chief John Coates defiantly said he would not quit following the damning independent review.

"Why should I resign?" Coates told reporters at a media conference yesterday. "There has been no confirmation of bullying. There has been some criticism of senior leaders—I'm the president, I'm not the senior leader that is being criticised."

The review also uncovered a disillusionment with the way in which staff and national federations were treated by the AOC. "While

staff and stakeholders hold the AOC in high regard and express immense pride in what the organisation has achieved over the years, they describe the organisation as being out of step—with both their ideals and minimum expectations for a modern organisation," the investigation said of its findings.

"Instead of seeing the organisation as celebrating the best of the Olympic ideals, staff and stakeholders speak of a more immediate horizon of challenges and difficulties that stem from a culture that is not aligned with the ideals that the organisation aspires to

uphold." The review comes in the wake of a stormy period for the AOC, with Coates fighting off a well-backed bid by challenger Danni Roche to remain as the organisation's figure-head.

Coates, who has been at the helm for 27 years, won a secret ballot 58-35 in May to continue in his role, but admitted the AOC brand was "damaged" by the acrimonious campaign. Dubbed the most powerful individual in Australian sport, Coates has been AOC chief since 1990 and a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee since 2013.—AFP

BOKS PICK HOUGAARD TO REPLACE CRONJE

BUENOS AIRES: South Africa have made one injury-enforced change from the team that defeated Argentina last weekend for the Rugby Championship return match in Salta tomorrow. An ankle injury rules out scrum-half Ross Cronje and experienced Francois Hougaard comes off the bench to replace him in the starting line-up.

Rudy Paige has been promoted to the replacements' bench as scrum-half cover with the Springboks seeking a fifth consecutive victory this season. "Francois has played a lot of Test rugby, his work ethic is second to none and he has been working hard until now since joining the squad," Coetzee told reporters in Buenos Aires.

"Rudy made a good impact in the third Test against France and I expect the same from him this weekend." Before a 37-12 Championship victory over Los Pumas in Port Elizabeth last Saturday, resurgent South Africa completed a 3-0 Test series whitewash over France during June.

Coach Allister Coetzee had a horror debut season last year, losing a calendar-year record eight Tests out of 12, including a first to European rugby lightweights Italy. The 54-year-old former provincial scrum-half and coach of Super Rugby outfit Western Stormers said he was thrilled by the healthy competition for places.

"The players outside of the match 23 are all knocking on the door and that is a great position to be in." South Africa and Argentina have met twice in northwestern city Salta with the Springboks winning 33-31 three years ago and Argentina turning the tables with a 26-24 victory last season.

The other Rugby Championship teams are world champions New Zealand and Australia, who meet Saturday in Dunedin.

Team (15-1)

Andries Coetzee: Raymond Rhule, Jesse Kriel, Jan Serfontein, Courtnall Skosan; Elton Jantjies, Francois Hougaard; Uzair Cassiem, Jaco Kriel, Siya Kolisi; Franco Mostert, Eben Etzebeth (capt); Coenie Oosthuizen, Malcolm Marx, Tendai Mtawarira

Replacements: Bongsi Mbonambi, Steven Kitshoff, Trevor Nyakane, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Jean-Luc du Preez, Rudy Paige, Curwin Bosch, Damian de Allende
Coach: Allister Coetzee (RSA). — AFP



SYDNEY: This photo taken on August 19, 2017 shows Australia's Wallabies winger George Speight (front L) being tackled by New Zealand's All Blacks players Owen Franks (C) and Aaron Smith (R) during their Rugby Championship test match in Sydney. The Wallabies yesterday made three changes. — AFP

RUGBY

WALLABIES COACH CHEIKA FEELS FANS' IRE AFTER TEST LOSS

WELLINGTON: Wallabies fans have a right to feel disappointed but not angry about the team's heavy defeat in last weekend's first Bledisloe Cup test against New Zealand, coach Michael Cheika said yesterday.

Cheika said he received hate mail since the Wallabies' 54-34 loss to the All Blacks in Sydney as disgruntled fans expressed disgust at one of Australia's worst-ever losses to New Zealand. Anger was likely made more intense by the fact that Australian rugby is at one of its lowest ebbs, beset by the poor form of its Super Rugby teams and by administrative gridlock in the face of a range of off-field challenges. Rugby is rapidly bleeding support in Australia, losing the battle for audience share with the other football codes, Australian Rules, Rugby League and soccer. The Wallabies face the All Blacks again in Dunedin tomorrow. With a win, the All Blacks can secure the Bledisloe Cup for the 14th-straight year and raise further questions about the depth and

quality of Australia's playing stocks.

Cheika has assured fans they will see a better Wallabies performance this weekend after a week in which he and his fellow coaches have addressed defensive weaknesses evident in Sydney. The All Blacks over-ran the Wallabies, scoring six tries to lead 40-6 by halftime.

They quickly added two more tries in the second half and led 54-6 after 58 minutes. It was only a lapse in concentration and loss of structure by the All Blacks that allowed the Wallabies to rally and score four tries in the last 30 minutes. While they conceded more points to the All Blacks than ever before, Cheika's Wallabies were able to avoid a record losing margin and to save themselves from even greater recriminations.

But Cheika revealed on Thursday that some fans were still aggravated enough to find his email or phone number and contact him personally. Cheika made the mistake in June, when one fan posted a particularly vir-

ulent criticism of the Wallabies coach on Facebook, to ring that fan and to remonstrate with him directly. That seems only to have encouraged other fans to take their complaints to the coach.

