



Awqaf Secretariat grants \$600,000 to bedoons planning hajj



Indian city under siege after clashes over 'rape guru' kill 36



Trump's first pardon spares political ally Joe Arpaio



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TURKEY ARRESTS 5 OVER QATAR NEWS AGENCY HACKING

DOHA: Qatar said yesterday that Turkey has arrested five people in connection with the alleged hack of Doha's state news agency, an incident which sparked the current Gulf political crisis. The arrests were announced by Qatar's most senior legal figure, Attorney General Ali bin Fetais Al-Marri. "Our friends in Turkey answered us a short time ago," he said in comments published by the Qatar News Agency (QNA). "Five people were arrested and they are being investigated. The prosecutors in Qatar are working with the Turkish authorities to follow the case." The nationality of the suspects was not given.

The alleged hack of the QNA website took place on May 24, attributing explosive political remarks to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The remarks covered sensitive regional political subjects such as Iran, Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, Israel and the United States. Less than a fortnight later, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates severed ties with Qatar over its ties to Shiite Iran and support for Sunni Islamist extremist groups.

Qatar denies the charges and says Sheikh Tamim did not make the statements, but that the website was hacked. Doha called in the FBI to help with the hacking investigation and has accused the UAE of being behind the cyber-attack. The UAE has denied the claims. — AFP



ARANSAS PASS, Texas: An overturned trailer sits in a park in the wake of Hurricane Harvey yesterday. — AP

CORPUS CHRISTI, United States: Hurricane Harvey left a trail of devastation yesterday after the most powerful storm to hit the US mainland in over a decade slammed into Texas, destroying homes, severing power supplies and forcing tens of thousands of residents to flee. Harvey roared ashore late Friday, first pummeling the town of Rockport as a category four hurricane, packing sustained winds of 215 km per hour. A few hours later it made a second landfall just north of Rockport as a Category Three hurricane, with winds of 125 mph, the National Hurricane Center said.

Over the next hours Harvey lost strength as it moved inland over south Texas and eventually dropped to a still-dangerous Category One storm, with winds of 75 miles per hour. Although the NHC said Harvey was likely to become a tropical storm later in the day, experts said that a vast area of Texas would face potentially devastating floods over the coming days while some communities were hit by localized tornados. Emergency services were struggling to make headway as rains continued to lash down while the coast guard was responding to May Day calls from tugboats caught out at sea.

President Donald Trump, aware of the damage to George W Bush presidency's for his tardy response to Hurricane Katrina, said he was closely monitoring the relief efforts and urged everyone to "Be Safe!" "There's widespread devastation.

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POLICE PROBE KNIFE ATTACKS
IN BRUSSELS AND LONDON

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FUGITIVE THAI EX-PM IN
DUBAI, AIMING FOR UK

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Photo shows Hajj pilgrims in Makkah

TOPNOTCH SERVICES FOR KUWAIT PILGRIMS

AWQAF GRANTS KD 200,000 TO ILLEGAL RESIDENTS

JEDDAH: Kuwait's Hajj mission is fully prepared to provide topnotch medical services to its pilgrims, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. The delegation's team is currently distributing medicine and equipment to Kuwaiti Hajj groups in Makkah, head of the Kuwaiti delegation's medical services Mubarak Al-Ajmi said yesterday. Al-Ajmi, meanwhile, called on Kuwaiti missions to follow Saudi Arabia's health regulations for the safety of pilgrims.

On his part, head of Kuwait's Hajj delegation Khulaif Al-Othaina affirmed that Kuwaiti Hajj groups are strictly following the rules and regulations of the Hajj and Omra law. The delegation is well concerned about the wellbeing of Kuwaiti pilgrims and it will exert all efforts to meet their needs, said Al-Othaina in a press statement

during his tour among Kuwaiti Hajj groups. He called on the group to abide by Saudi laws regarding Hajj to ensure a safe and trouble-free trip for the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, Awqaf General Secretariat announced yesterday that it granted KD 200,000 (\$600,000) to illegal residents planning to perform the hajj, said the Acting Deputy General Secretary Musaed Al-Rakhis. The sum, which was delivered to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, would be given for pilgrimage expeditions to help this segment of the faithful cope with the hajj expenses, he said in a statement.

The secretariat, in the past, donated KD 100,000 (\$300,000) to this segment of the society to cover DNA print costs. Up to 9,580 had benefited from this financial aid.

It has also aided students of limited income families to pay school fees, he said, indicating that illegal residents received some of this assistance too. Al-Rakhis urged citizens willing to contribute to the donation to contact the secretariat. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammad Al-Jabri, has recently declared that the secretariat and Al-Zakat House together earmarked KD 300,000 (some USD 900,000) to pilgrims from the illegal residents' community.

No health threat

Iranian pilgrims in Makkah in Saudi Arabia are all right and not facing any health threat during this year's hajj season, an Iranian medical official said. The health conditions of Iranian pilgrims are very appropriate, and there is not any health problem whatsoever, the official said in a press release yesterday. However, five Iranian pilgrims have died due to heart attack in Makkah so far, he said, noting that 48 Iranian pilgrims are now at hospital for medical treatment. The number of Iranian pilgrims has notably dropped this year, compared with previous years. A total 86,500 Iranian pilgrims are expected to attend Hajj this year.

Pilgrims increase

The number of Hajj pilgrims increased in the last four decades due to the continuous expansions in ritualistic sites and multifaceted services in Makkah and elsewhere, said a Saudi ministerial report. According to a report by the Saudi Ministry of Information and Culture, the main reason for this increase was due to the develop-



Acting Deputy General Secretary of Awqaf General Secretariat Musaed Al-Rakhis

ment of infrastructure and vital services, noting that the number of pilgrims within the past 48 years have increased from around half a million annually to around three million pilgrims.

Providing his input on the report, head of operations at the ministry Abdulkhaleq Al-Zahrani said that development projects in Makkah, Al-Madina, and other regions have considerably increased number of pilgrims both from abroad and within Saudi Arabia. The new train project linking Makkah, Al-Madina, and Jeddah will help ease transportation for Hajj pilgrims, said Al-Zahrani, adding that the expansion projects in the Haram (holy sanctuary) in Makkah and other sites have helped to protect the well-being of Hajj pilgrims and enabled them to perform rituals more smoothly. — Agencies



Head of Kuwait's Hajj delegation Khulaif Al-Othaina seen during his tour with Kuwaiti Hajj groups. — KUNA photos



KUWAITI BANKS SET UP 62 BRANCHES TO HELP PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti banks have set up 62 branches to serve people with special needs since the beginning of 2017, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). In a statement published yesterday, CBK noted that it is monitoring the commitment of banks in terms and procedures issued by CBK itself on providing services to people with special needs. CBK's procedures state that each bank must set a branch for disabled people in each governorate, while also providing special ATM machines equipped with voice service system and a braille keyboard for blind people, it added. Moreover, banks are required to train their employees on sign language to deal with this category of society, provide electronic fingerprint and print their clients' account statement using braille method, CBK said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Hawally Municipality inspectors recently conducted a wide scale inspection operation on various restaurants and stores. Kuwait Municipality Services Follow-Up and Auditing Director Faleh Al-Otaibi said that the campaign resulted in filing 102 citations and destroying 24 kilograms of expired foodstuff items.

Local Spotlight

KUWAIT TODAY



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

In the past, Kuwait had an exceptional role and distinguished status with regards to freedom of expression, expats, fighting corruption, a strong parliament, key public figures and an influential press that defended the rights and freedoms of citizens and Arab causes and conflicts in general. Today, after half a century, some of us are wondering whether we are still holding the same position in front of the world, and what have we lost in the past 30 years. What has happened to us?

Mistakes happen, and this is normal for any government, but correcting them sometimes is hard, if not impossible. For example, the government committed a vital mistake in recent years when it granted citizenship to persons who don't deserve it, while many bedoons and Arabs sacrificed their lives in old Arab wars or for the liberation of Kuwait, but did not receive the same privilege. This is not something minor, because social injustice leads to negative feelings of insecurity and a lack of sense of belonging and loyalty. It could badly affect the society in the long term.

The demographic imbalance and granting of citizenship to non-eligible people have inserted people and families from other countries with different cultural and intellectual backgrounds as well as customs and traditions in the Kuwaiti environment. Now the government is trying to face this issue, but it seems to be out of control, because the key people who were involved in this issue have died and their children are innocent, as they have constitutional rights that can't be ignored. So we have to bear the consequences of this illegal act as a community and society.

The other thing here is that many Kuwaiti citizens have allowed the spread of corruption at all levels. I know that many accuse the government of waste and corruption as well as appointment of expatriates without restriction, but who allowed all this chaos? The citizen - who should be a good model for his community and in front of expats.

I have a good example. When a citizen hands a luxury car to his Asian driver, he tells him if he has a problem or an accident on the road, he must contact his Kuwaiti sponsor at once. Not for legal actions, but to find wasta to bear the least cost of getting him out for free and possibly let others take the blame. If this is not corruption, I have no other title for it. This citizen is encouraging corruption and creating an idea in the mind of his Asian driver to not worry about the police and punishment because the Kuwaiti will always back him up. Eventually, this driver will not respect traffic laws or anyone because he has the Kuwaiti's wasta...

The same applies when we bring expatriates to Kuwait on work contracts and good promises of a life like in heaven, and then do not fulfill our promises and agreements or try to circumvent them because corruption allows us to do so. They naturally will start complaining and may turn into corrupt people themselves, exploit the law or even threaten to sue us in courts.

Another issue that affects the society and people is related to the imprisonment of young people who express their views on social media according to what they see is a matter of freedom of expression in accordance with the law and the constitution granted to them as Kuwaiti citizens. But they end up in prison for many years as murderers and drug dealers. We end up losing a young soul without benefiting anyone or the society. How about teaching these kids some responsibility away from prison? How about creating social and community service?

Therefore, what some say about protecting the society should not only be words, but actually visible to the public. Things may seem small and ineffectual, but for a small society, it is important. We have a constitution that was written by thinkers, patriots and preachers who preceded us in thoughts and time. We were given the opportunity to preserve it and to affirm its rules through modern laws that strengthen the status of our country and citizens and maintain the dignity of expatriates, so everyone will be equal before the law and offer no protection for corruption.

Citizens are best ambassadors of their countries. But when we travel, we don't abide by the laws of host countries, do not respect other Arab visitors and assume we have the right to insult others and break the laws because we have an embassy that should rush to rescue us. We are only insulting our country and ourselves. A country is not about new buildings, restaurants and malls. It is about ethics, values, good education and enforcement of laws. A sustainable country should preserve the past and consider about the future in order to maintain the rights and dignity of all.

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A view of Kuwait City through the suburbs. — KUNA

GULF SHIITE FIGHTERS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy said that training Shiite fighters from Gulf states, the popular mobilization forces in Iraq pose an accelerating threat to these countries' security. The report also warned that their presence in Iraq might create disputes amongst US' regional security allies. The report explained that the total number of Gulf Shiite fighters in Iraq is 150, including around 40 Bahrainis and 30 Kuwaitis, who had all legally entered Iraq as pilgrims.

In addition, the report said the official spokesperson of the Gulf Shiite fighters Maytham Al-Jamri has appeared on many videos threatening Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. It also noted that Jamri is sentenced to death in Bahrain over his involvement in terrorist attacks and is internationally wanted. The reports adds that some of these fighters had returned to their countries with the military experiences they gained to use them there.

Online bill payment

MEW's Technical Control Director Iqbal Al-Tayyar said that over 60 percent of consumers are paying their bills online and that the rest still pay them through MEW's offices, at a time when all GCC states are closing such offices and only allow online payment, which is also planned by MEW. Tayyar added that the new power consumption rates of 25 fils per kilowatt for the government sector will take effect on Nov 22. She also noted that all government bodies had been contacted and urged to change their illumination systems to use LED lights and special sensors to turn off lights in empty rooms and offices. In addition, Tayyar noted that a contract was signed with Zain in June to install 5,000 smart meters to help conserve power.

A special hotline

Head of the joint committee and the Manpower Authority Director Abdullah Al-Motoutah announced launching a special hotline to receive complaints concerning "loose" and roaming laborers all week long. He noted that complaints will be received through WhatsApp on 96777666.

Replacing expat

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri urged Municipality officials to start replacing expat advisors with Kuwaitis wherever possible, starting with the legal, administrative and personnel departments. Notably, the municipality has already prepared lists of expat advisors to start reducing their numbers as much as possible without reshuffling or transferring them, taking into consideration that their indemnities would cost too much, after consulting the CSC.

Recruit maids

Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah issued a decision mandating companies wishing to issue a license to recruit domestic laborers to provide a bank guarantee worth KD 100,000. The decision also conditioned paying KD 40,000 per branch and that the letter of guarantee should be valid for two years.



KUWAIT: The National Guards recently celebrated the conclusion of several machinery operation training courses in the presence of the Protection and Reinforcements Commander Brigadier Hamad Salem Ahmed.

BRITAIN EYES CLOSER MILITARY TIES WITH KUWAIT

LONDON: British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon has revealed that his country is planning to sign a new military cooperation agreement with Kuwait. In an interview with KUNA Fallon said that he would discuss with Kuwaiti officials plans to buttress military cooperation and joint action to overcome security challenges.

He pointed out that Britain is ready to expand military training cooperation with Kuwait. The British Royal Air Force use the same "Eurofighter" aircraft and increasing joint exercises and training would help take military relations to new heights, he said. He stated that the British Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, known as the Red Arrows, would perform a display in Kuwait next month, which reflects the distinguished military relations between the two countries.

He reiterated his country's commitment to the security and stability of Kuwait and Arabian Gulf region. During his visit, the British Secretary is expected to hold talks with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The talks will aim to tackle the Gulf's security challenges, especially those related to the conflicts in Yemen and Syria and the progress made in Iraq as well as the next steps of the international coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, he said.

In this regard, he lauded the pivotal and great role of Kuwait as the host country of the command of the anti-IS international coalition. He also expressed appreciation of Kuwait's humanitarian role in Iraq and its support to people of the war-ravaged areas there. He said that the international coalition has liberated some four million Iraqis from the grip of the IS militants after driving them from Mosul, the last biggest city that was under their control. He, however, stressed that there is still much to be done in Northern Iraq. Thus, there is a need to discuss the next steps of the international coalition's campaign, he said.

On the post-IS Iraq, the British official underlined the



British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon (left) is pictured during an interview. —KUNA

need for upholding the Iraqi government's control over the liberated areas and the launching of a political reconciliation among all Iraqis, especially the people of Anbar Province with a view to winning the hearts and minds of Sunnis through assuring them that they would have a role in building Iraq's stability.

On the IS claiming of responsibility of the recent terror attacks in Europe, Fallon said that the group must be defeated first in its main strongholds in Iraq and Syria, particularly in the Syrian city of Raqqa, in order to curb their ability to carry out terror attacks in other parts of the world. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KFSD's PR and Media Department said that a container in the free zone near Shuwaikh Port leaked hazardous material. The report explained that on examining the leak, firemen found that 81 out of 680 barrels in the container were leaking due to improper storage conditions. Precautionary measures were taken and the leak was controlled after evacuating the site. —Photos by Hanan Al-Saadoun



KUWAIT BUILDS SIX NEW SCHOOLS IN NORTH IRAQ

BAGHDAD: Around six new Kuwaiti-financed schools of prefabricated units have been built in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, located on the outskirts of Mosul, an Iraqi health activist said yesterday. The schools, made of caravans, are part of phase five of a construction project financed by the Kuwaiti humanitarian campaign "Kuwait by your side", Dr Ahmad Al-Haity, Chairman of the United Iraqi Medical Society for Relief and Development (UIMS) said yesterday.