"I have certainly had some of my own hate mail to deal with," Cheika said. "I am not sure how they get my email address but they happen to, or a phone number. But you have to roll with that stuff mate, you have to deal with it. There's only one way that can change. Nothing that happens from Monday to Friday. The only way these things change is on the field." Cheika said fans had a right to be disappointed but that should not spill over into anger. "No one should be angry," Cheika said. "People can be disappointed. Anger is a different emotion and I have heard a lot of anger and stuff around from people who might be bitter about it or whatever. I am not sure why you would be angry because it's your national team. You'd be disappointed, 100 percent.—AP

SHAKIB SEEKS CLEAN TEST SWEEP AGAINST AUSTRALIA

DHAKA: All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan said yesterday he wants no less than a clean sweep for Bangladesh when the Test minnows face a strong Australian side in their first series in more than a decade.

The Test starting Sunday in Dhaka is the first between Australia and Bangladesh since Ricky Ponting's side toured the country in 2006 and claimed the series 2-0. Bangladesh—which only attained Test status in 2000—have moved on from that defeat, and hope to build on recent stronger form to impress fans with a series win on home soil against Australia. "I don't see why it can't be possible.

Our expectation: winning both Tests," Shakib told reporters in Dhaka. "We need to do well in all aspects if we want to win the Tests. Whatever the strengths they have, Australia are always tough opposition. They can adapt to any conditions very quickly. None can do this better than the Aussies."

The visitors trained in Darwin, a tropical city in northern Australia, ahead of the Bangladesh tour to adjust to the hot and humid conditions expected for the two-Test series. But even once touching down there were hiccups, with batsman Glenn Maxwell suffering heatstroke during an early training

session and a warm-up match cancelled due to flooding. Shakib said Bangladesh would be hoping to capitalise on Australia's poor run in recent South Asia clashes.

The world number-two Test side lost 3-0 to Sri Lanka in a series in 2016, before succumbing 2-1 against India earlier this year. Bangladesh meanwhile have won two of their last three Tests, one against Sri Lanka and a historic win over England.

Shakib—the world's top all-rounder in all three cricket formats—said Bangladesh's spin attack would put pressure on the Steve Smith-led side.

The hosts are hoping Shakib, off-spinner Mehedi Hasan and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam can undo Australia's formidable batting lineup. "I think our spin attack is better than them. I won't say in all conditions, but in our condition we are better than them," said Shakib. "Taijul and Miraj (Mehedi) are bowling well for a long period. I hope they will do well in this series as well." Shakib, Mehedi and Taijul took all 20 wickets when Bangladesh recorded their first-ever Test win over England by 108 runs in October. The second Test of the series will be held in Chittagong from September 4-8. — AFP



LEEDS: England's Alastair Cook attends a nets practice session at Headingley cricket ground in Leeds, northern England yesterday ahead of the second Test match against West Indies. — AFP

LAW TELLS WINDIES TO IGNORE 'PATHETIC' TALK

LEEDS: Stuart Law has urged the West Indies to ignore their critics and follow diminutive batsman Jermaine Blackwood's example as they look to bounce back in the second Test against England at Headingley.

Friday's match comes less than a week since West Indies coach Law saw his side suffer a crushing innings and 209-run defeat in the series opener at Edgbaston as the inaugural day/night Test in England ended inside three days.

That led West Indies fast-bowling great Curtly Ambrose to label the current side "pathetic". Law was saddened that Ambrose, until recently the West Indies' bowling coach, had vented his criticism in a British newspaper rather than directly to the players.

"Curtly not long ago was the coach of this team so it is disappointing that criticism comes," said Law. "We have to understand why it is there. We are not performing as well as we want. "What can we do? We have to get our noses down, our backsides up and play better. I believe in these young men. They have got high skills. "It is just the experience of learning how to play in a very tough environment."

'INFECTIOUS ATTITUDE'

West Indies arrived in England without several senior players, the consequence of a bitter dispute with their own board and a clash with the lucrative Caribbean Premier League Twenty20 tournament, although relations are improving to the extent that Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels have been selected

for the subsequent one-day series in England.

Meanwhile, Law was encouraged by the fighting performance of Blackwood, whose 79 not out in the first innings at Edgbaston was a rare West Indies highlight of a closing Saturday where they lost 19 wickets in total.

"He showed a beautiful solid defence and hit the bad ball away, we can't ask much more," Law said. "He is only 5ft 2in but he walks around like he is 10 foot tall and that is the sort of attitude that really warms my heart," the former Australia batsman added. "Hopefully it is infectious in the group."

Law indicated he would give the XI that played at Edgbaston a chance to redeem themselves, even though fast bowler Shannon Gabriel is now fit for selection. England, however, have made one change with captain Joe Root confirming Thursday that Chris Woakes had replaced Toby Roland-Jones.

Middlesex paceman Roland-Jones made his Test debut earlier this season against South Africa after Woakes was ruled out with a side strain suffered during England's Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh at The Oval in June.

Woakes, who on form is a better batsman than Roland-Jones, is set to act as a 'support seamer' behind James Anderson and Stuart Broad. His recall was the only change to the England team that played at Edgbaston where Alastair Cook's double century and a hundred from England captain Joe Root established a commanding position cemented by Anderson and Broad. — AFP

CRICKET

FAF DU PLESSIS TO LEAD WORLD XI AGAINST PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: South Africa test captain Faf du Plessis will lead a World XI team to play a three-match Twenty20 series against Pakistan in Lahore next month, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board Najam Sethi said yesterday.

The series is aimed at reviving international cricket in Pakistan, which has hosted just Zimbabwe and Afghanistan over the last eight years since terrorists attacked the Sri Lanka cricket team bus in Lahore in 2009.

"This will be an auspicious moment for Pakistan cricket and I am positive that it will serve to open the doors of international cricket in Pakistan," Sethi said. Hashim Amla, Morne Morkel, Imran Tahir and David Miller are the other South African players named in the World XI which also includes three from Australia, George Bailey, Tim Paine and Ben Cutting and two West Indies players, Darren Sammy and Samuel Badree.

Du Plessis said his maiden tour to Lahore will help in bringing back international cricket to Pakistan and all the players have been given security assurance. "All the members of the squad have complete faith and trust in the assessment and judgment of the security experts, who have assured us that there will be no compromise on the safety and security of all those involved in the series," Du Plessis said in a statement.

"As professionals, we are getting paid to play in the series, but the bottom line is that if we didn't feel safe, no amount of money would get us there. In this background, we will land in Lahore with nothing except cricket in our minds."

Amla, who last visited Pakistan in 2007, hopes to get recover from his shoulder injury before the three-match series, named as the "Independence Cup" next month. Tamim Iqbal of Bangladesh, New Zealand's Grant Elliott, Sri Lanka's Thisara Perera and Paul Collingwood of England complete the 14-man squad.

The squad will arrive in Lahore on Sept. 11 after a two-day camp in Dubai under the coaching of Andy Flower. The three matches will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium on Sept. 12, 13 and 15. "All the players are satisfied and comfortable with the security arrangements that will be put in place for the series and happy to be part of the first step towards the safe return of international cricket to Pakistan," Flower said in a statement.

Over the years the PCB has been trying hard to convince foreign teams to tour Pakistan. It showcased stringent security arrangements when it successfully hosted the final of its premier domestic T20 tournament - also in Lahore in March in which former West Indies captain Sammy and Marlon Samuels also participated.

The series against a World XI has been given international Twenty20 status by the International Cricket Council, which formed a Pakistan Task Team under its director Giles Clarke in 2009. "This (World XI) tour is not only important for cricket in Pakistan but also for international cricket since it opens the possibility of other teams, media and sponsors visiting Pakistan for bilateral series," Clarke said.

"The ICC Members releasing their top players and the respective player unions backing this series is testament to the support the world has extended to Pakistan during these difficult times. The focus of everyone in the international game is the safe return of cricket to Pakistan."

Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said the tour will send a positive signal to the world that the country is safe for organizing international matches. "I can assure all Pakistan cricket fans that we have missed playing in front of them, like they have missed watching us live in action. But this wait is about to end and I am sure better times lie ahead of all of us," he said. — AP



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Najam Sethi addresses a news conference in Lahore, Pakistan, yesterday. — AP



CHICAGO: Chicago White Sox's Leury Garcia hits a home run off Minnesota Twins' Ervin Santana during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, in Chicago.— AP

HILL LOSES NO-HIT TRY ON HR, PIRATES TOP DODGERS

PITTSBURGH: Dodgers lefty Rich Hill lost his perfect game on an error in the ninth inning, then lost his no-hitter on a leadoff home run in the 10th by Josh Harrison that sent the Pittsburgh Pirates over Los Angeles 1-0 Wednesday night. The Pirates didn't have a runner until Jordy Mercer led off the ninth with a sharp grounder that smacked off third baseman Logan Forsythe's glove for an error. Hill retired the next three batters. Hill (9-5) came back out for the 10th and Harrison sent his 99th pitch of the night into the first row of seats in left field, just out of the reach of left fielder Curtis Granderson. Hill struck out 10 without a walk. Hill became the first pitcher since Pedro Martinez in 1995 to take a no-hit try into extra innings. Martinez, then with Montreal, lost his perfect game in the 10th at San Diego. After Mercer reached in the ninth, Hill quickly retired the next three batters. Chris Stewart laid down a sacrifice bunt, Jose Osuna grounded out to Forsythe and when shortstop Corey Seager gobbled up a grounder by Starling Marte, Hill had held the Pirates hitless for nine innings. Juan Nicasio (2-5) picked up the win after working the top of the 10th.

WHITE SOX 4, TWINS 3

Tim Anderson singled with one out in the ninth inning to score Avisail Garcia from second base and give Chicago a comeback victory. Chicago tied it at 3 in the eighth on back-to-back one-out doubles by Leury Garcia and Yoan Moncada. Avisail Garcia led off the ninth with a single and was sacrificed to second. Following an intentional walk to Yolmer Sanchez, Anderson produced the first walk-off hit of his career. Jorge Polanco homered for the fourth straight game and drove in two runs for the Twins. Danny Farquhar (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. Trevor Hildenberger (2-2) took the loss.

ORIOLES 8, ATHLETICS 7, 12 INNINGS

Zach Britton's AL-record run of converting 60 straight save attempts ended amid the evening shadows of Camden Yards, when the Baltimore closer blew a two-run lead and failed to get out of the ninth inning in a game the Orioles ultimately won in the 12th. Baltimore led 7-5 heading into the ninth when Britton entered to seal the victory, just as he had been doing successfully since the final days of the 2015 season. On this occasion, however, the left-hander gave up three straight hits before a

sacrifice fly by Matt Joyce tied it. Following a walk to Khris Davis, Britton was replaced by Miguel Castro (3-1), who quelled the uprising. Manny Machado led off the 12th with a home run off Simon Castro (1-2) to end a game that lasted 4 hours, 20 minutes. Britton's streak began on Oct. 1, 2015, extended through all of last season and went for 11 more saves this year. He had not blown a save since Sept. 20, 2015, at Tampa Bay. Britton finished well short of Eric Gagne's major league mark of 84, set from 2002-04.