The project is under the supervision of Kuwaiti Ambassador Salem Al-Zaman and the Iraqi government's units of civilian crisis management, Al-Haity added. Out of the total number, four schools were built in the Nineveh Plains region, one in Qayyarah camp for the internally displaced persons, south of Mosul, and one in Mosul's left coast, he said. Each school has 16 classrooms, two units for administration, in addition to fully equipped health and medical facilities, he added, noting that the schools will open to the public in 45 days. — KUNA



CRUDE OIL EXPORTS TO CHINA 'UNCHANGED'

TOKYO: Kuwait's crude oil exports to China in the first seven months of this year remain unchanged from the same period of 2016 at 321,000 barrels per day (bpd), government data showed. In July alone, Kuwait exported 303,000 bpd to the Asian country, down 19.7 percent on the year, according to the General Administration of Customs. Kuwaiti shipments of crude oil to China exceeded the 300,000 bpd level for the fifth consecutive month, it said.

China's overall imports of crude oil in July grew 11.8 percent from a year earlier to 8.22 million bpd. Russia remained China's top supplier, with its shipments surging 54.1 percent on the year to 1.18 million bpd, followed by Saudi Arabia with 944,000 bpd, down 0.08 percent. Angola became third, but imports from the country

plunged 17.1 percent to 926,000 bpd. Iraq ranked fourth and Iran fifth, respectively.

Oil price up 42 cents

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti oil was up by 42 cents to reach \$48.69 per barrel after being at \$48.27 the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global level, the price of the American crude went down by two percent due to the threat posed by Hurricane Harvey against energy facilities located in the Gulf of Mexico. The price of the West Texas Intermediate's contracts for September delivery went down by 98 cents to settle at \$47.43 per barrel, the same case with the Brent crude's contracts for October delivery, which went down by 53 cents to \$52.04 pb. — Agencies

News

in brief

Kuwaiti arrested in Turkey

ANKARA: Kuwaiti Ambassador in Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi said yesterday that the Kuwaiti Embassy is following up the arrest of Kuwaiti citizen Abdullah Al-Shatti in Turkey. He said in a statement that the embassy communicated with the arrested citizen's family since he was caught in Ankara, and that the embassy's lawyer was checking relevant legal procedures. The embassy in Ankara received several contacts from senior officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on the developments of the case, according to the statement. But, the ambassador urged mass media to ease out their tone due to "legal sensitivity" that could negatively affect the case.

Oil spillage near Qaruh

KUWAIT: A small oil spillage was discovered near Qaruh Island Friday and ships owned by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) managed to contain the situation, said Minister of Oil as well as Minister of Water and Electricity Essam Al-Marzouq. In a statement to KUNA, the minister said that an air sortie was carried out to determine if there were pollutants near the Kuwaiti Island. The sortie was undertaken after satellite imagery showed a possible spillage near Qaruh, said the minister, affirming that everything was under control.

World drifting tourney

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti auto champions Msayar Al-Mutairi and Fahad Al-Jadie will partake in fifth round of the world drifting championship, due to begin in Scotland today. Ahmad Al-Gallaf, head of the delegation representing Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motor Racing Club, said in a statement to KUNA upon departure of the Kuwaiti team that he was confident that the pair would perform well at the international competition. The championship will involve some of the world's top drifters, Al-Gallaf said. Ceremonial inauguration of the tournament was scheduled yesterday.

Kuwaitis unharmed

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's General Consulate in Hong Kong said all Kuwaitis were unharmed in the typhoon that struck areas in Hong Kong and Macau, leaving casualties while also damaging buildings. In a statement yesterday, the consulate advised Kuwaiti citizens to follow safety regulations and immediately call the consulate on number 0085298211669 in case of emergency. Typhoon Hato hit Hong Kong and Macau last Wednesday, killing at least 16 people, while also causing massive blackouts and extreme destruction to buildings.

Kuwait Times

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KUWAIT: Farwaniya Municipality Inspectors recently conducted an inspection campaign in Khaitan. 351.5 kilograms of expired foodstuffs were confiscated and destroyed. The campaign was headed by Engineer Saeed Al-Azmi.



Crime

Report



ESCAPING MISTREATMENT

KUWAIT: Following up the case of the Ethiopian housemaid who was caught on video jumping from her sponsor's seventh-floor balcony in Sabah Al-Salem while the sponsor filmed her attempt a few months ago, the maid has recovered after receiving proper medical care in Kuwait and returned home, where she was received at the airport by her father and brother. Speaking to reporters, the maid denied that she was trying to commit suicide and stressed that she was only trying to escape her sponsor's mistreatment.

2 arrested for fighting

A citizen and a Syrian were arrested for fighting inside and outside a Fahaheel cafe, said security sources, noting that both were injured during the fight. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. In another development, a female citizen filed a complaint against a relative accusing him of insulting her in public, said security sources. A case was filed.

Drug suspect nabbed

A citizen was arrested in Farwaniya with illicit pills and two pieces of hashish. Security sources said a police patrol suspected the way the man drove his vehicle, so they stopped and searched him.

Fire in Saad Al-Abdullah

A fire broke out in a citizen's house in Saad Al-Abdullah, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze after evacuating the house. No casualties were reported. — Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

2013 PARLIAMENT'S HALF-BROTHER

By Tha'ar Al-Rasheedi

I believe that, like many others who are from the 1980s generation, we were lucky because we could read a lot of the international literature novels and plays, buy, keep and get affected by them long before the Pentium One and the Internet revolution and before the genius, Steve Jobs developed smart phones and tabs which turned the world upside down.

One of the greatest novels I have ever read is 'The Tale of Two Cities' by the famous English writer, Charles Dickens. Though I did not know much about the French Revolution, the French-British conflict nor the military geography tackled in the novel at the time, this did stop me from perceiving the novel's main theme dealing with good and evil and sacrifices in a most dramatic plot based on resemblance between the two main characters in the novel.

A French migrant who is accused of treason and the lawyer defending him. I am vague on the details but this 'Tale of Two Cities' somehow resembles our democracy and the 'Tale of Two Parliaments'; the 2013 and the 2016 parliaments. Since day one, the former was more pro-government than the government itself while the latter, elected in 2016, was a fiercely opposing one and

remained so until last January when the former minister of information and minister of state for youth affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud was grilled and the parliament suddenly turned into a very 'tame' one until now.

Most political analysts thought that state of 'tame-ness' was temporary while others thought it was the result of some kind of bargain related to the 'citizenship' issue. As a matter of fact, I wrote before, during and after the grilling motion that this parliament involves a lot of showing off and now, after seven months of calmness, this parliament proves to be nothing more than a disguised pro-government using too many opposition statements as 'verbal political vents' without any form of real monitoring or legislation.

It was the same one that dared not to force the government pass the military retirement bill. This does not mean the government is bad, it rather means that this parliament is far too weak to legislate anything. I expect the government to propose it and have the parliament unanimously pass it despite the so many parliamentary objections. This parliament appears to be an opposing one but it is purely pro-government and its dismissal will be most welcome just like is half-brother one of 2013. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

THE TYRANNY AND EMPLOYEES STATE

By Salah Al-Sayer

Man kind has always known various types of authoritarian states including ancient monarchies ruled by one authoritarian person. It has also experienced states ruled by fascist parties that monopolize states and use them to serve their corrupt ideas or fight absurd wars. We have also seen military dictatorships where armies take over political powers and have Barracks run palaces. In addition, we have

We have also seen theocratic religious states and how clergies control countries.

Here in Kuwait, we have developed a new type of state known as the 'Employees State.'

seen blue-collar dictatorships manifested by communists who have always dreamt of controlling their states. We have also seen theocratic religious states and how clergies control countries. Here in Kuwait, we have developed a new type of state known as the 'Employees State.'

One of the dangers Kuwait is really facing is the sustainability of this type of state with its flabby administrative system which is completely responsible for so many setbacks and losses through over-employment and recruiting thousands of unnecessary employees, department heads, managers, directors and directors general, assistant undersecretaries, undersecretaries, senior and semi-senior officials and endless armies of secretaries, which has all turned government departments into a number of 'mazes' out of which one would be so relieved to get out. Everybody has become subject to the mercy of the dictatorship of this state of employees.

During transitional periods, any given government would be described as a 'care-taking' one. If someone is so unlucky to have to go through the terrible administrative system that Kuwait has and do any transaction by such an extremely enlarged administrative system with so limited productivity where employees usually make it harder for the sake of protecting and keeping their vocational gains and dictatorships with the ultimate goal of controlling people's interests by endless forms of corruption. —Translated by Kuwait Times



NBK AND LOYAC ARRANGE A TRIP FOR KUWAITI YOUTH TO TANZANIA

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and LOYAC arranged a trip for Kuwaiti youth to Tanzania. This one-week trip included social initiatives and activities with tribes to get to know different cultures and learn their daily life. This sponsorship goes with NBK's support to LOYAC's annual activities and events including the trips. A group of volunteers from different backgrounds participated in this trip which was designed to build the humanitarian and adventurous skills in their personality.

The trip entitled "Rafiyah" included a visit to one of the schools to teach children the English language. The volunteers also had the chance to par-

ticipate in a group of social initiatives as interacting with children at the orphanages, cleaning campaigns and donation for food or clothes. During this trip, participants were introduced to the tribes' cultures and learn their daily life routine including several activities such as trying hunting with arrows and cooking.

Joanne Al-Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer, said: "This sponsorship is part of NBK's commitment to its Corporate Social Responsibility as well as the vital role it plays in supporting students, youths and self-building initiatives in Kuwait." "NBK always strives to empower Kuwaiti youth to realize their potentials, build their personali-

ties and motivates their ambition. This trip with LOYAC came in line with our strategy to invest in youth and develop their capabilities," she added.

NBK continues to promote a range of philanthropic missions and social welfare programs as part of its corporate social responsibility to assert its leadership in supporting Kuwait's social development, standing as a model in serving all aspects of the community. LOYAC is a nonprofit organization that runs several programs for the youth to develop their professional skills, enhance their personal growth and help them find their sense of purpose by extending themselves to others.

OVER 120 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN NBK SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded its 2017 Summer Internship Program for high school and college students. More than 120 students participated in the Summer Internship Program this year. Students participated in field activities including visits to Kuwait Airways, LOYAC and Al-Rai Media Group. Yaqoub Al-Baqer, NBK Public Relations Officer said that NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension of NBK's education outreach services. "This program is a demonstration of NBK's long-standing social involvement and commitment towards providing Kuwait's younger generation with appropriate opportunities to experience first-



Yaqoub Al-Baqer

hand the banking profession." "The five hour daily sessions featured a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to providing the interns with valuable knowledge on a variety of subjects including team work, creative thinking, means of self expression and modern banking procedures, in addition to providing interns with greater exposure to daily banking practices and norms," Al-Baqer added.

Its worth mentioning that since its inception, LOYAC participated in NBK's annual summer internship program for the first time this year. LOYAC offered students educative training programs that aim at developing knowledge and responsibility towards society. The 2017 Summer Internship Program follows several successful years of NBK Summer Internship Programs. NBK regularly organizes and designs events and packages for the youth of the country to familiarize them with the world of banking and make them responsible citizens.

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Iraq recaptures Tal Afar centre, citadel from IS



PANCHKULA: An Indian soldier looks at burning vehicles set alight by rioting followers of a religious leader convicted of rape in Panchkula. — AFP photos

INDIA CITY UNDER SIEGE AFTER CLASHES OVER RAPE GURU KILL 36

COURT PRONOUNCES GURU GUILTY OF RAPING TWO FOLLOWERS

PANCHKULA, India: Hundreds of troops yesterday patrolled a northern Indian city hit by deadly clashes that killed at least 36 people after thousands protested a court's decision to convict a controversial spiritual leader of rape. The army was deployed in Haryana state's Panchkula city after tens of thousands of followers of guru Ram Rahim Singh went on an angry rampage, attacking television vans and setting fire to dozens of private vehicles.

Security forces were put on high alert to ensure there was no repeat of the violence that erupted Friday afternoon, minutes after a special court pronounced the self-styled guru guilty of raping two of his followers. Mobile phone services were disrupted in some parts of Haryana and neighboring Punjab state, where authorities had earlier imposed a curfew following the clashes. Although

the curfew was lifted in Panchkula yesterday, restrictions on public assembly remained in place.

Haryana police chief B S Sandhu said Saturday at least 36 people had died with the toll likely to rise as some of the wounded were being treated for serious head injuries. "The toll within the state is at least 36 dead and around 200 injured including about 50 police and security personnel," said Sandhu. "Some of the injured didn't come to the hospitals fearing that they could face police action or arrests for involvement in the violence," he said. Official sources said earlier that at least 32 people had died, with most of the fatalities caused by gun shots.

The 50-year-old Singh is known as the "guru in bling" for his penchant for bejeweled costumes and claims to have more than 50 million loyal followers worldwide. The rape case was

brought against him after an anonymous letter was sent to then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002 accusing him of repeatedly raping the sender and several other women in the sect. A judge asked the Central Bureau of Investigations to look into the accusations, but it took years to trace the alleged victims and it was not until 2007 that two women came forward and filed charges.

Unjust verdict

Some 200,000 members of Singh's sect had gathered in Panchkula in a show of support a day before the verdict, which enraged his followers, with many saying they were in a state of shock. "I have been with dear Ram Rahim Singh for around 14 years. I can bet that all the allegations against our guru are false," said Rajkumar, a

shopkeeper from Haryana who was undergoing treatment at the hospital. "He can't do any wrong... He works to rid the world of all its troubles," he said, his head heavily bandaged.

Ajay Garg, a doctor in Panchkula, blamed the police for allowing the situation to spiral out of control. "Our family was very scared. We went to the third floor of our house. They (mobs) were out of control and even damaged my car which was parked outside," he said. Singh's Dera Sacha Sauda sect, whose headquarters are located in nearby Sirsa town, said it would appeal the verdict. "This is unjust. We will appeal against the judgment," it said in a statement.

The sprawling Sirsa premises, spread across nearly 1,000 acres, include schools, sports facilities, a hospital and a cinema hall thanks to Singh's love for the silver screen. In 2015 Singh



MUMBAI: This file photo shows Indian chief of the religious sect Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS) Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh at a news conference to launch the score for his film 'MSG-2 The Messenger' in Mumbai.

started a film franchise portraying him as MSG or the 'Messenger of God', performing miracles, preaching to thousands and beating up gangsters while singing and dancing. His last flick 'MSG - The Warrior Lion Heart' was released last year, with the guru playing a secret agent fighting aliens and UFOs. Singh's sentencing will be announced tomorrow. —AFP

MAN WITH KNIFE SHOT DEAD AFTER STABBING SOLDIER IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS: A man wielding a knife was shot dead Friday after wounding a soldier in Brussels in an "attempted terrorist murder" while in London counter-terror experts were investigating a similar attack on police near Buckingham Palace.

The two incidents come as much of Europe is on high alert following a string of major attacks over the past two years-most of which have been claimed by, or blamed on, jihadists. Last week, Spain was hit by twin vehicle attacks which left 15 dead, and another two people were killed in a stabbing spree in Finland, with the violence carried out by radicalized youngsters.

Belgian prosecutors said the attacker yelled "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) during the assault before being shot by a soldier in the centre of city which has been on high alert since last year's carnage at the airport and on the metro.

One of the soldiers was "slightly" wounded in the attack which Mayor Philippe Close said was perpetrated by a "lone individual". Overnight, police raided the suspect's home in Bruges, northwest Belgium, with federal prosecutors opening an investigation into "attempted terrorist murder", a statement said.

Somali-Belgian attacker

During the attack near the Grand Place in central Brussels at 8:00 pm, the man rushed at several soldiers from behind and struck them with a knife, prompting one of them to open fire. "The man was hit and died shortly afterwards in hospital from his wounds," the prosecutors' statement said. As well as the knife, police found a replica gun and two copies of the Koran on him. The assailant was a Belgian national of Somali origin who was born in 1987, authorities confirmed. He arrived in the country in 2004 and was granted Belgian nationality in 2015.

Although not known for any terror-related activities, he had an assault and battery charge on his record from February, the statement said. Less than two hours later, two British police officers were slightly injured while arresting a man with a large knife outside Buckingham Palace in London. The 26-year-old attacker, who was initially detained on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and assaulting police, was later arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000.