ASTROS 6, NATIONALS 1

Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and Jake Marisnick and Max Stassi added solo shots to help Houston beat Washington. The victory snaps a nine-game losing streak to the Nationals and is just Houston's second win in the last 15 games against Washington. Houston starter Mike Fiers (8-8) yielded four hits and one run in seven strong innings to get his first win since July 21. Fiers was in command from the start of this one, looking much better than he had in his last four starts when he allowed a combined 24 hits and 20 runs. The game was tied at 1 with one out in the fifth when Marisnick sent a curveball from Edwin Jackson (4-3) into left-center field for his 15th homer.

RED SOX 6, INDIANS 1

Mitch Moreland hit a fifth-inning home run, and Drew Pomeranz and three relievers beat Corey Kluber. Moreland homered to right on a 1-0 pitch from Kluber (12-4), who allowed two runs over 7 2/3 innings. Mookie Betts' RBI single with two outs in the eighth ended the night for Cleveland's ace, who allowed four hits and struck out 12 - the 13th time this season he's reached double figures in strikeouts. Four pitchers held Cleveland's injury-depleted lineup to three hits, a night after Doug Fister pitched a one-hitter. Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-out homer in the eighth off Addison Reed. Pomeranz (13-4) gave up two hits and struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings in winning his seventh straight decision.

YANKEES 10, TIGERS 2

Gary Sanchez homered and drove in three runs, and Luis Severino pitched impressively into the seventh inning to lead New York to another lopsided win over Detroit. Didi Gregorius and Chase Headley also homered for the Yankees, who have taken the

first two games of this series by a combined score of 23-6. Severino (11-5) allowed a run and six hits in 6 2/3 innings. He walked one and struck out eight. Jordan Zimmermann (7-11) allowed seven runs for a third straight start. New York broke the game open with five runs off him in the third. Ian Kinsler and Jose Iglesias went deep for Detroit's only runs. The Tigers have lost eight of nine.

CUBS 9, REDS 3

Kyle Schwarber hit a three-run homer in the ballpark near his home, Tommy La Stella added a two-run shot while subbing for Kris Bryant, and Chicago kept its second-half surge going with a victory over Cincinnati. The defending World Series champions have won eight of 10. They are 11 games over .500 for the first time this season and have their biggest lead in the NL Central, 3 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee. Left-hander Mike Montgomery (4-6) allowed four hits in six shutout innings, filling in for Jon Lester in the rotation. Joey Votto, Eugenio Suarez and Scott Schebler homered in the ninth for the Reds. Schwarber provided an opposite-field shot in the fourth inning off Asher Wojciechowski (3-3), his ninth since he returned from a stint in the minors.

MARINERS 9, BRAVES 6

Taylor Motter replaced an injured Robinson Cano and gave Seattle the lead with a two-run single in the eighth inning. Cano had two doubles before leaving with tightness in his left hamstring in the third. Kyle Seager added a three-run homer in the eighth inning off Dan Winkler. After blowing a 4-3 lead in the seventh, the Mariners rallied against Jim Johnson (6-3) in the eighth. Motter's single to center field drove in Jean Segura, who doubled, and Yonder Alonso, who walked. David Phelps (4-5, 2-1 AL) recorded two outs in the seventh after coming off the disabled list. Edwin Diaz recorded the final four outs - including three strikeouts in the ninth - for his 29th save in 33 chances.

BLUE JAYS 7, RAYS 6

Kevin Pillar hit Toronto's sixth home run of the game in the eighth inning, lifting the Blue Jays over Tampa Bay. Pillar snapped a 6-6 tie with a homer off Tommy Hunter (2-5) to help the Blue Jays end a four game losing streak. It was Pillar's 13th homer of the season. Kevin Keirmaier hit two

home runs and scored three times for the Rays, who came back from 5-0 down to the tie it before losing for the ninth time in 12 games. Ryan Tepera (7-1) got the win and Roberto Osuna got the final four outs for his 33rd save.

METS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Chris Flexen pitched six effective innings, rookie Dominic Smith homered and New York ended a three-game skid. The Mets won for just the second time in 10 games. Making his sixth big league start, Flexen (3-2) gave up two runs and six hits. He walked four and struck out five. AJ Ramos worked around a two-out walk for his 23rd save in 25 chances. He has converted all three save opportunities with the Mets. Zack Godley (5-7) pitched five innings.

PHILLIES 8, MARLINS 0

Mark Leiter Jr. allowed one hit over seven innings, Rhys Hoskins homered and drove in five runs and Philadelphia rode that rookie tandem to a victory over Miami. Leiter (2-3) didn't allow a hit until Miguel Rojas doubled to lead off the sixth with a hard chopper that bounded over the head of drawn-in third baseman Maikel Franco. He struck out five and walked two to help the Phillies rebound from a doubleheader sweep Tuesday in which the Marlins homered six times while scoring 19 runs. Hoskins has clubbed seven homers in 14 games since his call-up from Triple-A earlier this month. He has 16 RBIs during that time. Justin Nicolino (2-2) lasted just 2 1/3 innings, giving up six runs on eight hits.