"Detectives from the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command are now investigating the incident," police said. The queen was at her

Balmoral residence in Scotland at the time. With much of Europe on edge over the attacks, many of them 'low-tech' assaults using knives or vehicles as weapons, thousands of people were expected to take to the streets of Barcelona yesterday evening in a defiant march under the slogan "No tinc por"-Catalan for "not afraid".

Lone attacker

The Brussels attack happened on a boulevard near the Grand Place central square, one of the "sensitive" areas of the capital where armed soldiers are on patrol because of the terror threat. "I heard yelling and straight away two shots," a witness called Yohan said, who did not wish to give his surname. As he approached, he said he saw "a soldier bleeding from his hand and a man on the ground," who had a beard and was wearing a hood.

Soldiers have been deployed at railway stations and landmark buildings in the Belgian capital since the November 2015 attacks on Paris when investigators found the assailants had a clear link Brussels. Their presence has been reinforced since suicide bombers struck Zaventem Airport and Maalbeek metro station in March 2016, killing 32 people and wounding hun-



BRUSSELS: Policemen stand guard the Boulevard Emile Jacqmain in the city centre of Brussels where a man is alleged to have attacked soldiers with a knife and was shot. — AFP

ders more. The carnage in Paris, which left 130 people dead and hundreds more wounded, was claimed by the Islamic State group, which also said it was behind the bombings in Brussels.

In June, a man who tried to bomb a Brussels Central train station was shot dead by a soldier. No one was injured but officials said the consequences could have been severe if the bomb, which was

packed nails and gas canisters, had detonated. In Britain, 35 people have been killed in three attacks in London and Manchester since March. Two of those involved a vehicle ploughing into pedestrians. The other attack was a bombing in May at the end of a pop concert by US star Ariana Grande in Manchester which killed 22 people, a third of them children.—AFP



Iraq recaptures Tal Afar centre, citadel from IS



PANCHKULA: An Indian soldier looks at burning vehicles set alight by rioting followers of a religious leader convicted of rape in Panchkula. — AFP photos

INDIA CITY UNDER SIEGE AFTER CLASHES OVER RAPE GURU KILL 36

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LEXUS SUV MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD
GX460	2016	White Pearl CS.	Beige	20,698	15,999
GX460	2016	Starlight Black GF	Beige	24,633	16,000
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	24,696	18,995
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	35,655	18,995
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	37,609	18,995
LX570	2015	Platinum Silver ME.	Beige	15,201	19,750
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Beige	16,814	18,995
LX570	2015	Mercury Gray MC.	Beige	38,775	18,995
LX570	2016	Sonic Titanium	Beige	51,135	28,750
LX570	2016	White Pearl CS.	Beige	31,500	25,750
RX350	2015	Starlight Black GF	Tan	43,288	11,995
RX350	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Tan	51,319	11,995
RX350	2015	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	72,855	11,995
RX450	2015	White Pearl CS.	Black	32,211	13,750
RX450	2015	Mercury Gray MC.	Black	39,816	13,750

LEXUS SEDAN MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD
ES250	2015	Sleek Ecru ME.	Biege	27,350	9,995
ES250	2015	Platinum Silver ME.	Biege	42,483	9,995
ES250	2015	White Pearl CS.	Biege	45,629	9,995
ES250	2016	Sonic Titanium	Clove (Wood Brown)	31,615	11,750
ES350	2016	Mercury Gray MC.	Clove (Wood Brown)	20,027	13,599
ES350	2016	Graphite Black GF	Clove (Wood Brown)	17,544	13,995
ES350	2016	Sonic Quartz	Clove (Wood Brown)	22,861	13,995
GS450h	2015	Sonic Titanium	Saddle Tan	28,901	13,999
GS450h	2015	White Nova GF.	Saddle Tan	26,357	13,999
GS450h	2015	Starlight Black GF	Saddle Tan	36,143	13,999
LS460	2016	Sonic Quartz	Biege	9,739	19,995
LS600h	2015	Sonic Titanium	Biege	11,851	25,999
LS460	2014	White Pearl CS.	Biege	38,001	15,999
LS460	2016	Sonic Titanium	Saddle Tan/MD. Brown	0	24,995
LS460	2016	White Pearl CS.	Saddle Tan/MD. Brown	0	24,995



JORDAN SAYS SYRIA TIES HEADED IN RIGHT DIRECTION

AMMAN: Jordan has said its relations with the Syrian regime are heading in the “right direction” and looked forward to a reopening of the border crossings with its war-torn neighbor. “Our relations with the Syrian state and regime are going in the right direction,” government spokesman Mohamed Momani said on television on Friday night. Momani highlighted the “stability” of the situation in southern Syria, across the border from Jordan.

The government spokesman, who is also state

minister for information, said his remarks were “a very important message that everyone should hear”. A ceasefire brokered by the United States, Russia and Jordan in the southern Syrian provinces of Daraa, Quneitra and Suweida has largely held since it entered into force July 9. Russia and Iran, the Syrian regime’s main allies, and rebel-backer Turkey agreed in May to create four safe zones in Syria in a deal aimed at bringing a lasting truce.

Their negotiations are parallel to UN-sponsored

talks. Moscow believes the “de-escalation zone” in southern Syria can only be put in place with the agreement of the United States and Jordan. “The ceasefire is holding, and we hope there will soon be additional measures to consolidate stability and security in Syria,” said Momani. “If the current situation continues and southern Syria stabilizes, it would allow for the reopening of the crossing points between the two states,” he added.

Jordan is one of the few Arab countries not to have closed its embassy in Damascus, and the

Syrian diplomatic mission in Amman also remains open. The kingdom shares a border of more than 370 kilometers with Syria, where over 330,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since its conflict broke out in 2011. The economy of Jordan, a country devoid of natural resources, has been severely affected by the closure of borders with Iraq and Syria, which are both at war. The United Nations says Jordan is hosting more than 650,000 Syrian refugees, while the kingdom puts their actual number at 1.4 million. —AFP



MOSUL: A fighter of the Hashed Al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization units) flashes the victory gesture during the advance in the eastern part of the town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, after the Iraqi government announced the launch of the operation to retake it from Islamic State (IS) group control. —AFP

IRAQ RECAPTURES TAL AFAR CENTRE, CITADEL FROM IS

IRAQI FORCES DEAL WITH FINAL POCKETS OF MILITANTS

TAL AFAR, Iraq: Iraqi forces announced yesterday the ouster of Islamic State group jihadists from central Tal Afar and its historic citadel, leaving them poised to fully recapture one of the last IS urban strongholds in the country. The advance, less than a week into an assault on the strategic city, comes after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory in July over the jihadists in Iraq’s second city Mosul, where IS declared its “caliphate” in 2014.

“Units of the Counter-Terrorism Service liberated the Citadel and Basatin districts and raised the Iraqi flag on top of the citadel,” operation commander General Abdulamir Yarallah said in a statement. The CTS and federal police units had also seized three northern districts and the Al-Rabia neighborhood west of the citadel, after having retaking the district of Al-Taliaa to the south on Friday. Clashes were ongoing on the northern outskirts and Iraqi forces were dealing with final pockets of jihadists inside the city, Yarallah said.

Columns of smoke could be seen rising over the city after the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary coalition fighting alongside government troops seized the Al-Khadra and Al-Jazeera districts. Abbas Radhi, a Hashed al-Shaabi fighter, said IS had resisted the advance mostly with sniper fire. “There are also booby-trapped cars, mortars. But they’ve been defeated, God willing,” he said. Government troops and units of the Hashed al-Shaabi, backed by a US-led coalition against IS, launched the assault last Sunday after weeks of coalition and Iraqi air strikes.

Tal Afar sits on a strategic route between IS-controlled territories in Syria and Mosul, 70 kilo-

meters further east. Progress in Tal Afar has been far more rapid than in Mosul, which only fell to Iraqi forces after a grueling nine-month battle. Officials have said they hope to announce victory in Tal Afar by Eid al-Adha, the Muslim holiday set to start in Iraq on September 2.

Obstacle course

Until its takeover by IS, Tal Afar was largely populated by Shiite Turkmen, whose beliefs are anathema to the Sunni hardliners of IS. Directly targeted by the jihadists, most of the city’s 200,000-strong population fled. Some members of Tal Afar’s Sunni minority joined the jihadists’ ranks, forming an IS contingent with a particular reputation for violence. Pro-government forces faced an obstacle course of roads blocked with earth embankments and strategically-parked trucks, as well as sniper fire and mortar shelling.

Troops also said they discovered a network of underground tunnels used by the jihadists to launch attacks behind lines of already conquered territory, or to escape. The International Organization for Migration said “thousands of civilians” had fled Tal Afar since the offensive began. Those who flee through desert areas face soaring temperatures for long periods, putting them at risk of dehydration, said Viren Falcao of the Danish Refugee Council.

Officials have said the capture of the city would make it even more difficult for the jihadists to transport fighters and weapons between Iraq and Syria. The jihadist group has lost much of the territory it controlled and thousands of its fighters have been killed since late 2014, when US and Arab allies formed an inter-

national coalition to defeat the group. Iraq announced the “liberation” of Tikrit, 160 kilometers north of Baghdad, in early 2015.

Sunni-majority Ramadi, capital of Anbar province, fell in February 2016, followed by nearby Fallujah four months later. But the group’s biggest defeat was in Mosul, where some 30,000 Iraqi forces backed by US-led air support launched a vast operation in October. Three months later, they retook the city’s east and turned their attention to the west, finally declaring the whole city “liberated” on July 9.

Future offensives

The jihadist group still retains territory in Iraq and neighboring Syria, where a US-backed Kurdish-Arab coalition is fighting to drive the group from its de facto Syrian capital Raqa. Once Tal Afar is retaken, Baghdad is expected to launch a new offensive on Hawija, 300 kilometers north of Baghdad. IS is also present in the vast western province of Anbar, where it controls several zones along the border with war-ravaged Syria, including the Al-Qaim area.

The Tal Afar advance came as the foreign and defence ministers of France visited Baghdad on Saturday to affirm their country’s support in the fight against IS. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Defense Minister Florence Parly, who arrived in the Iraqi capital on Friday evening, were scheduled to meet Abadi. “As long as our common enemy has not been eradicated, France will continue to take part” in the campaign, said Parly, whose country’s forces have carried out air and artillery strikes in support of Iraqi operations. —AFP

ZAMBIA PRESIDENCY SLAMS POLICE FOR HALTING OPPOSITION PRAYERS

LUSAKA: The Zambian presidency yesterday condemned as “regrettable” a police decision to halt a prayer meeting this week at which the main opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema was due to appear. On Thursday heavily armed police blocked entry to the capital’s Anglican cathedral where the United Party for National Development (UPND) leader had been due to make his first public appearance since being freed from jail last week. “The action to stop a church meeting is regrettable,” Amos Chanda, spokesman for President Edgar Lungu, told reporters.

Hichilema was released last week after four months in custody on treason charges. Blocking his first public appearance since then was widely seen as highlighting a crackdown on dissent by Zambian authorities. Nicknamed “HH”, he had been charged with treason for allegedly failing to give

way to Lungu’s motorcade in April. He disputes the results of last year’s election, which he narrowly lost, and refuses to recognize Lungu as the president.

In July Lungu decreed a 90-day state of emergency, giving the police increased powers of arrest and detention, alleging that opposition parties were behind a string of arson attacks aimed at creating “terror and panic”. But Chanda said that “even under a threatened state of emergency police should exercise maximum restraint”. “The police should ensure that civil liberties are not infringed upon,” he stressed.

Police officials justified their action on Thursday, alleging that the event’s organizers had failed to hand in a written notification to them. Chanda said other planned opposition events should go ahead without police obstruction. —AFP

SYRIA KURDS PREPARING 1ST VOTE IN ‘FEDERAL REGION’

QAMISHLI, Syria: Syrian Kurdish authorities yesterday began laying the groundwork for the first local elections in the federal system they are establishing in the country’s north, an official said. Hadiya Youssef, co-chair of the federal system’s constituent assembly, said three rounds of elections would be held starting in September. “In this phase, we are outlining the electoral process by holding meetings with the local councils and societal stakeholders,” Youssef said on the sidelines of a summit in the Kurdish-majority city of Qamishli.

The meeting brought together Kurdish, Arab, Syriac and other parties to discuss how each of the three electoral phases would be managed. The first round on September 22, according to Youssef, would see residents vote for representatives on the neighborhood level. Elections for executive councils for towns and regions are planned for November 3. Then, on January 19, they would elect legislative councils for each of the three cantons, as well as a single

joint legislative assembly.

“Every region will have its own legislative council, with the prerogative to set laws in the region as long as they do not contradict the social contract,” Youssef said. Legislative assemblies would have four-year terms, but local delegates and executive councils would have two-year terms. Taking advantage of the Syrian army’s withdrawal from swathes of northern territory, Kurdish authorities declared three “autonomous” cantons there in 2013.

Last year, leading Kurdish and Arab parties announced they would establish a “federal” system across the cantons, a declaration lambasted by Syria’s regime, the opposition, and local rivals. Youssef yesterday defended the plan, saying it was not aimed at breaking Syria apart. “Our federal system is geographic and does not aim to divide Syria,” she said. “The objections from the regime and opposition parties all say that they do not support Syria’s partition-neither do we.” —AFP



ARBIL: Iraqi Kurds ride in a powerboat flying Kurdish flags near sunset during the Watercraft festival, in lake Darband in Raniya district, 70 kilometers east of Arbil, the capital of the autonomous region of Kurdistan. — AFP

FUGITIVE THAI EX-PM YINGLUCK IN DUBAI

BANGKOK: Fugitive former Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra fled to Dubai and may try to seek asylum in the UK, a junta source said yesterday, after she ducked a legal ruling, wrong-footing the court and her supporters alike. Yingluck, 50, was due on Friday morning to arrive at the Supreme Court for the ruling in her trial for criminal negligence that could have seen her jailed for 10 years. But she did not show up, staging a vanishing act that wrote a dramatic closing chapter to the 16-year political saga of her mega-rich Shinawatra family.

Speculation swirled yesterday on the whereabouts of Thailand’s first female prime minister-and her possible escape route. The junta source, who is well-placed in the security hierarchy, gave a detailed description of her escape, saying she took a private jet from Thailand to Singapore and onto Dubai, the base of Shinawatra family patriarch Thaksin, who is Yingluck’s older brother.

“Thaksin has long prepared escape plan for his sister... he would not allow his sister to spend even a single day in prison,” the source added, requesting anonymity. “But Dubai is not Yingluck’s final destination,” the source said, adding she may be aiming “to claim asylum in Britain”. Thaksin, who once owned Manchester City football club, owns property in London and spends significant amounts of time in the city.

The Shinawatra’s political network remained tight-lipped yesterday in a media blackout that only served to heighten speculation over her dash from Thailand and the likelihood of a possible

deal with the junta to allow her to leave. A senior source inside the family’s Pheu Thai party, also requesting anonymity, yesterday said Yingluck had fled the country for Dubai a few days before the ruling. The Shinawatra political dynasty emerged in 2001 with a series of groundbreaking welfare schemes that won them votes and the loyalty of the rural poor.

But their popularity rattled Thailand’s royalist, army-aligned elite, who battered successive governments linked to the clan with coups, court cases and protests. Yingluck’s government was toppled by a coup in 2014 and she was put on trial over negligence linked to a costly rice subsidy that propped up her rural political base. Thaksin, Yingluck’s elder brother, has been based partly in Dubai since he fled Thailand in 2008 to avoid jail for a corruption conviction. He was toppled from power by a 2006 coup. —AFP

Houdini act

Thai newspapers reported that Yingluck fled through a land border to Cambodia, flew to Singapore and on to Dubai, perhaps two days before her court date. It was a curveball that appeared to surprise even her family-an elder brother and sister waited at the court for her arrival alongside thousands of supporters. Shinawatra loyalists expressed sympathy with her shock move, saying the ruling would have been predetermined as her case was politically motivated. “If she has fled abroad it is because this set of judges are appointed by the military and do not come from a democratic system,” Surachet Chaikosol, 59, a ‘Red Shirt’ activist said. —AFP

TURKEY OPPOSITION CHIEF CHALLENGES ERDOGAN WITH ‘JUSTICE’ CONGRESS

CANAKKALE, Turkey: Turkey’s main opposition leader yesterday warned President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that the whole country has a “thirst for justice”, opening an unprecedented four-day meeting protesting alleged violations under his rule. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the secular Republican People’s Party (CHP), is hoping the “justice congress” in the western Canakkale region will keep up the momentum of a month-long march highlighting judicial abuses in Turkey after the July 15 failed coup.

With politics heating up in Turkey even two years before the next elections, Erdogan will later yesterday host a mass rally at the opposite end of the country marking the anniversary of the 1071 Battle of Malazgirt where pre-Ottoman tribes defeated the Byzantines. More than 50,000 people have been arrested under Turkey’s state of emergency, imposed after last year’s failed coup, and almost three times that number have lost their jobs, including teachers, judges, soldiers and police officers.



CANAKKALE: Participants take part in a ‘justice workshop’ during the ‘Justice Congress’ of the main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) in Canakkale. — AFP

“Eighty million have a thirst for justice,” Kilicdaroglu said, referring to Turkey’s population. “It is my duty to seek justice. It is my duty to stand by the innocent and be against tyrants,” he told some 10,000 people attending Saturday’s event.

The last straw

Kilicdaroglu earlier this summer walked 450 kilometers from Istanbul to Ankara to protest against the sentencing of one of his MPs, Enis Berberoğlu, to 25 years in jail for leaking classified information to an opposition newspaper. Under the simple slogan “justice”, the march culminated last month in a huge rally in Istanbul that attracted hundreds of thousands, the biggest event staged by Erdogan’s critics in years.

Kilicdaroglu condemned the crackdown as a “civilian coup” and said that the jailing of Berberoğlu “became the last straw”. Referring to the jailing of journalists after the coup bid, Kilicdaroglu said: “You cannot talk about law, rights and justice in a country where more than 150 journalists are in prison.” The pick of the region for the CHP congress is also significant as it was the site of the World War I Battle of Gallipoli where the Ottoman army successfully repelled Allied forces.

The CHP was founded in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was a Turkish commander in the Gallipoli campaign where the heroism of Turkish troops is said to have helped lay the foundation of the modern republic. In a relaxed atmosphere, supporters pitched tents under shady woods to be their homes for the duration of the four-day congress which will have special sessions on different kinds of rights abuses. —AFP

NATIONAL SECURITY AIDE SEBASTIAN GORKA LEAVES WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON: Sebastian Gorka, a national security aide whose hardline views on immigration and terrorism caused discord inside and outside the White House, is the latest official to exit President Donald Trump's administration. Gorka told The Associated Press Friday that he had resigned from his position. A White House official, however, said Gorka did not resign but "no longer works at the White House." That official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A former editor for the conservative Breitbart News website, Gorka joined the administration as a counterterrorism adviser. But he operated outside of the National Security Council and his exact responsibilities were not clearly outlined, though he was a prominent advocate for

Trump on television news. Gorka declined to discuss the reasons he left the White House, but pointed toward excerpts

from his resignation letter that were posted Friday evening by The Federalist website. Gorka wrote that "the individuals who most embodied and represented the policies that will 'Make America Great Again,' have been internally countered, systematically removed, or undermined in recent months." He criticized Trump's recent speech on Afghanistan, writing, "The fact that those who drafted and approved the speech removed any mention of Radical Islam or radical Islamic terrorism proves that a crucial element of your presidential campaign has been lost."

He also wrote, "the best and most effective way I can support you, Mr President, is from outside the People's

House." Gorka's exit follows the departure of chief strategist Steve Bannon, a key adviser in Trump's general election campaign, but a contentious presence in a White House divided by warring staff loyalties. Bannon quickly returned to his post at Breitbart News. Bannon left the White House after the arrival of new chief of staff, John Kelly, who had embarked on a personnel review of West Wing staff.

Kelly has sought to impose discipline on a chaotic West Wing, limiting dissenting voices, restricting access to the president and "stacking the deck" on major decisions to guide Trump toward an outcome. The administration has seen a number of high-profile exits in recent months, including Trump's first press secretary, Sean Spicer, and his first chief of staff, Reince Priebus.—AP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, deputy assistant to President Trump, Sebastian Gorka, talks with people in the Treaty Room in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington during a ceremony commemorating Israeli Independence Day.—AP

DONALD TRUMP PARDONS EX-SHERIFF JOE ARPAIO

US PRESIDENT CALLS ARPAIO A PATRIOT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Friday pardoned controversial former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was convicted last month of criminal contempt for illegally targeting Hispanic immigrants. In his first act of presidential clemency, Trump pardoned the deeply divisive 85-year-old who ignored a federal court order that he stop detaining illegal migrants. "He kept Arizona safe!" Trump tweeted, calling Arpaio a "patriot."

The move earned immediate scorn from Democrats, some Republicans and rights groups, who accused the Republican billionaire of seeking to divide the country which is still reeling from Trump's controversial remarks on racial unrest in Charlottesville. In a statement, the White House said Arpaio—who made detainees wear pink underwear and housed them in tented desert camps—had "more than fifty years of admirable service to our nation."

The former sheriff of Maricopa County, who revealed in his reputation as "America's toughest sheriff," had been due to be sentenced in October. Arpaio tweeted that he was "incredibly grateful" to Trump, and suggested his conviction was "a political witch hunt by holdovers in the Obama justice department!" He also asked supporters to donate to his legal defense fund.

Worthy of pardon

According to the White House, as sheriff Arpaio protected "the public from the scourges of crime and illegal immigration." Arpaio is "a worthy candidate for a presidential pardon," it added. Trump had hinted that a pardon was coming during a meandering speech in Arizona earlier this week, when he suggested Arpaio was convicted for "doing his job" and predicted that "he's going to be just fine." The announcement still came as a shock for many. Republican Arizona Senator John McCain said officers of the law "should always seek to be beyond reproach" in their commitment to fairly enforce the law. And he noted that Arpaio "was found guilty of criminal contempt" for illegally profiling Latinos living in Arizona "based on their perceived immigration status in violation of a judge's orders." Trump "has the authority to make



IOWA: In this file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, left, is joined by Maricopa County, Arizona, Sheriff Joe Arpaio during a news conference in Marshalltown, Iowa.—AP

this pardon, but doing so at this time undermines his claim for the respect of rule of law as Arpaio has shown no remorse for his actions," McCain's statement read. Arizona's other senator, Republican Jeff Flake, wrote on Twitter: "Regarding the Arpaio pardon, I would have preferred that the President honor the judicial process and let it take its course."

Presidential endorsement of racism

Others were more forceful in their denunciations. "Joe Arpaio is a bigot who targeted the Hispanic community for years. He should have served his time," said Democratic Congressman Joaquin Castro. The American Civil Liberties Union, a leading civil rights group, expressed outrage. "With his pardon of Arpaio, Trump has chosen lawlessness over justice, division over unity, hurt over healing," said the ACLU's deputy legal director Cecilia Wang.

"Once again, the president has acted in sup-

port of illegal, failed immigration enforcement practices that target people of color and have been struck down by the courts. "His pardon of Arpaio is a presidential endorsement of racism." UnidosUS, the largest Hispanic rights advocacy group in the country, decried the pardon as "obscene." "Sheriff Joe Arpaio was the instigator of racial profiling and made official a policy of harassment and abuse based on the color of one's skin in Maricopa County," said UnidosUS president Janet Murguia.

"And tonight, president Trump gave the blessing of his administration to pursue those disgraceful and unlawful policies in every state and locality in the land." The US constitution offers the president almost unlimited pardon powers. Conservative commentator Bill Kristol suggested the pardon "gets people used" to the idea of presidential pardons as the FBI investigation into the Trump campaign's alleged collusion with Russia deepens.—AFP



LONDON: A young girl adds finishing touches to paper hearts adorning a fence in Kensington, near the burnt-out remains of Grenfell Tower in London ahead of the Notting Hill Carnival.—AFP

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL TURNS GREEN FOR TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY

LONDON: In the shadow of charred Grenfell Tower, Londoners are preparing decorations for this weekend's Notting Hill Carnival to commemorate the victims of the fire that killed at least 80 people. Volunteers are busy cutting out paper hearts, painting banners and inflating balloons ahead of Europe's biggest street festival today and tomorrow in the same streets where the tragedy unfolded in June.

"Green is a beautiful color, of healing, of growth, and strength in adversity," said Toby Laurent Belson, who works at a donation centre filled with piles of clothes for victims of the fire. "The plan is to turn the carnival green for Grenfell," he said. The decorations "remind people of what's happened and show solidarity". The color was chosen by local schoolchildren as a way of paying homage to their friends lost in the blaze. Hundreds were left homeless by the fire, in a working-class enclave of Britain's richest borough where multi-million pound mansions stand just a short walk from dilapidated public housing.

Protest and celebrate

The appeal for volunteers to help make decorations travelled far beyond the neighborhood, thanks to social media. It is also a way of communicating the anger many feel against the local authorities they hold responsible for the fire. "It's an opportunity

for the communities to come together and combat a lot of the negative images we see on social media and through the news," said Swaz Macaly, 24, a radio presenter from east London.

"I think there's a lot of anger because the tragedy should never have happened... And so people are angry and their anger is just, but it needs to be channeled." The Caribbean-style festival in filled with piles of clothes was started in the 1960s following a series of race riots between new arrivals from former British colonies and local whites. "Carnival was born through suffering. The beauty of carnival is the ability to be able to protest and celebrate," said Ursula Parvex, a 37-year-old local teacher who was wearing a green t-shirt.

Painter Sabrina Rowan Hamilton said it was "a way of celebrating multicultural London", symbolized by Grenfell Tower itself where 34 languages were spoken. Hundreds of thousands of people are expected over the two days of the carnival—where there will also be more solemn moments to commemorate a tragedy that has scarred the local community. A minute's silence will be held during the colorful, ear-splitting parade on both days and in the area immediately around the tower there will be a reflection zone for people to come and pay their respects.—AFP

VENEZUELA TO STAGE WAR GAMES IN WARNING TO TRUMP

CARACAS: Venezuela kicks off two days of military drills yesterday in response to US President Donald Trump's threat of military action and newly announced sanctions on the crisis-stricken nation. Trump warned on August 11 that the United States was mulling a range of options against Venezuela, "including a possible military option if necessary." His Vice President Mike Pence later played down the threat, insisting that Washington was prioritizing a diplomatic solution and economic sanctions.

National security advisor HR McMaster followed suit, saying "no military actions are anticipated in the near future." But tension only surged again when the White House made good on the sanctions threat on Friday, unveiling its first-ever sanctions to target Venezuela as a whole, rather than just Maduro and his inner circle. The measures ban trade in new bonds issued by the Venezuelan government or its cash-cow oil company, PDVSA.

That could choke off access to New York debt markets and substantially raise the likelihood of Venezuela being forced into default. Venezuela called the measures the "worst aggression" yet. "We will protect our people and the people of the republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, are going to stand up," said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza.

Trump's threat of military force has bolstered Maduro's oft-repeated claim that Washington is plotting to topple him and wants to grab control of Venezuela's oil—the largest proven reserves in the world. Maduro is under international pressure over his handling of an economic and political crisis. The socialist president is resisting oppo-



CARACAS: Militia members' line up to return rifles after military training in Fort Tiuna, Caracas, Venezuela.—AP

sition calls for early elections to replace him. The center right-led opposition and international powers including the US say he is turning Venezuela into a dictatorship.

Maduro's opponents accuse military police and pro-Maduro militia of beating and killing anti-government protesters. Protest clashes have left 125 people dead so far this year, according to prosecutors. Maduro says the violence and the economic crisis are a US-backed conspiracy.

Military loyalty

Maduro, the political heir to the late Hugo Chavez, has managed to

hang onto power through it all, despite food shortages and social upheaval. His grip is largely thanks to the support of the military, which holds vast powers in his government, including over food distribution. The opposition has repeatedly called on the army to abandon Maduro so far to no avail. He has only faced low-level dissent, such as from the two rebel officers who staged a raid on an army base this month.

On Thursday, the president issued a stern warning to the armed forces not to break ranks. "We must be clear, especially for the youth in the military, that we

must close ranks within the homeland—that this is no time for any fissures and that those with doubts should leave the armed forces immediately," he said in a speech to the top military brass.

"You are with Trump and the imperialists, or you are with the Bolivarian national armed forces and the homeland," he added. "Never before has Venezuela been threatened in such a way." Maduro's critics accuse him of coopting the military with top cabinet posts, as well as hijacking state institutions, such as by installing a new constituent assembly packed with loyalists.—AFP

TRANSGENDER TROOPS CALL BAN STEP BACKWARD FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

SAN DIEGO: Active-duty transgender troops say a policy change that puts them at risk of being removed and indefinitely bars transgender people from enlisting in the military is a step backward for civil rights that will promote inequality in the armed forces. President Donald Trump on Friday directed the Pentagon to extend a ban on transgender individuals joining the military but gave the Pentagon the authority to decide the future of openly transgender people already serving. Trump appeared to leave open the possibility of allowing some transgender people who already are in uniform.

The guidance from the White House contradicts Trump's words, Army Capt. Jennifer Sims said, pointing out that he just praised the military for its tolerance when he told veterans in Nevada on Wednesday that those in uniform come from all walks of life and are united by shared values and a shared sense of duty. Days earlier, Trump, speaking to thousands of soldiers at the Army's Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, in Arlington, Virginia, denounced prejudice, bigotry and hate in the wake of violence

that erupted at a rally organized by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia. "It's going to create this situation where there is a complete inequality in how transgender troops are treated," said Sims, 28, who is based in Germany and is taking pills to prepare for her transition surgery. That is not the military's problem, said Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military

Readiness, which has opposed allowing transgender people to serve. "The armed forces are not just another equal opportunity employer," Donnelly said in a statement. The military's limited funds, she added, should not be used "to indulge transgender demands." Transgender people have been allowed to serve openly in the military since June 2016. Trump, in a series of tweets on July 26, announced that he planned to end that policy.

The government "will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US military," he tweet-

ed, contending that their service entailed "tremendous medical costs and disruption." A 2016 study by the RAND Corp. estimated it would cost the military \$2.4 million to \$8.4 million a year to provide gender transition-related coverage, an increase of 0.04 percent to 0.13 percent in health care spending for active-duty members. Researchers estimated 29 to 129 active-duty service members annually would seek such treatment.

Meanwhile, it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars to discharge thousands of transgender personnel, according to a study released this month by the Palm Center, an independent research institute. The new guidance, as described by an official familiar with its contents but not authorized by the White House to discuss it publicly, appears to be less rigid than the complete ban that Trump tweeted about.

The official said the guidance puts a stop to recruitment of transgender individuals and prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for sexual reassignment surgery, except in cases where it's deemed necessary to protect the health of an individual who has already begun the transition. But it would give Defense Secretary Jim Mattis six months to determine circumstances in which those currently in uniform who are openly transgender might be permitted to continue serving.

Equal treatment

Jennifer Levi, an attorney with the LGBT-rights group GLAD, said that current policy "requires equal treatment of transgender service members, including that they are subject to the same standards of deployment as other soldiers." GLAD and another LGBT-rights organization this month sued in U.S. District Court in Washington on behalf of five transgender service members with nearly 60 years of combined military service. They had hoped to get a swift court decision on Trump's tweet that could prevent a ban from taking effect. "Any special or different rule for transgender soldiers is discrimination, plain and simple," she said. "It also harms the military and, ultimately, the safety of our nation." — AP

THREE KILLED IN KASHMIR STAND-OFF WITH MILITANTS

SRINAGAR: Government forces in Kashmir were battling suspected rebels yesterday after they stormed a police facility in a pre-dawn attack and killed one officer and two paramilitary troops, police said. The militants detonated grenades and fired automatic assault rifles to gain entry to the district police headquarters in southern Pulwama district which also houses families of some officers, director general of police S.P. Vaid said.