GIANTS 4, BREWERS 2

Jarrett Parker hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh, Buster Posey hit a sacrifice fly and San Francisco beat contending Milwaukee. Hunter Strickland (3-3) pitched the seventh for the victory as San Francisco took the series against a Milwaukee club that had hoped to grab some momentum going into a tough weekend ahead on the road against baseball's best Dodgers. The Brewers began the day 2 1/2 games behind the first-place Cubs in the NL Central, having won six of seven games before arriving at AT&T Park. Carlos Moncrief added a sacrifice fly in the eighth before Sam Dyson, San Francisco's third reliever after Mark Melancon tossed a 1-2-3 eighth, closed it out for his 12th save in 13 opportunities. Jacob Barnes (3-4) took the loss. — AP

SCHOOLING SLAMS CRITICS AFTER GOLDEN DOUBLE

KUALA LUMPUR: Olympic butterfly champion Joseph Schooling rounded on critics who say he's swimming too slowly after he grabbed his fourth and fifth gold medals of the Southeast Games yesterday. Schooling said detractors could say what they liked as he won the 100m freestyle and anchored Singapore's 4x200m freestyle relay victory to near his target of six gold medals in Kuala Lumpur.

"They can say whatever they want," Schooling shot back, when asked about the criticism of his performances which has been circulating online. "My goal is to come here and help the team as best as I can, win gold medals. That's all I care about at this meet. You can't always set best times, it's fine.

"It's all about me trying to help the team as best as I can and me trying to win as many

individual events as I can." Schooling, who won 100m butterfly bronze at last month's world championships, just a year after stunning Michael Phelps to claim the Olympic title, hasn't tested his personal bests this week. In the 100m freestyle, he was pushed all the way by Vietnam's Hoang Quy Phuoc before winning in 48.93, outside the SEA Games record he set two years ago in Singapore. In the relay, he pulled away in the last leg to help Singapore to win by more than six seconds, but their time didn't beat the tournament record they set in their home pool in 2015.

TUMMY TROUBLE

Malaysia, who lost Daniel Bego from their relay team because of a food poisoning out-

break which hit 16 Malaysian athletes, finished third in the event behind Vietnam. "We do feel sorry for him and we're pretty sure he's disappointed too. But we can't help it because it's sickness, it happens to everyone," said Malaysia's Welson Sim.

With five full days of competition to go, Malaysia appeared to be headed for victory on the overall medals table as they soared to 63 golds late on Thursday, 30 ahead of second-placed Vietnam.

Grace Wong set a new Games record of 59.24m in the women's hammer, and boxer Muhamad Fuad Redzuan won Malaysia's first ever SEA Games title in the light flyweight division. Fuad, who beat Thani Narinram of Thailand for the gold, denied suggestions he benefited from an unfair decision in his quar-

ter-final against Filipino teenager Carlo Paalam. "Some say I won, others say he won but for me I got the most number of points and the fight was dominated by myself and not him," he said. Quzandria Ambak won dressage gold-ahead of her elder brother Qabil, who took silver-and Malaysia also won titles in squash, karate, shooting and pencak silat, a martial art.

Thailand swept the men's and women's individual golf titles, as Thai-Japanese Kosuke Hamamoto carded 10-under-par 203 over three rounds to win by a stroke from Singapore's Marc Ong.

In the women's golf, also held at Kuala Lumpur's Mines Resort, Atthaya Thitikul marched to victory by seven strokes with 14-under-par 199.— AFP

SEA GAMES

GOLD IN 21 SECONDS FOR FILIPINO-BRIT BOXER

KUALA LUMPUR: Filipino-British boxer John Marvin took just 21 seconds to clinch the Southeast Asian Games light heavyweight title yesterday, and then said he wanted a quick win as he didn't trust the judges.

The 24-year-old, a lance corporal in the British Army, unleashed a barrage of punches from the bell to stop Malaysia's Adli Hafidz Mohamad Pauzi—who later claimed he wasn't ready. Marvin said he didn't want the final to be left in the hands of the judges, after his team-mate Carlo Paalam lost a questionable decision against home favourite Muhamad Fuad Redzuan on Monday. Fuad went on to win the light flyweight class, clinching Malaysia's first SEA Games title in the division. "My mission was to get in there and win. That is my plan. I hit (my opponent) a four-punch combination in the face," Marvin said, dedicating the win to Paalam and the Philippines. "It is a revenge for my colleague who lost in an unfair manner," he added. "I did not want the fight to be decided by the umpires. We train to get in there and destroy."

Marvin, who comes from Britain's Isle of Wight and whose mother is Filipino, said he felt "sad" that rising star Paalam, 19, was eliminated in the quarter-finals by Fuad.

"He is my team-mate. It is sad to see him lose," he said. Fuad, meanwhile, who beat Thani Narinram of Thailand in the light flyweight final, insisted his victory over Paalam was legitimate. "I waited for eight years to win gold in the SEA Games. When I fought the Filipino, it was 50-50," he said.

"Some say I won, others say he won but for me I got the most number of points and the fight was dominated by myself and not him (Paalam)," he said. The Philippines claimed a second gold medal through middleweight Eumir Felix Marcial, who braved injured knuckles to beat Thailand's Pathomsak Kuttiya on points.