One police officer was killed in the initial assault and three paramilitary troops were injured who were evacuated to a nearby hospital, he said. "Two more CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) soldiers died" in pursuit of the attackers, Vaid said. "We are evacuating the families and everyone from there," he said. It was not clear how many attackers were inside the compound where hundreds of police and paramilitary troops are usually present.

"Exchange of fire is still on inside," inspector general of police Muneer Ahmed Khan said. Authorities cut off mobile internet services in the district to prevent residents from organizing anti-

India demonstrations as a tactic to help the militants escape. Sporadic protests have already broken out close to the police facility, an officer said on condition of anonymity. In recent months, residents, sometimes entire villages, have increasingly hit the streets and thrown stones at soldiers when rebels are trapped in military cordons to help them escape.

Dozens of civilians have died during such clashes since last year. Government forces have stepped up counterinsurgency operations since the start of the year and have killed at least 136 rebels, including most of the top commanders of rebel groups operating in the disputed territory. Kashmir has been divided between Indian and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in full. Rebel groups have for decades fought the more than 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the restive territory, demanding independence or a merger of the former Himalayan kingdom with Pakistan. Tens of thousands, mostly civilians, have died in the fighting. —AFP



SRINAGAR: An Indian army soldier stands guard in an apple orchard while a gunfight takes place between militants and government forces in Pulwama, south of Srinagar. — AFP



KABUL: Men pray over the bodies of victims who died in a Shiite mosque attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. —AP

DEATH TOLL FROM MOSQUE ATTACK IN KABUL REACHES 28

HUNDREDS TAKE PART IN THE BURIAL OF VICTIMS

KABUL: The number of people killed in an attack on a Shiite mosque in the Afghan capital during Friday prayers rose to at least 28 - up from 20 - including women and children, the chief of Kabul's hospitals said yesterday. Meanwhile, hundreds took part in the burial of two dozen victims in the mosque compound. Two assailants blew themselves up and another two were shot dead by Afghan security forces, according to police. Kabul hospital chief Mohammad Salim Rasouli said more than 50 people were wounded in the attack that went on for hours.

The Interior Ministry said four of the dead were police. Hundreds of family members, relatives and local people participated in the burial of about two dozen victims inside the mosque compound yesterday. Sayed Jan Agha, 34, lost his mother and an aunt in the attack. He said that he tried several times to get into the mosque and rescue his mother and other relatives, but security forces prevented him. "My mother was martyred while she was trying to come down from the second floor, she was shot right at the stairs," said Agha.

Agha said his aunt called him and asked for help while she was bleeding, but no one could help her while the battle was going on between

the attackers and security forces and she died from her wounds, he said. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest to target Afghanistan's minority Shiites. The Taliban condemned the violence, with a spokesman for the militants, Zabihullah Mujahid, telling The Associated Press in a telephone interview that the group had nothing to do with it.

President Ashraf Ghani condemned the violence and said the militants were turning to attacking places of worship because they were losing on the battlefield. He urged Islamic clerics everywhere to condemn the bloodshed. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in a statement condemned the attack. It said at least two attackers wearing police uniforms stormed the mosque while several hundred worshippers, including many women and children, attended Friday prayers.

Terrified worshippers

One assailant detonated his suicide vest outside the mosque, while another continued inside, indiscriminately killing and wounding people, the statement said. "This latest in a series of attacks targeting members of the Shi'a community at worship has no possible justification,"

said Toby Lanzer, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and acting head of UNAMA.

"Such attacks directed against congregations and places of worship are serious violations of international law that may amount to war crimes." Terrified worshippers endured about four harrowing hours of gunfire and explosions before the four attackers were killed. The Islamic State said in a statement that it had deployed two attackers to the mosque. There was no immediate explanation for the contradictory number of attackers. Security forces surrounded the mosque in the northern Kabul neighborhood but did not initially enter to prevent further casualties to the many worshippers inside, police said.

Later, as police tried to advance, one of the attackers set off an explosion that forced them to withdraw. The cleric who was performing the prayers was among the dead, said Mir Hussain Nasiri, a member of Afghanistan's Shiite clerical council. The gunmen had taken over both the cavernous prayer hall for the men and the separate, second-floor prayer area for the women, he said. The mosque could accommodate up to 1,000 people, Nasiri added. — AP

NORTH KOREA FIRES SHORT-RANGE MISSILES

SEOUL: North Korea fired three short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, the US military said, reviving tensions with Washington after President Donald Trump had said Pyongyang was starting to show some "respect". The launches come as tens of thousands of South Korean and US troops take part in joint military drills in the south of the peninsula, which the North views as highly provocative.

Following an initial US assessment saying that two of the missiles had "failed in flight", a spokesman for the US Pacific Command later said the two weapons had not failed but "flew approximately 250 kilometers in a northeastern direction". One of the three missiles blew up "almost immediately", with none of the weapons posing a threat to either North America or the US territory of Guam, the spokesman said.

Lee Il-Woo, an analyst at Korea Defense Network, said the launches represented a "low-level provocative act" carried out in response to the US-South Korea exercises, which are seen by Pyongyang as a rehearsal for an invasion of its own territory. The joint exercises started Monday at a time of heightened tensions between Pyongyang and Washington, after two successful intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launches carried out by North Korea last month apparently brought most of the United States into range for the first time.

Analyst Yang Uk at the Korea Defense and Security Forum told AFP the latest launches by Pyongyang were "carefully calibrated... to avoid revving up tensions too high beyond its control". The launches, which took place over a span of 30

minutes, came as North Korean state media reported that leader Kim Jong-Un oversaw a military exercise simulating a special forces assault on South Korean border islands involving aircraft, "multiple-missile launchers" and howitzers.

Wiped out the enemy

Shells hit islands standing in for South Korea's Baengnyeong and Yeonpyeong islands while special forces landed in rubber boats or para-

chuted in and "wiped out the desperate enemy with various combat methods", the Korean Central News Agency said. The North bombarded Yeonpyeong island in November 2010 in response to a South Korean live-fire drill near the tense sea border, killing four South Koreans—two soldiers and two civilians—and prompting Seoul to return the fire. "Kim Jong-Un expressed great satisfaction over the successful target-striking contest," it said. —AFP



NORTH KOREA: This undated photo released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows rockets being launched by Korean People's Army (KPA) personnel during a target strike exercise at an undisclosed location in North Korea. — AFP

VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN MYANMAR'S RAKHINE STATE

MAUNGDAW, Myanmar: Gun shots rang out across northern Rakhine State yesterday afternoon as clashes continued between suspected Rohingya militants and Myanmar security forces, officials said, a day after fighting killed 89 people and forced civilians to flee remote villages. The state has become a crucible of religious hatred focused on the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority, who are reviled and perceived as illegal immigrants in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

Hundreds of men from the persecuted Muslim group appear to have organized under the banner of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which claims to be leading the insurgency that has scorched the area since October last year. Three village officials were killed overnight near the town of Maungdaw, according to the office of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi-Myanmar's de facto leader. Hours later residents in Maungdaw, which is close to the Bangladesh border, ran for safety as a local administration office came under attack by militants.

"Our situation is urgent," Myint Kyaing, a Maungdaw administrative officer said yesterday afternoon before hanging up the phone. Ethnic Rakhine Buddhists armed themselves with knives and sticks as tension soared in a town that has repeatedly been the epicenter of religious violence since 2012. As panic spread, scores of

Hindu villagers fled from surrounding villages to Maungdaw after rumors they were also a target for the militants. "There is no security in the villages," Buthon, a Hindu man in Maungdaw said.

Other villagers sought shelter in monasteries. Friday's clashes left 12 security officials and 77 militants dead according to Suu Kyi's office—the highest declared single day toll since fighting broke out last year. Hundreds of militants ambushed police posts in the early hours of Friday, some carrying guns and using homemade explosives, Myanmar's military said. Focal point of Friday's unrest was Rathedaung township. The area has seen a heavy build-up of Myanmar troops in recent weeks, with reports filtering out of killings by shadowy groups, army-blockaded villages and abuses.

The government has declared the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) a terrorist organization. Myanmar says the group is headed by Rohingya jihadists who were trained abroad but it is unclear how large the network is. Deadly attacks in October 2016 by the militants sparked a military response that left scores dead and forced some 87,000 people to flee to Bangladesh. The UN believes the military crackdown may have amounted to ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya. The army denies the allegations which included killings of civilians and mass rape. —AFP



MYANMAR: Women and children fleeing violence in their villages arrive at the Yathae Taung township in Rakhine State in Myanmar. — AFP

THOUSANDS AT BOY'S BURIAL SEEK END TO PHILIPPINE DRUG WAR

MANILA: Thousands of Filipinos yesterday called for an end to extrajudicial killings as the funeral of a boy killed by police turned into the largest single demonstration yet against President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal drug war. The killing of 17-year-old Kian Delos Santos last week triggered rare protests against Duterte's controversial but popular campaign to eradicate drugs, with critics saying it highlighted rampant rights abuses by police enforcing the crackdown.

Since Duterte's term began 14 months ago, police have reported killing 3,500 people in anti-drug operations, with thousands more murdered over drug-related crimes and in unexplained circumstances. Duterte and his drug war are backed by a large majority of Filipinos fed up with high crime and a slow-moving judicial system, according to national polls. But the killing of Delos Santos, the son of a poor sidewalk vendor and a migrant domestic worker, have dominated the media and sparked public outrage.

"We will pursue this fight. What happened to him was so unfair. We cannot let it stand," his 21-year-old cousin Jhai Delos Santos said as she joined the protest march. "We have rights too. They cannot just wage a drug war against people who have no drug records and are not taking drugs," she said, adding that the boy's father and grandfather have since received anonymous death threats. Police said the teenager was a drug courier who fired at them while resisting arrest.

However CCTV footage showed the two policemen dragging the unarmed boy away moments before he was killed. Duterte, who had controversially drawn parallels between his drug campaign to Hitler's extermination of Jews and vowed to protect police from prosecution, has promised to bring the boy's killers to jus-

tice. "The president has clearly stated that the war against drugs is not a license to break the law," Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement issued late Friday.

Stop Killing the Poor

After the boy's family held a wake for him at home, around 3,000 people including his classmates, neighbors, nuns, priests and human rights activists marched under cloudy skies to protest his killing, according to an AFP photographer at the scene. "Kian is the name and face of the truth. We must not allow the truth to die with Kian's murder," said Father Robert Reyes, one of several Catholic priests who celebrated a church mass for the boy yesterday.

Crowds lined the narrow streets as participants, many wearing black ribbons, carried posters and streamers that read "Stop Killing the Poor", "Justice for Kian", and "End Duterte's Fascist Drug War". The cortege stopped briefly for prayers outside a police station where the three officers who had arrested the boy were deployed. They have since been suspended. Following their claims of Delos Santos being involved in the drugs trade, police told a public enquiry on Thursday that they only read about his alleged narcotics activity on "social media" after his death.

A police autopsy also concluded the boy was fatally shot in the head twice as he lay prone on the ground. Amnesty International alleged in a report released in February that Philippine police shot dead defenseless people, fabricated evidence, paid assassins to murder drug addicts, and stole from those they killed or the victims' relatives. It also said police were being paid by their superiors to kill drug suspects, and documented victims as young as eight years old. —AFP



Worshippers perform the evening (Isha) prayers near the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, in the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Makkah on Friday, a week prior to the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage in the holy city. — AFP

IRANIANS UP IN ARMS AS APPLE REMOVES TOP APPS

TEHRAN: Iranians were joined by two ministers yesterday in protesting after Apple removed popular apps from its store, a move the American company says was made to comply with US sanctions. "Today, respecting consumers' rights is a basic principle which Apple has not followed," Information and Communication Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi tweeted, promising to "legally pursue" the case. "IT should be used for making human life better and comfortable not a tool for discrimination between countries," he wrote.

Jahromi said later yesterday on Instagram that he and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif were working together to address the issue. The hashtag #StopRemovingIranianApps has been trending on Iranian social media for several days, after Apple removed at least 10 of the country's most popular apps from its online store. Those now missing include Amazon-style shopping apps Digikala and Bamilo, ride-hailing apps Snapp and Tap30, discount store Takhfifan and a brunch delivery service called Delion.

"We are unable to include your app on the App Store," a message sent to some of those companies reportedly said. "Under the US sanctions regulations, the App Store cannot host, distribute, or do business with apps or developers connected to certain US embargoed countries."

The United States lifted some sanctions on Iran, particularly in the aviation sector, under a 2015 nuclear deal that saw Tehran limit its atomic program. But American individuals and companies are still barred from doing any business with Iranians because of

much older and non-nuclear related sanctions on the Islamic republic.

'On the right track'

"There are removed apps which did not have financial transactions, and due to sanctions, some of them were registered in countries other than Iran too," Azari Jahromi tweeted. "The US does not sanction our weak points. They sanction our points of strength... This should make us country officials support this field," he said in a video published on the government's website. "The recent action by the US shows we are on the right track... because they fear us and are removing these (apps)". Some Iranian apps in the same category of those that have been removed are still available on the app store. Iran's youthful and well-connected population own some 40 million smart phones, six million of them iPhones, the government-owned Iran Daily newspaper reported. "Apple has not provided any clear answers to our messages," the daily yesterday quoted Mehdi Taghizadeh, vice chairman at Delion, as saying. More than 4,500 Iranian netizens have signed an online petition urging Apple chief executive Tim Cook "to recognize our rights as Apple customers".

"I've always been an Apple user, but despite preferring them... I'm now going to switch to Android," a user going by the name Xerxes wrote on Twitter. "Technology is best when it brings people together. We shouldn't limit or keep others from using and developing it!" tweeted Ferial Govashiri, who used to work as a personal assistant to former US president Barack Obama and is now at Netflix. — AFP

IRAN DRONES POSE RISING THREAT IN ARABIAN GULF

ABOARD THE USS NIMITZ: High above the Arabian Gulf, an Iranian drone crosses the path of American fighter jets lining up to land on the USS Nimitz. The drone buzzes across the sky more than a mile above the massive aircraft carrier and is spotted by the fighters. It is unarmed. But for the senior Navy commanders on the ship, the presence of the enemy drone so close is worrying. Their biggest fear is the surveillance aircraft will start carrying weapons, posing a more direct threat to US vessels transiting one of the world's most significant strategic and economic international waterways.

"It's just a matter of time before we see that," said Navy Rear Adm Bill Byrne, commander of the carrier strike group that includes the Nimitz. He said the Iranian drone activity has "generated a lot of discussion" and was becoming an increasingly pressing matter of concern. If, at some point, Byrne believes a drone is threatening his ship, he and his staff would have to carefully proceed through the required responses - efforts at communication, sounding the horn, firing flares and warning shots, and flying a helicopter close to the unmanned vehicle. If all those efforts fail and he still perceives a threat, Byrne said it would be his duty, his "responsibility," to shoot down the Iranian drone.

So far, it hasn't come to that. But the drones have become an even more dangerous security risk as US carriers in the Persian Gulf like the Nimitz play a key role in Iraq and Syria. Planes from these ships are regularly flying to each country to bomb militants fighting with the Islamic State group and other targets. From the Nimitz alone, US fighter jets flew missions resulting in at least 350 bombs being dropped on IS militants just in the last month.

Iran has routinely challenged US ships and aircraft across the Gulf, asserting at times that the entire waterway is its territory. Navy commanders say Iran's unpredictable behavior is the biggest safety hazard. "Iranians don't always follow the rules," Byrne said. "There is a well-established set of norms, standards and laws. They don't tend to follow them."

'Real challenge'

To counter the threat, Pentagon experts are searching for new ways to deter, defeat or disable the drones.

According to Byrne and Cdr Dave Kurtz, the Nimitz's executive officer, Iranian drones fly over the carrier strike group almost daily. They said the danger is that as the F/A-18 fighters return from their missions in Iraq and Syria, they circle overhead, lining up for their turn to land on the carrier. Even if the Iranian drones are only meant to annoy, their buzzing across the American flight paths risks an accident.

Up in the carrier's control room, a book on Iranian naval and maritime forces sits above the radar screen. Commanders on the ship announce when a drone appears. Then, they go through a careful, planned response of attempted radio calls and warnings. Gen Joseph Votel, the top US commander in the Middle East, visited the Nimitz on Thursday, also stopping on the nearby USS Vella Gulf, a guided missile cruiser. The drone, he said, also flew over that ship. "The proliferation of drones is a real challenge," said Votel, who was finishing his 10-day trip to the Middle East and Afghanistan. "It's growing exponentially."

Speaking with traveling reporters, Votel said the Pentagon has sought to devise more high-tech ways to handle the drones through the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization, originally set up in 2006 to counter improvised explosive devices used by insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan to kill and maim American troops. Much as it did with that decade-old roadside bomb battle, the organization now focuses on how to deal with Iran's drones, Votel said. He didn't provide details, but he acknowledged that US cyber capabilities could be used to defeat a drone or the network controlling it.

The military is training troops on drone response, he said. But right now, said Byrne, they're still following their normal procedures. And he still hasn't been forced to shoot one down. Byrne described how a helicopter from the Nimitz flew by the drone to ensure it wasn't weaponized. In the month the Nimitz has been in the Gulf, efforts to speak with the drone operators have been hit or miss, he said. "Sometimes they answer, sometimes they don't," he said, echoing experiences American forces have had with small Iranian fast boats that pose a similar threat of coming too close by sea. When the Iranians do answer, Byrne said, they often "challenge our assertion that they are flying into danger." — AP

SCORES FLEE AS HURRICANE WREAKS HAVOC...

Continued from Page 1

We had businesses and homes that are completely destroyed, and certainly a number of lives that have been disrupted significantly," said CJ Wax, the mayor of Rockport. "We have cross-functional teams that are out trying to assess the damage and determine what is needed to begin the recovery process, but it is still tropical storm-force winds and blinding rain," he told MSNBC.

Rockport's local airport was among the places to suffer major damage, with a light aircraft crushed by a building collapse. Homes were also burnt to the ground as power cables caught fire. Around 190,000 customers were without power in Rockport and the nearby town of Corpus Christi while another 62,000 were without power in Houston, the state's largest city.

While most residents did heed advice to flee the worst-hit areas, some hunkered down for the night in Corpus Christi, in buildings that seemed to bend in the wind. "I've never seen anything like this. We do have strong winds - we're right next to the bay - but nothing like last night," Brandon Gonzalez, who owns a store in the town, told AFP. "I mean, I was even a little bit terrified of what was going to happen. Our building was just shaking back and forth. It really got bad. I think we held up pretty good though."

While the damage in Houston was less extensive, the suburb of Sienna Plantation suffered an apparent tornado hit which knocked down walls and tore tiles off roofs, according to the local KTRK network. While there were no immediate reports of casualties, the Coast Guard was responding to Mayday calls from three tugboats near Port Aransas. "Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi directed the launch of two MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrews that are en route for rescue," it said in a statement.

Brain McNoldy, a hurricane expert at the University of Miami, said a strong ridge of high pressure was preventing the storm from dispersing. "You would expect the hurricane to just keep going inland over Texas, but that ridge coming into place there is just stopping everything from moving and that's what's going to keep Harvey in place for the next days," he told AFP. "A tropical cyclone - it could even be a depression it

doesn't matter - makes a lot of rain, so if that sits over you for one day, two or three or four you just keep accumulating rain. It may stay three or four days, and even up to six days. There's no sign of it really moving in a foreseeable future."

The NHC warned of likely "catastrophic and life-threatening flooding" due to the massive rainfall forecast and the huge storm surge, which could reach nearly four meters in some places. Trump granted Texas Governor Greg Abbott's request to declare a "major disaster" zone in the state to speed federal aid to the millions in harm's way. Abbott in turn activated more than 1,000 National Guardsmen to help with evacuation and recovery.

After authorities issued a series of alerts about the dangers from the storm, supermarket aisles were stripped bare, while homes and shops had boarded up windows. Coastal Texas is a fast-growing area, with some 1.5 million people moving into the region since 1999. It is also home to a large number of oil refineries. US authorities said about 22 percent of crude production in the Gulf of Mexico, accounting for more than 375,000 barrels a day, was shut down as of Friday. Harvey is the most powerful hurricane to hit the mainland since Wilma struck Florida 12 years ago. 2005 was a huge year for hurricanes - before Wilma, Hurricane Katrina pummeled New Orleans, leaving more than 1,800 dead.

The then-president Bush faced severe criticism after federal authorities appeared unprepared for the devastating damage inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. Wary of any accusation of complacency, Trump said he was fully engaged with relief efforts. "Closely monitoring #HurricaneHarvey from Camp David. We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together," he wrote on Twitter.

Many residents who fled the worst-affected areas headed for the city of San Antonio, where temporary shelters are run by the fire department. "I felt like I didn't want what happened to the guys in New Orleans... I didn't want that to happen to me," Michael Allen, an evacuee from Corpus Christi, told AFP. "I only got what you see me with. Everything I had, I had to leave. Everything. It was, bring it with me or lose my life and I felt like I should save my life." — AFP



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Focus

US NAVY COLLISIONS
WINDFALL FOR CHINA

A spate of deadly collisions involving US Navy warships in Asian waters has provided a propaganda windfall to rivals like China and given already rattled regional allies further reason to fret, analysts say. Four accidents this year alone, including two fatal ones in two months, resulted in the dismissal this week of the commander of the iconic US Seventh Fleet - the centerpiece of the American military presence in Asia.

The timing could hardly be worse, with the Japan-based fleet at the heart of ongoing US efforts to project an image of military strength and effectiveness in the face of threats from nuclear-armed North Korea and an increasingly assertive China. The latest incident left the guided-missile destroyer, USS John McCain limping into port in Singapore on Monday with a gaping gash in its hull following a pre-dawn collision with an oil tanker that left 10 of its crew feared dead.

Just days before, the same ship had taken part in a "freedom of navigation exercise" - sailing close to a contested island in the South China Sea in a show of strength to challenge Beijing's territorial claims there. The incident, and a similar collision involving another warship off Japan in June that left seven dead, has been seized on by China as an illustration of US military overreach and incompetence. "It's a lot of good propaganda for the Chinese," James Char, a regional security specialist at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, told AFP. It comes as "China is trying to tell the region, 'you cannot count on the US for your security needs'," he said.

'Hazard in Asian waters'

The Chinese foreign ministry voiced concern that US warships posed a "security threat" to civilian vessels in the South China Sea - a criticism echoed in the state media. Warning that the US Navy was "becoming a hazard in Asian waters", a China Daily editorial questioned why such sophisticated warships were unable to avoid other vessels. And the nationalist Global Times said the collisions reflected how the US Navy's combat readiness and military management levels "have both declined".

The tabloid claimed there was "applause from Chinese netizens about the latest accident" on the internet, reflecting public anger over American operations in the maritime region. Beijing claims nearly all of the resource-rich South China Sea, despite partial counter-claims from Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. Its claims are backed by a military that Chinese President Xi Jinping has modernized in line with the country's growing economic muscle.

Already boasting the world's largest army, China unveiled its second aircraft carrier this year and it opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. "China is trying to increase its status in the region as a security provider" and the US accidents could help push some countries towards "China's embrace," Char said, citing Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's overtures toward Beijing.

Warning against 'foolhardy' actions

For key US allies already worried by mixed messages from President Donald Trump's administration regarding military commitment to the region, the troubles afflicting the Seventh Fleet have simply added to their concern. Hideshi Takesada, a regional security expert and professor at Japan's Takushoku University, said that while the accidents would not have a "critical" operational impact, they had inflicted some "psychological damage".

Daniel Pinkston, a regional security specialist at Troy University in Seoul, said allies like Japan and South Korea were already nervous about US commitments and resolve. "The naval accidents... certainly don't help in the current political environment," he said. A day after the USS John McCain collision, the head of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris, warned it would be "foolhardy" for any country to read it as a sign of weakness or vulnerability. "The US Navy is large, and we have a lot of capacity and we'll bring that capacity forward if we need to," Harris said at a US air base in South Korea. —AFP

YINGLUCK TRIAL : EX-PM 'FLEES THAILAND' AHEAD OF TRIAL VERDICT



YINGLUCK'S FLIGHT PROVIDES JUNTA WAY OUT

Thailand's generals could hardly have planned it better. The flight of ousted prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra before a court verdict for negligence leaves the populist movement that has dominated Thai politics for a generation leaderless and in despair. It also means Yingluck doesn't become a martyr, as she could have done if she had been jailed over the costly rice subsidy scheme, or get let off lightly, which could have raised awkward questions over why the military overthrew her in 2014.

What it doesn't do is eliminate the Shinawatras' power base: the largely poor and provincial Thais who have had the numbers to deliver them victory in every election since 2001 despite the best efforts of pro-army and deeply royalist conservatives. Yingluck fled just before a court verdict on her criminal negligence trial over a multi-billion dollar scheme to help poor farmers, sources within her Puea Thai Party said.

They said she had gone to Dubai to join her brother Thaksin Shinawatra, the self-made billionaire and family patriarch who was overthrown as prime minister in 2006 and fled to escape a corruption conviction he says was politically motivated. Neither Thaksin or Yingluck could be reached for comment. "The party has no true leader right now. Without

Yingluck the party is headless," said one senior Puea Thai Party member, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "It doesn't have a figurehead that the people love."

Figurehead

Yingluck, 50, had been banned from politics for five years by the junta in 2015, but could have rallied support for her party at elections the army has promised for next year. That would have been harder if she had been sentenced over the estimated \$8 billion losses on the rice scheme, but jail would have made her a rallying point with glamorous star power at home and abroad. Her departure meant she would not become Thailand's version of neighboring Myanmar's once long-detained Aung San Suu Kyi.

"This will embolden the military government because they did not have to put her in jail," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, the director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University. Government spokesman Weerachon Sukhontapatipak declined to comment on the case or the implications of Yingluck's absence. There was no evidence the junta had been aware Yingluck might have intended to skip bail, but

suspensions circulated among her supporters that her departure was very convenient for the military government.

"She was closely monitored by authorities. It isn't possible that she left the country without help," said Thanawut Wichaidit, of the red-shirt United Front For Democracy Against Dictatorship political movement that supports the Shinawatras, without offering any proof. The crowds of supporters bearing roses and bunches of rice at Yingluck's previous court appearances had shown her enduring support despite crackdowns on dissent since the coup.

In the red-shirt heartlands of Thailand's rural northeast, the mood was somber. Yingluck supporters sympathized with her for fleeing, but didn't know who could replace her. Yingluck took over despite being a political novice after Thaksin fled into exile and succeeded through personal charm and charisma - as well as his distant backing. There are no obvious candidates now. "I don't have the skill," Yingluck's older sister, Monthathip Kovitcharoenkul, 58, a businesswoman who had been talked about as a potential candidate, told reporters.

Power Base

The constituency the Shinawatras represented has not disappeared, however.

That potentially complicates the military's plans for an election even with a new constitution that entrenches the power of the generals for years to come. Electoral numbers show the poorer, aspiring parts of Thai society have more votes than backers of the entrenched elite and its yellow shirt followers. The majority Shinawatra-supporting northeastern and northern regions alone account for more than 45 percent of Thailand's population, according to the most recent official data. They accounted for less than 12 percent of the economy.

"If they field a dog as a candidate in the northeast it would win a seat in the election," said Wassawan Ken-kla, 40, a local leader in northeastern Udon Thani. After Yingluck's flight, poor, rural voters who had benefited from Shinawatra policies may become even more sympathetic, said Paul Chambers, a lecturer at Naresuan University in the northern Thailand. "Other Puea Thai leaders will soon emerge," he said. Even without the party, the red shirt movement said it would carry on. It played a pivotal role in backing both the Puea Thai Party and Thaksin's former party, Thai Rak Thai, which was dissolved in 2007. "We will vote for any party that supports us and is on the side of democracy," Thanawut, the red shirt activist, said. — Reuters

MERKEL REIGNS IN WORLD OF ERRATIC STRONGMEN

Alarmed by the rise of unpredictable strongmen around the world, Angela Merkel feels she must do more to defend the Western order on which Germany depends. It has been a transformation for the chancellor. Last year, she dismissed as "absurd" the idea that she should head a Western alliance shaken by Donald Trump's US election victory.

Weakened by Europe's migrant crisis, Merkel even wondered if she should run for re-election. "She asked herself: 'Can I do this? Am I ready for this?'" one close aide said. But now, with the migrant issue under control in Germany, the 63-year-old is ready. Visibly happier, she is campaigning for next month's election with renewed conviction: a resolve to secure a world order threatened by leaders like Trump, Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

On the campaign trail, she likes to invoke the "uncertain situation in the world". The message is clear. "Things have changed," the aide said. "This means Germany must take on more responsibility." German foreign policy has been constrained by the legacy of the last World War. But Merkel is pushing Berlin's interests beyond its traditional European sphere.

With North Korea, she says Germany is ready to offer diplomatic and political muscle if required, a senior government source said. Germany is one of the few Western countries with an embassy in Pyongyang and is willing to do what it can to use this channel to help bring about talks.

At the same time, Merkel is using the trade-based relationship she has nurtured with China to press Beijing to help defuse the dispute. "We must use our good relations with the Chinese to encourage them to come up with constructive proposals on what can be done," said Juergen Hardt, the German government's coordinator for transatlantic policies.

Guardian Angela

In April last year, Merkel described how she realized that trouble on the European Union's doorstep meant Germany must play a bigger role beyond its borders. Looking at a map showing the EU's passport-free area in one color and neighboring countries in another, she saw clearly how close Syria and Ukraine were. "This is Europe's neighborhood," she said.

Reacting to crises in this neighborhood, Merkel first strong-armed Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan into a deal to stem the migrant flow from Syria in exchange for EU economic aid. Now, she wants to slow the tide of refugees from Africa with a new "Marshall Plan" to bring investment and business growth that will persuade people to stay at home.

In Ukraine, Merkel is pursuing with France a joint diplomatic response to Russian meddling, though this has yet to produce peace. "All of a sudden, German policymakers realize they need to be much bigger stakeholders in this global order on which they depend but into which they have not invested as much as they should," said Jan Techau of the American Academy in Berlin.

Merkel is starting to take diplomatic positions out of conviction - a departure from her consensus-based style during the euro zone and migrant crises. This shift began after Trump's election, when she set out how she would deal with him: a readiness to work closely on the basis of the values of democracy, freedom, respect for the law and for the dignity of people.

Climate

For Merkel, climate policy belongs to this value set. She sees it as crucial to managing globalization and it has been her principal point of disagreement with Trump. "We Europeans must really take our fate into our own hands," she said, and when Trump announced he was quitting the Paris global climate change accord, she sought to isolate him.

She wanted the six members of the G7 other than the United States to issue a statement backing the accord, sources close to her said. In the end, Germany, France and Italy signed. Britain, Canada and Japan - all with close US ties - did not. Merkel stayed on the case. In the run-up to a July summit of G20 leaders, which she chaired, she made a point of courting a list of countries hoping to profit from trade with Germany.

The upshot was isolation for Trump at the G20 meeting, where 19 members agreed that the Paris accord was "irreversible". At the same time, the communiqué included a text all G20 countries could sign, a compromise achieved with German help. "In terms of global leadership, it's not hugely ambitious," one G20 diplomat said. "On the other hand, the success could be seen as getting Trump into the process: take a step back to get him in, and later move forward with him."