But Mario Fernandez, who was eyeing a record third straight gold in the bantamweight class, lost unexpectedly to Thailand's Chatchai Butdee. Indonesia's Aldoms Sugoro beat Thai fighter Tanes Ongjunta to win the flyweight title, and Thailand's Wuttichai Masuk was crowned light welterweight champion with victory over Sarohatua Lumbantobing of Indonesia.— AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: Marvin John Nobel Tupas (in blue) of the Philippines fights against Adli Hafidz binti Mohamad Fauzi (in red) during the boxing light heavyweight (81 kg) final at the 29th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.— AFP



LAS VEGAS: Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. (L) and MMA fighter Connor McGregor pose during a media press conference on Wednesday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.— AFP

BOXING

UNDEFEATED AND UNLOVED, MAYWEATHER EYES PAYDAY

LAS VEGAS: Two years after retiring from boxing, Floyd Mayweather climbs back into the ring tomorrow chasing history and one last mammoth payday. The 40-year-old former welterweight champion will become the first boxer in history to post a perfect record of 50-0, if as expected, he proves too strong for Conor McGregor, the mixed martial arts star fighting in his first ever boxing contest.

The 50th bout of Mayweather's 21-year professional career has been disparaged variously as a freakshow, publicity stunt or simply "bad for boxing." Mayweather, who has spent years crafting an image as the fighter that fans love to hate, is not even remotely fazed by the catcalls. Because not for the first time, the boxer who delights in displaying the trappings of his wealth across social media, will be laughing all the way to the bank.

Mayweather, whose career earnings reportedly topped \$700 million following his last bout in 2015, could, according to

some estimates, pocket another \$200 million this weekend.

It is the latest money-spinning stop on a career that has seen Mayweather go from 1996 Olympics bronze medallist to be regarded as one of the greatest boxers in history. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on February 4, 1977, Mayweather was destined for the ring. His father, Floyd Mayweather Sr., was himself a talented former welterweight who once fought 10 rounds with Sugar Ray Leonard. Floyd Sr. taught his son to box almost as soon as he could walk. Floyd Sr. was holding his infant son in his arms when he was shot in the leg during a family dispute, an injury that effectively ended his career. "He was training to be a fighter in the crib," Mayweather Sr. said of his son.

Mayweather, who grew up in a cramped apartment with seven relatives, frames his early life as a battle for survival.

"It's never been easy for me. Boxing is easy but life has never been easy,"

Mayweather says. "I had a father who was a hustler and a mother who was on drugs. I was the man in the house from 16. That's just the way it was." When Mayweather fought at the 1996 Olympics, his father was serving a five-year prison sentence for drug-trafficking.

In Floyd Sr's absence, his uncle Roger had taken over the training of the young fighter, overseeing his entry to the professional ranks. Within two years, the skilful, lightning-fast Mayweather had won his first world title, knocking out the WBC superfeatherweight champion Genaro Hernandez in eight rounds. Years of domination followed as Mayweather plowed through the divisions up to welterweight. In 2006, he took the unusual step of buying out his contract with promoter Bob Arum, in order to take greater control of his career. Since then Mayweather has been able to dictate terms for most of his fights, taking a cut of the back-end profit in exchange for upfront risk.—AFP

PREMIER LEAGUE TRANSFER SPENDING SETS NEW RECORD

LONDON: Premier League clubs' spending has set a new record for a single transfer window as the historically lavish spree reached £1.17 billion (\$1.57 billion, 1.27 billion euros) yesterday. With a week to go until the window closes, Deloitte's Sports Business Group say the 20 English top tier teams have shattered the previous record of £1.165 billion for one league in a single window, which was set by the Premier League last year.

Fueled by global broadcast rights deals totalling £8.4 billion, 12 Premier League teams have broken their transfer record since the end of last season. Liverpool's record went on £39 million Mohamed Salah, Arsenal broke theirs for £50 million Alexandre Lacazette, while Chelsea, Tottenham and Everton set new marks with the signings of Alvaro Morata, Davinson Sanchez and Gylfi Sigurdsson respectively.

Manchester City were the biggest spenders, with boss Pep Guardiola shelling out £221.5 million,

including £54 million on Tottenham defender Kyle Walker. Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho splurged £145.8 million on three players, with the marquee recruit, Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, for a British record £75 million.

Everton are currently third in the spending chart after paying £139.9 million on new signings funded by the Lukaku sale. Some fear the spending is unsustainable and could put the financial health of clubs at risk in the long-term.

But Deloitte consultant Chris Stenson believes the unprecedented fees are in line with reasonable expectations, given the riches available to Premier League clubs from the record broadcast deals which took effect last season. "The level of transfer expenditure in this summer's window has been extraordinary but when analysed in the context of record broadcast, commercial and matchday revenues, Premier League clubs are spending within their

means," he said.

"Their ability to generate these record revenues and attract the world's very best playing talent continues to drive the Premier League's status as the most commercially successful football league in the world." Even newly-promoted Huddersfield have broken their transfer record four times as the impact of the television deal is felt throughout the top flight. Despite Paris Saint-Germain paying a world record £200 million to sign Brazil striker Neymar from Barcelona, the Premier League teams have easily outgunned the other top European leagues.

There is every chance the new record will climb even higher as teams fine-tune their squads with more spending in the final days of the transfer market, which won't reopen until January.