Compromised

Despite her growing diplomatic assertiveness, it is this instinct to compromise that handicaps Merkel's quest for a place in history alongside Konrad Adenauer, who led Germany's rebirth after World War Two, and Helmut Kohl, who reunified the country. Restricting Merkel's room for maneuver is the fact that many Germans are turned off by foreign policy, with one survey showing just 30 percent of voters think it is a top priority for Germany to do more to promote its interests abroad.

"The big problem is that this is not anything that sells at home," said Techau at the American Academy. "You can't win votes with this." Merkel is also hampered by Germany's Nazi past, which has left it without the military might needed to project power. Yet Kohl, Merkel's mentor, took chances, first with reunification and then by defying public opinion to bring in the euro.

Merkel is altogether more cautious. In 2015, "merkeln" - a verb meaning being to be unable to take decisions - was

named Germany's Youth Word of the Year. David McAllister, a close party ally, describes how "she looks at the different approaches to solve the problem and has a debate with her advisers about what's best: A, B, C, or D. Then we go with the best option."

This methodical approach, honed during her training as a physicist, can leave her upstaged by more dynamic leaders. Trump and Putin did just that at the G20 summit when they walked out of a session on climate change to hold a bilateral meeting that stole headlines and highlighted the 'hard power' they wield and Merkel does not.

Merkel still welcomed their meeting. As a committed Atlanticist, she does not want to alienate an American president. But the episode showed the limits of what she can achieve on the world stage. "Germans have learnt that they will only do well if they are ready to compromise," said one senior party official. "We don't want to be the ones people look at, and feel they must tremble or admire." — Reuters



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RAIKKONEN ON TOP
AFTER THIRD PRACTICE

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Four-time winner Kimi Raikkonen topped the times ahead of Ferrari teammate Sebastian Vettel in the third and final free practice for today's Belgian Grand Prix. The Finn, re-signed by Ferrari for 2018, scorched to a record fastest lap in 1min 43.916sec around the spectacular Spa-Francorchamps circuit on an overcast day in the forests of the Belgian Ardennes. This was enough for him finish 0.197sec clear of championship leading German teammate Vettel with Briton Lewis Hamilton, who is 14 points behind in him in the title race, third for Mercedes. Dutch driver Max Verstappen, backed by grandstands packed with his 'orange army', was fourth for Red Bull ahead of Finn Valtteri Bottas in the second Williams and Australian Daniel Ricciardo, in the second Red Bull. Briton Jolyon Palmer, of Renault, was seventh ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez of Force India, Spaniard Carlos Sainz of Toro Rosso and two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso in a McLaren Honda. —AFP



CRICKET

SMITH CONFIRMS AGAR'S TEST
RETURN AFTER FOUR YEARS

DHAKA: Australian captain Steven Smith confirmed Ashton Agar will play his first Test in four years when the two-Test series against Bangladesh begins in Dhaka today. Agar made a sensational debut to Test cricket in 2013, scoring 98 runs in his maiden innings batting at number 11 against England at Nottingham.

But since then the 23-year-old has made only one further Test appearance, and has been hungry for a return to the long format of the game. It was not until his impressive form in the Sheffield Shield this season-he claimed 16 wickets and scored 115 runs in four innings for Western Australia-that he caught the eye of the selectors again.

He was picked for Australia's two-Test tour of Bangladesh ahead of left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe, whose 12-wicket haul against India earlier this year helped Australia win the first Test of that series. Agar will partner with off-spinner Nathan Lyon on a supposedly spin friendly wicket at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, where Australia will make their first Test appearance against Bangladesh in 11 years.

Australia have not toured Bangladesh since 2006 and this series has been long in the making. Smith expressed his hope it would be an exciting series and give them a reality check after their tour of India. "I think it's going to be a great series. It's a great challenge for a group of players to see what we have learned from India," Smith said in Dhaka.

"Looking at the wicket I think it's going to be somewhat similar to what we got in

India. Hopefully we can learn from what we did there." Australia visited India in February-March for four Test matches and despite a 2-1 loss Smith's men were praised for putting up a good show.

Smith led his side from the front scoring three centuries to become the highest run-getter in the series with 499 runs at an average of 71.28. Smith said he was surprised by the recent comments of Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who both expressed their hopes of winning the series 2-0.

"It's pretty confident, isn't it?" said Smith. "I think Bangladesh have won only nine out of their 100 games. So it's a very confident prediction. "But obviously they are confident about their skill set at the moment. Most teams play pretty well at home. The comment surprised me a little bit, yes," he said.

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim said his team has enough resources to win the series. "Cricket is all about winning the match," said Rahim. "You all know that we have been very consistent in the last series as well as in the last two years in our home condition. I think everyone is talking about winning the series because of that belief," he said. The second Test will be held in Chittagong from September 4-8.

Australia squad for first Test: Steve Smith (capt), David Warner, Matt Renshaw, Usman Khawaja, Peter Handscomb, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Wade, Ashton Agar, Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon. — AFP

AXELSEN AVENGES CHEN
LOSS TO REACH FINAL

GLASGOW: Sweden's Viktor Axelsen gained revenge over China's defending champion Chen Long in the World Championships semi-finals in Glasgow yesterday. In a surprisingly short match, the Danish number three seed beat the Olympic champion 21-9, 21-10 in just 39 minutes and will now face either five-time champion Lin Dan or top seed Son Wan-Ho in the final. Chen had won the title in 2014 and 2015 and added the Olympic gold medal in Rio de Janeiro last year, beating Axelsen in the semi-finals on his way to glory. "I am a little out of words," said Axelsen. "I never expected to win so comfortably and I am so very happy. I made very few mistakes today. "It was nice to get revenge from the Olympic semi-finals. I am very proud of myself. "Denmark is a small country, but I am very proud that we can compete with the bigger countries. It's a dream come true. Ever since I was a little boy, I dreamed of making a World Championships final." —AFP

BARGUIL EXPELLED FROM
VUELTA BY SUNWEB TEAM

HELLIN: French rider Warren Barguil was thrown out of the Vuelta a Espana by his Sunweb team yesterday for failing to follow team orders. Barguil had been lying in 13th overall, less than two minutes behind race leader Chris Froome, but failed to fall back to help Sunweb's leader Wilco Kelderman after a puncture in Friday's seventh stage. "Team Sunweb have decided to withdraw Warren Barguil from the Vuelta a Espana," the German team said in a statement. The 25-year-old rider, the recent winner of two stages and the mountain jersey at the Tour de France, "openly expressed that he didn't race (in line with) the team's goal, which left Team Sunweb with no other option than to take this decision." Kelderman lost 17 seconds on Friday's stage to slip behind Barguil to 14th in the general classification. "I have to leave the Vuelta by the decision of the team," said Barguil. —AFP



DUNEDIN: New Zealand's captain Kieran Read (C) holds the Bledisloe Cup during the second Bledisloe Cup match between New Zealand and Australia under their Rugby Championship test, at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin yesterday. — AFP

RUGBY

NEW ZEALAND BEAT AUSTRALIA
IN BLEDISLOE CUP THRILLER

DUNEDIN: Flyhalf Beauden Barrett scored a try with two minutes remaining to give the All Blacks a 35-29 win over the Wallabies yesterday, allowing them to retain the Bledisloe Cup in a classic rugby test. Barrett finished with two tries and 20 points as New Zealand overcame a 17-0 deficit after only 15 minutes, then came back after twice losing the lead in the last 10 minutes for an extraordinary victory.

Australia started as massive underdogs after last weekend's 54-34 loss in Sydney but produced one of the greatest turnarounds in rugby history to go within a fraction of an historic upset. Australia snatched late leads with tries to scrumhalf Will Genia and center Kurtley Beale but on both occasions New Zealand instantly bounced back with tries of its own.

The Wallabies rocked the All Blacks with three early tries, including one from an intercept inside the first minute to fullback Israel Folau. Captain Michael Hooper in the 11th minute and flyhalf Bernard Folau, in the 15th, added tries which stunned the All Blacks in Dunedin's indoor stadium. The match started late after the Wallabies complained their buildup had been affected by a floodlight failure. New Zealand clawed its way back with tries to winger Rieko Ioane - his sixth in as many tests and to scrumhalf Aaron Smith to go to halftime only three points behind at 17-14. The All Blacks finally gained the lead for the first time with Barrett's first try in the 60th minute, edging ahead 21-17. But that was only the beginning of a dizzy finish in which five tries were scored in 20 minutes and the lead changed hands four times.

Genia reclaimed the lead in the 66th with a try that put the Wallabies ahead 22-21. Departing fullback Ben Smith immediately scored to give the All Blacks a 28-22 lead in what seemed likely to be the last act of the match. But the Wallabies came back again with a try to Beale and led 29-28. With only three minutes left, the All Blacks regained possession from the kickoff and scrumhalf T.J. Perenara, flyhalf Lima Sopoaga and captain Kieran Read combined to create the winning try for Barrett.

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said his players had showed huge character to come back repeatedly, extending their hold on the Bledisloe Cup into a 15th year. "It was a great test match," Hansen said. "Anyone who paid money to watch it should have loved it. "Our set piece was really good and our scrum was what allowed us to get back in the game."

GREAT IMPROVEMENT

Read said the All Blacks had stayed calm and struck at the right moment. "That's what the Bledisloe Cup is about, two great nations playing their hearts out," he said. "We had to dig deep. Those are the games which hinge on certain moments and I guess we had one at the end there." The Wallabies showed great improvement on their performance last weekend when they were beaten by eight tries to four and by a record score. They more than patched the holes in their defense. They revitalized their defensive game and gave the All Blacks few opportunities, though the teams eventually finished with five tries apiece. The Wallabies' attack was also enormously improved and their performance is likely to have lifted some of the gloom that has hung over Australian rugby after the poor performance of their Super Rugby teams this season and a series of administrative crises.

"It was close to a fantastic performance," Hooper said. "We were fully confident to come

down here and win. "New Zealand was too good tonight and the pressure they applied both sides of halftime was fantastic." Folau set the tone for the Wallabies' performance with his try after little more than 40 seconds, swooping on a pass by All Blacks fullback Damian McKenzie and dashing 65 meters to score.

Hooper broke the defense from a lineout in the 11th minute and Genia, Australia's inspiration, made a try for Foley four minutes later. New Zealand's scrum gave them a huge advantage in the middle stages of the game but the hosts made too many handling errors to fully capitalize. They had three tries disallowed, to winger Ioane, fullback Smith and lock Brodie Retallick, but remained composed and closed the gap with

Aaron Smith's try on the tick of halftime.

Barrett scored from a simple short side movement from a scrum in the 60th, giving the All Blacks a narrow lead and setting in motion the thrilling finale. Genia made a brilliant individual break for his try, beating Ardie Savea and McKenzie, but Foley missed a vital conversion. Foley managed only two of six shots at goal, hitting the post on three occasions.

Smith, playing his last test of the season, scored the game's best try after the All Blacks had held the ball through 22 phases in the 70th minute. After Beale's try, the All Blacks seemed down and out but again found the capacity to rebound, instantly making the winning try for Barrett. — AP

HAMILTON EQUALS SCHUMACHER
RECORD WITH 68TH CAREER POLE

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Lewis Hamilton roared to a record-equaling 68th career pole position yesterday, matching Michael Schumacher's record in qualifying for the Belgian Grand Prix.

The 32-year-old three-time world champion will start today's race, the 200th of his career, from his sixth pole this year with Germany's championship leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari alongside him in second. Hamilton's lap in 1min 42.553sec was the all-time record fastest at the spectacular Spa-Francorchamps circuit in the forests of the Belgian Ardennes, 0.242 seconds quicker than Vettel. The 68th pole position for the Mercedes driver drew him level in the record books with seven-time champion Schumacher whose congratulations were conveyed to him immediately afterwards by former Ferrari and Mercedes technical director Ross Brawn.

Briton Brawn, who guided Schumacher to all seven of his titles with Benetton (two) and Ferrari (five), hugged Hamilton on the track and said he had a special message. "I am here to deliver a special message from the Schumacher family who want to congratulate you on equalling Michael's record," said Brawn.

"He always said records are there to be beaten and they want to say a special thanks." Hamilton, who appeared to be visibly moved

with emotion, said: "First, a big shout to the fans here - I can't believe it. A big thank you to my team. "Ross was a big part of that. This is one of my favourite circuits so to put a lap together like that is like a dream. "To hear that message which Ross just gave... a big thank you. "I pray for Michael and his family all the time.

"I have always admired him and I still do today. I am honoured to be there with him now on the pole positions, but he will still be one of the greatest of all time." Schumacher suffered severe head injuries in a skiing accident at the end of 2013 and has been in prolonged private recuperation at his family home in Switzerland since then.

Vettel, who Ferrari said yesterday has signed a three-year contract extension, secured his front-row spot with a late and dramatic lap for Ferrari. He leads Hamilton by 14 points with nine races remaining this year.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas of qualified third ahead of Finnish compatriot Kimi Raikkonen in the second Ferrari, Dutchman Max Verstappen and his Red Bull team-mate Australian Daniel Ricciardo. German Nico Hulkenberg was seventh for Renault ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez and his Force India team-mate Frenchman Esteban Ocon and Briton Jolyon Palmer, who was 10th for Renault after an engine failure. —AFP



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (C) celebrates winning the pole position next to second placed Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel (L) and third placed Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas after the qualifying session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa yesterday ahead of the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP



GLASGOW: Spain's Carolina Marin returns during her quarter-final women's singles match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara during the 2017 BWF World Championships of badminton at Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Friday. — AFP

BADMINTON

LIN STAYS ON TITLE TRACK
AS MARIN CRASHES OUT

GLASGOW: Lin Dan stayed on course for a record-breaking sixth men's singles title at the World Championships in Glasgow on Friday with a straight games quarter-final win over Hong Kong's Wong Wing Ki Vincent in Glasgow.

But Carolina Marin's reign came to a surprise end following a 19-21, 21-14, 15-21 defeat to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara. Marin, champion in 2014 and 2015 and Olympic gold medalist last year, had come through two easy matches but more than met her match against the dogged No.7 seed.

"I am very happy, but also very tired," said Okuhara. "Carolina is a very speedy player. At the start of the third and in tough points in the match I was telling myself 'You can do it, you can do it!' Now I want the gold medal." Lin, 33, hasn't won the title since 2013, but the Chinese veteran is guaranteed at least a bronze medal after the 21-17, 21-18 victory. After two three game matches, Lin was delighted to get on and off court within the hour.

"I really enjoyed today's match," he said. "I am very happy that I managed to minimise my opponent's performance. It was good to get it done quicker today and I expect to perform fully to my 100 percent tomorrow." In the semi-finals, he clashes with the new world No.1 from South Korea, Son Wan Ho. Lin's first world medal was a silver in 2005 — he then won the title in 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013.

For Son, it is the prospect of a first major title that spurs him on. He cruised past Kidambi Srikanth 21-14, 21-18. "Today I am really happy with my performance and to reach my first world semi-final," he said. "I will now prepare really hard for my match against Lin Dan."

In the bottom half, China's defending champion and Olympic gold medalist,

Chen Long, will meet the last European hope, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen.

LOCAL GIRL GILMOUR EXITS

Axelsen needed three games to overcome Chou Tien Chen 21-18, 20-22, 21-16, but Chen beat compatriot Tian Houwei much more easily, 21-12, 21-17. In the women's singles, Okuhara will meet India's Saina Nehwal - she knocked out local hope Kirsty Gilmour - and Chen Yufei continued to knock out higher seeds.

Following her win over favourite Akane Yamaguchi on Thursday, the teenager came from behind to beat Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon. Seeded one place lower at No.9, Yufei, the world junior champion, dropped the opening game 14-21 but battled back to win the next two 21-16, 21-12. "I am very happy to win two very tough matches in a row," said the 19-year-old. "I am also happy as I now know I can compete with the best in the world."