"We expect further significant expenditure in the next seven days as clubs seek value in the market," Stenson said. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: This file photo of Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez, left, and Arsenal's Theo Walcott celebrates after scoring during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Bournemouth at Emirates stadium in London. Alexis Sanchez is set to return to Arsenal's team for the Premier League match at Liverpool on Sunday. — AP

SOCCER

SANCHEZ SET FOR ARSENAL RETURN AFTER SPECULATION

LONDON: The last time Arsenal visited Anfield in the Premier League, Arsene Wenger made the stunning decision to drop top scorer Alexis Sanchez to the bench. To some, the selection signaled the beginning of the end of Sanchez's time at the London club: The in-demand Chilean had little over a year left on his contract and Arsenal was about to miss out on Champions League qualification for the first time in two decades. Now he wasn't even in the team amid reports of a training-ground dispute.

Five months later, Arsenal will return to Liverpool on Sunday with Wenger set to make another big statement regarding his only world-class player. After missing the first three games of the season - officially because of an abdominal injury but also amid sustained talk of interest from Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City - Sanchez is expected to be back in Arsenal's lineup for the team's most high-profile match in the league so far.

Wenger has said repeatedly this summer that Sanchez will not be leaving during this transfer window, even though that would likely mean the player walking away for free at the end of the season. Given that Arsenal could potentially receive 60 million pounds (\$77 million) for Sanchez if the club opted to sell him, it's a big call by Wenger.

It appears Wenger is sticking to his word. "He has always

been focused on his job," Wenger said of Sanchez. "He loves to play football and I don't think he is too disturbed by all the noises that happen. "Players at that level are used to it now - some deal better with it than others, but I don't think he is too bothered by that."

Indeed, in this summer of unrest in English soccer, some of the top players in the Premier League have struggled to deal with being the subject of interest from other clubs. Gylfi Sigurdsson didn't go on a preseason tour with Swansea or feature on the opening weekend of the league season amid interest from Everton, which eventually signed the midfielder. Dutch center back Virgil van Dijk, a reported target of Liverpool among others, has been training alone at Southampton after handing in a transfer request.

Brazil playmaker Philippe Coutinho will likely be missing at Anfield this weekend while he is at the center of a fight over his services between current club Liverpool and Barcelona. He has lodged a transfer request, too, and officially is unavailable because of illness and a back injury.

Yet with Sanchez, there has been no public bitterness. There were some cryptic comments in June while at the Confederations Cup with Chile, when he said he didn't know if he would be at Arsenal for this season even though he had made his mind up on his future. — AP

MOUKOKO, DAZZLES FOR DORTMUND'S UNDER-17

BERLIN: A 12-year-old is creating waves for Borussia Dortmund's youth team after scoring eight goals in three games for their under-17 side although there are questions about his age.

Despite playing in an age group where his opponents and team-mates are usually around five years older, Youssoufa Moukoko has set the German under-17 league on fire with his amazing dribbling skills and shooting prowess.

"Sometimes," says Dortmund's under-17 coach Sebastian Geppert, "you can see in Youssoufa that he is still a little boy." However, there are some doubts in German youth circles about his age, according to AFP subsidiary SID.

Given his age, his ability is incredible, which led to scepticism after he scored twice against SG Unterrath, hit two more against VfL Bochum then three days later scored four against Viktoria Cologne in a 6-1 rout. The precocious youngster was born in Cameroon.

According to the official certificate, issued at the German consulate in the capital Yaounde, his date of birth is November 20, 2004, but footage of the robust forward slicing through defences shows he is physically mature for his age. The German Football Association (DFB) has put out a statement to say that there is nothing wrong with a child playing in an age group for teenagers, "however, talents like Youssoufa Moukoko are big exceptions and not every exception should encourage an imitation".

"In regards to footballing development, this model is not advisable in most cases," added the DFB statement. Dortmund already have some experience of bleeding youngsters. Nuri Sahin made his Bundesliga debut, aged 16 years, 334 days - a league record - in August 2005 and is still in the first team today.

Likewise, US international Christian Pulisic was 17 when he broke into the first-team straight from Dortmund's under-19 team in January 2016 and will only turn 19 next month. — AFP



Youssoufa Moukoko

TEENAGE SENSATION MBAPPE IN, DEMBELE OUT FOR FRANCE

PARIS: Teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe, reportedly on the verge of a move to Paris Saint-Germain, was yesterday named in France's squad for World Cup qualifiers against the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

While 18-year-old Monaco star Mbappe has been picked, coach Didier Deschamps has omitted Borussia Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele, who is embroiled in his own transfer saga after attracting the interest of Barcelona as they seek to replace Neymar.

Deschamps said the two players were different cases. "Ousmane hasn't trained for a fortnight and he's waiting to see if the transfer will go ahead or won't go ahead," he said. "There is a lot of noise

around Kylian about whether or not he is changing club. But even though he hasn't been involved in Monaco's last two games... he has been training and he is fit."

There is no place either for defender Benjamin Mendy, who quit Monaco's title-winning side to join Manchester City but is returning to full fitness after a thigh injury. France play the Dutch at the Stade de France in Paris on August 31 before taking on minnows Luxembourg in Toulouse on September 3.

Squad

Goalkeepers: Alphonse Areola (Paris Saint-Germain), Hugo Lloris (Tottenham/ENG), Steve Mandanda (Marseille) Defenders: Lucas Digne

(Barcelona/ESP), Christophe Jallet (Nice), Presnel Kimpembe (Paris Saint-Germain), Laurent Koscielny (Arsenal/ENG), Layvin Kurzawa (Paris Saint-Germain), Djibril Sidibe (Monaco), Samuel Umtiti (Barcelona/ESP), Raphael Varane (Real Madrid/ESP)

Midfielders: N'Golo Kante (Chelsea/ENG), Thomas Lemar (Monaco), Blaise Matuidi (Juventus/ITA), Paul Pogba (Manchester United/ENG), Adrien Rabiot (Paris Saint-Germain), Corentin Tolisso (Bayern Munich/GER).

Forwards: Kingsley Coman (Bayern Munich/GER), Nabil Fekir (Lyon), Olivier Giroud (Arsenal/ENG), Antoine Griezmann (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Alexandre Lacazette (Arsenal/ENG), Kylian Mbappe (Monaco), Florian Thauvin (Marseille). — AFP

SOUTHGATE SALUTES ROONEY AFTER ENGLAND RETIREMENT

LONDON: England manager Gareth Southgate has paid tribute to Wayne Rooney's "fantastic career" after the Everton forward retired from international duty. Rooney announced on Wednesday that he was bringing down the curtain on his England era after scoring 53 goals in 119 appearances.

Southgate had called Rooney to offer him a place in the England squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Malta and Slovakia in September. But instead former Manchester United star Rooney told Southgate he wanted to concentrate on club football following his close-season move back to Everton.

"I know I speak for everyone when I congratulate him on a fantastic international career," Southgate told reporters yesterday. "He said he had been thinking long and hard about the decision and he had decided he was going to announce his international retirement.

"We then talked for another half an hour about why I was calling and the possible role I saw him fulfilling because I think as a manager you always want to prod to see 'has he thought about this decision?'. "He clearly had and I totally understood his reasoning, moving to Everton and the fresh opportunity he has got there. He feels a sense of loyalty to the club for what they have invested in him.

"I thought there was a role that he could play for the squad but by the same token I fully understand his rationale." Rooney is England's all-time leading scorer and most capped out-field player, yet some question whether he deserves to be ranked among his country's all-time greats because of his disappointing performances at major tournaments.

England never made it past the quarter-finals of the World Cup or European Championships with Rooney in the side. But Southgate, who had begun easing Rooney out of the squad last season, insisted the 31-year-old deserved to be ranked alongside England icons like Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore and Gary Lineker.

"It would be a good moment to recognise what an outstanding player he has been for England," Southgate said.

"I have seen some debate around 'is he a legend or isn't he?'. "If you are the most capped outfield player and the record goalscorer I'm not sure what else you have to do to be called a legend.

"He has represented his country with incredible pride and has kept coming back even when there has been a lot of criticism towards him, and his level of performance has been outstanding."

It is a measure of Southgate's respect for Rooney that he even left the door open for a possible return to the England squad if he changes his mind about retiring in the future.

"I said the door was always open and because of the way he has been playing at the beginning of the season he is in the right frame of mind, that's why I made the call this time," he said. "I don't see why you ever shut the door on anything as players." — AFP



MANCHESTER: File photo shows Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (L) jumps for the ball but fails to score during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Liverpool at Old Trafford in Manchester. Zlatan Ibrahimovic has rejoined Manchester United on a one-year contract. — AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC REJOINS UNITED TO SETTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LONDON: Zlatan Ibrahimovic has rejoined Manchester United on a one-year contract after the Swedish star's spell with the Premier League side was curtailed by a serious knee injury last season. Ibrahimovic missed the final weeks of United's campaign after suffering ligament damage in a Europa League clash against Anderlecht in April.

But United manager Jose Mourinho remained in contact with the 35-year-old while he underwent his rehabilitation and the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward has now agreed to return to Old Trafford.

"I am back to finish what I started. It was always mine and the club's intention for me to stay," Ibrahimovic told United's website. "I cannot wait to get back out on that Old Trafford pitch, but I also know that I have to take my time to make sure that I am ready.

"I have been working hard and will continue to do so to make sure I am in the best possible condition for my return to the pitch." Ibrahimovic scored 28 times in 46 appearances in his first season with United, with his eye for goal and leadership skills helping Mourinho's men win the League Cup and march towards the Europa League title.

The Swede was injured by the time United beat Ajax in the Europa League final in his native Stockholm and both the player and his club agreed to let his contract expire at the

end of the season.

But Mourinho was impressed enough by Ibrahimovic's first nine months with United that he made it clear he was open to the forward returning if his recovery went well. Ibrahimovic has been working with United's medical staff at the club's Carrington training base and his regime has been so successful that reports suggest he could be back on the pitch by late October.

Despite Ibrahimovic's encouraging recovery, which included the Swede being pictured diving off the side of a luxury yacht recently, the United boss won't rush his return. "We are delighted Zlatan is on the road to recovery and we are equally delighted to have his ambition and experience back with us," Mourinho said.

"After his contribution last season he deserves our trust and we will be patient waiting for him to return. "I have no doubt that he will be important in the second part of the season."

In Ibrahimovic's absence, United have made a flying start to the Premier League season. Mourinho spent a British record £75 million to sign Everton striker Romelu Lukaku in the close-season and the Belgian's arrival has sparked United to win 4-0 against both West Ham and Swansea in their first two league games. — AFP

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Sports

LAS VEGAS: Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr (L) and UFC light-weight champion Conor McGregor pose during a news conference at the KA Theatre at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino on Wednesday in Las Vegas, Nevada. The two will meet in a super welterweight boxing match at T-Mobile Arena tomorrow in Las Vegas. — AFP



UNDEFEATED AND UNLOVED, MAYWEATHER EYES PAYDAY