"After losing the first game, I was just trying to gain my confidence. I changed my strategy. When I was serving high I was putting myself under a lot of pressure because she is a very good attacking player, however when I switched to the short serve it helped my game a lot." Chen now needs to stage a third underdog victory to reach the final. In the semis she will face the No.4 seed from India, Pusarla V Sindhu. In the mixed doubles, Chinese No 2 seeds, Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong suffered a shock defeat to Hong Kong's Lee Chun Hei Reginald and Chau Hoi Wah. In a tough three end match, the No.10 seeds won 21-13, 17-21, 21-15.

"We don't really think about the medal," said Chau, who is now guaranteed bronze. "We have never beaten them before but every time it is close and always goes to three games. It's good to win at last." — AFP

JAGUARS NAME BLAKE BORTLES STARTING QB HEADING INTO SEASON

JACKSONVILLE: Blake Bortles is getting another shot as Jacksonville's starting quarterback. Coach Doug Marrone made the surprising announcement yesterday, naming Bortles his starter for the opener at Houston and ending any uncertainty heading into the preseason finale.

Marrone was scheduled to address his decision after practice. The call came a little more than a week after Marrone opened up the job and pleaded with Bortles and veteran Chad Henne to "go out there and take it." Bortles presumably did enough in Thursday's exhibition loss to Carolina to keep the starting job he's had the last three years. The third overall pick in the 2014 NFL draft will make his 46th consecutive start when the Jaguars open the season Sept. 10 at Houston.

Henne started Thursday's exhibition

against the Panthers and had some decent moments, but the 10th-year pro also got sacked three times in the first half, had a pass batted down at the line of scrimmage and badly overthrew a receiver down the middle of the field. Henne completed 8 of 14 passes for 73 yards and had a would-be touchdown pass dropped by rookie Keelan Cole.

Bortles delivered his best outing of the preseason, finishing with a touchdown and an interception. He completed 12 of 16 passes for 125 yards, playing mostly against backups in the second half. It's unclear how much stock Marrone put on those performances. This much is certain: Bortles has more upside than Henne and should be more effective scrambling behind what appears to be a shaky offensive line this season.

Bortles looked like a franchise quar-

terback in his second season, throwing for 4,428 yards and 35 touchdowns while smashing several team records. Although he racked up a chunk of his statistics late in lopsided games, there was belief that Bortles would only get better. Instead, he regressed in 2016 and was admittedly frazzled by the end of the year. His numbers were down, finishing with 23 touchdown passes and 16 interceptions. His mechanics were a mess, leading to accuracy issues. And many of his decisions were suspect at best, leaving coaches and teammates shaking their heads.

Marrone worked closely with Bortles the past two seasons as the team's offensive line coach and was convinced he would be more successful with an improved rushing attack. So Marrone and top decision-maker Tom Coughlin drafted LSU running back Leonard Fournette with the fourth overall pick

and added Alabama left tackle Cam Robinson early in the second round to beef up the ground game.

But when training camp opened, Bortles was making headlines for all the wrong reasons. He threw five interceptions in the team's first padded practice. He completed 5 of 17 passes in 11-on-11 drills during joint practices with New England. A few days after the preseason opener against the Patriots, Bortles threw two interceptions so ugly that Marrone pulled him and said he must have a tired arm. And then Bortles woefully underthrew two passes to Allen Robinson in last week's exhibition game against Tampa Bay.

Marrone had seen enough and wanted to send a message. Bortles' time on the bench ended up being brief. Although Marrone likely will have Bortles on a short leash to start the season, the long-term solution to

Jacksonville's quarterback quandary includes drafting or signing another one in 2018.

In the meantime, the Jaguars will hope to keep Bortles healthy. Jacksonville exercised a fifth year option in Bortles' rookie deal in May that could pay him \$19 million in 2018. His salary is guaranteed only for injury, meaning Jacksonville is taking a risk by even putting Bortles on the field.

But the 6-foot-5 Orlando native has been durable, starting every game since Week 4 of his rookie year. Bortles has completed 59 percent of his passes for 11,241 yards, with 69 touchdowns and 51 interceptions. He also has been sacked 140 times and lost 12 fumbles. Maybe his most damning statistic: He has 11 victories and 11 interceptions returned for touchdowns in three seasons. Now he's getting another chance to change the narrative. — AP



NEW YORK: New York Yankees' Tyler Austin (26) reaches second base on a wild pitch as Seattle Mariners shortstop Taylor Motter (21) loses control of the ball during the third inning of a baseball game Friday, in New York. — AP

BASEBALL

ALONSO HOMERS IN 11TH AS MARINERS EDGE YANKEES

NEW YORK: Yonder Alonso homered on a 100 mph fastball from demoted closer Aroldis Chapman in the 11th inning, and the Seattle Mariners outpitched the New York Yankees for a 2-1 victory Friday night. Mike Zunino homered and had three hits for the Mariners, right in the middle of a crowded race for the second AL wild card. They used seven pitchers to hold down the Yankees, who lead the wild-card chase but trail first-place Boston by 4 1/2 games in the AL East. Alonso entered as a pinch hitter in the ninth and sent a drive to center field with two outs in the 11th against Chapman (4-3), the \$86 million reliever who recently lost his job as closer. James Pazos (4-4) tossed a perfect inning against his former team and Edwin Diaz got three outs for his 30th save.

MARLINS 8, PADRES 6

Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, increasing his major league-leading total to 49, and tied a career high with five RBIs, helping the Marlins climb above .500 for the first time since April. Miami grabbed the lead for good on Marcell Ozuna's three-run drive in the seventh inning. It was Ozuna's 30th homer of the season. Carlos Asuaje and Jabari Blash homered for San Diego. Kirby Yates (3-5) got the loss. Dustin McGowan (8-1) got five outs for the win and Brad Ziegler pitched a perfect

ninth for his ninth save, all this month.

PHILLIES 7, CUBS 1

Rhys Hoskins hit another homer and Cesar Hernandez ripped a three run triple to back Jerad Eickhoff, helping Philadelphia to the victory. Called up from the minors too late to get a nickname on the back of his uniform for Players Weekend, Hoskins has put on a tremendous power display. He has nine homers and 21 RBIs in 16 games. No player in major league history has reached nine homers that quickly, according to MLB.com. Eickhoff (4-7) allowed one run and five hits in five innings. He has won four straight decisions. Jose Quintana (4-3) gave up six runs and nine hits in five innings, tying his worst start in eight outings since the Cubs acquired him from the White Sox. Kyle Schwarber hit a solo homer in the first for NL Central-leading Chicago.

METS 4, NATIONALS 2

New York ace Jacob deGrom had 10 strikeouts in 7 2/3 innings against Washington's makeshift lineup. DeGrom (14-7) allowed one run and five hits. He upped his strikeout total to 201 this season by fanning the side in the seventh. But the Mets lost outfielder Yoenis Cespedes in the first inning with a right hamstring strain that could end his season based

on the schedule. A.J. Cole (1-4) allowed one run and four hits over six innings for Washington. Adam Lind homered in the ninth off New York's AJ Ramos, who then loaded the bases with one out on a hit and two walks. Ramos retired Howie Kendrick and Andrew Stevenson to earn his 24th save in 26 opportunities.

ORIOLES 16, RED SOX 3

Mark Trumbo and Chris Davis homered, and the Orioles used a seven-run fifth inning to pull away for the victory. The Orioles have won three of four as they try to stay in the mix for an AL wild card. Trey Mancini led Baltimore with four RBIs. Jeremy Hellickson (8-7) pitched seven innings of three-run ball for his second win in an Orioles uniform. Boston committed a season-high five errors. Rick Porcello (8-15) was charged with 11 runs, four earned, and nine hits in 4 2/3 innings.

DODGERS 3, BREWERS 1

Yasmani Grandal hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the fifth for Los Angeles, and Yasiel Puig and Logan Forsythe homered. Grandal drove in Justin Turner with a single to center against Chase Anderson (7-3). Puig tacked on a solo drive in the sixth for his 23rd homer. Domingo Santana hit his 21st homer for Milwaukee, which has dropped three of four. Anderson allowed six hits in five innings. The Brewers stayed three games back of NL Central-leading Chicago, which lost 7-1 at Philadelphia. Santana connected against Kenta Maeda (12-5) in the second, but that was Milwaukee's only hit of the night. Maeda struck out seven in six innings and Kenley Jansen got three outs for his 35th save.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 3

Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer for Arizona, and Zack Greinke got his 15th win of the season. Greinke (15-6) allowed three runs, two earned, and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. He improved to 12-1 at home this season and Arizona pulled 1 1/2 games ahead of Colorado for the NL's top wild-card slot. Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st save in 36 tries. Brandon Crawford doubled twice, singled and scored twice for San Francisco. Ty Blach (8-10) was charged with four runs and six hits in five innings.

RAYS 7, CARDINALS 3

Corey Dickerson had four hits, including two doubles, and Tampa Bay won for the

fourth time in five games. Adeiny Hechavarria added three hits and two RBIs. Steven Souza Jr. homered, Kevin Kiermaier also drove in two runs and the Rays finished with 16 hits. Sergio Romo (2-1) earned the win with two scoreless innings in relief of Jake Odorizzi, who allowed three runs in 3 2/3 innings. The Rays' bullpen combined for 5 1/3 scoreless innings. St. Louis right-hander Michael Wacha (9-7) was charged with five runs and nine hits in 3 1/3 innings. The Cardinals have dropped five of six and eight of 11.

WHITE SOX 3, TIGERS 2

Yolmer Sanchez drove in Tim Anderson with a game-ending single, and the White Sox earned their third straight win. Anderson had a game-ending hit Wednesday against Minnesota. This time, he hit a leadoff double and scored easily on Sanchez's single off Joe Jimenez (0-2). Jose Abreu homered and went 2 for 2 with two intentional walks for Chicago. Juan Minaya (2-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. Detroit starter Justin Verlander allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings.

INDIANS 4, ROYALS 0

Rookie Ryan Merritt pitched a career-high 6 2/3 innings and Cleveland recorded its AL-leading 13th shutout. Merritt (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game to take the injured Danny Salazar's spot in the rotation. The 25-year-old left-hander scattered seven hits for his second career win, both coming against Kansas City. Francisco Lindor hit a two-run drive for Cleveland, and three relievers finished the eight-hitter. Kansas City left-hander Jason Vargas (14-8) allowed four runs in five innings. He has dropped four of his five August starts.

ASTROS 2, ANGELS 1

Rookie J.D. Davis homered for Houston, and George Springer scored the winning run on a wild pitch. Astros right-hander Collin McHugh (2-2) allowed one run in six innings. Ken Giles pitched the ninth for his 25th save. Right-hander Parker Bridwell (7-2) went seven innings for the Angels, allowing two runs and six hits. He did not walk a batter and struck out five. The Angels fell 1 1/2 games behind Minnesota for the final AL wild card.

TWINS 6, BLUE JAYS 1

Minnesota right-hander Bartolo Colon pitched 6 2/3 innings for his second straight win, and Byron Buxton had three hits and two

RBIs. Joe Mauer had three hits and scored twice as Minnesota snapped a seven-game losing streak north of the border. The Twins, who began the day a half-game ahead of Kansas City and Los Angeles for the second AL wild card, had not won in Toronto since June 11, 2014. Justin Smoak hit his 35th homer for Toronto, but the Blue Jays lost for the sixth time in seven games. J.A. Happ (6-10) yielded five runs and eight hits in six innings. Colon (6-10) allowed nine hits and walked one while improving to 4-1 in August.

BRAVES 5, ROCKIES 2

Matt Kemp and Kurt Suzuki homered for Atlanta, and Julio Teheran won at home for the first time in four months. Teheran (8-11) allowed two runs and five hits in 7 1/3 innings while stopping an Atlanta record streak of nine straight home losses. Aroldys Vizcaino pitched the ninth for his eighth save. Kemp and Suzuki each hit first-pitch homers off Chad Bettis (0-1). Kemp hit a two-run shot in the first and Suzuki led off the second with a line drive over the left-field wall. Mark Reynolds hit his 27th homer in the seventh for Colorado.

REDS 9, PIRATES 5

Reds rookie Robert Stephenson fanned a career-high 11, and Scott Schebler drove in three runs with a homer and his first triple of the season. Stephenson (2-4) stymied Pittsburgh with sharp-breaking pitches in his fifth start and 19th overall appearance, allowing two runs in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander fanned the first six batters for a modern Reds record, according to information from the Elias Sports Bureau provided by the team. Pittsburgh's Josh Bell hit a three-run homer off Tim Adleman in the seventh, one of his four hits. Ivan Nova (11-11) gave up seven runs - matching his season high - in five innings.

ATHLETICS 3, RANGERS 1

Khris Davis homered twice for Oakland, including a tiebreaking leadoff drive in the seventh. Kendall Graveman (4-4) improved to 3-0 at home in his fifth start back from a stint on the disabled list. He allowed one run and nine hits in seven innings. Blake Treinen worked the ninth for his sixth save since coming to the A's in a July 16 trade with the Nationals. Texas right-hander Nick Martinez (3-5), called up from Triple-A Round Rock to make the start, struck out seven in seven innings and allowed three runs. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

LA Dodgers 3, Milwaukee 1; Houston 2, LA Angels 1; Oakland 3, Texas 1; Arizona 4, San Francisco 3; Tampa Bay 7, St. Louis 3; Chicago White Sox 3, Detroit 2; Atlanta 5, Colorado 2; Baltimore 16, Boston 3; Cleveland 4, Kansas City 0; Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 5; Miami 8, San Diego 6; Minnesota 6, Toronto 1; Philadelphia 7, Chicago Cubs 1; NY Mets 4, Washington 2; Seattle 2, NY Yankees 1 (11 innings).

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	73	55	.570	-	Washington	76	50	.603	-
NY Yankees	68	59	.535	4.5	Miami	64	63	.504	12.5
Tampa Bay	64	66	.492	10	Atlanta	57	69	.452	19
Baltimore	63	65	.492	10	NY Mets	56	71	.441	20.5
Toronto	60	68	.469	13	Philadelphia	47	80	.370	29.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	71	56	.559	-	Chicago Cubs	68	59	.535	-
Minnesota	66	62	.516	5.5	Milwaukee	66	63	.512	3
Kansas City	64	63	.504	7	St. Louis	64	64	.500	4.5
Detroit	55	72	.433	16	Pittsburgh	61	68	.473	8
Chicago White Sox	51	76	.402	20	Cincinnati	55	74	.426	14
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	78	50	.609	-	LA Dodgers	91	36	.717	-
Seattle	66	63	.512	12.5	Arizona	71	58	.550	21
LA Angels	65	64	.504	13.5	Colorado	69	59	.539	22.5
Texas	64	64	.500	14	San Diego	57	71	.445	34.5
Oakland	56	72	.438	22	San Francisco	52	78	.400	40.5

RECORDS TUMBLE IN EUROPE’S TRANSFER ‘MADNESS’

PARIS: Ousmane Dembele’s transfer to Barcelona in a deal worth up to 147 million euros (\$175 million), making him the world’s second most expensive player after Neymar, is the latest dizzying move fuelled by TV money and Gulf-based club owners.

The deal agreed Friday to bring 20-year-old French striker Dembele to the Spanish giants from Borussia Dortmund was a direct consequence of Neymar’s shock 222-million-euro move to Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain that obliterated the world transfer record.

To further fill the gap left by Neymar’s departure, Barcelona are expected to make a final push to sign

Liverpool’s Brazilian playmaker Philippe Coutinho before the transfer window slams shut within days.

PSG, determined to mount a serious challenge for the Champions League, are also reportedly about to secure the signature of Monaco’s teenage starlet Kylian Mbappe for another stratospheric fee. In England, Manchester City’s Emirati owners have snapped up two of Mbappe’s French title-winning Monaco teammates.

City paid £52 million (58 million euros, \$67 million), a world record fee for a defender, for full-back Benjamin Mendy and another £43 million for midfielder Bernardo Silva. They also added

England international defender Kyle Walker for £50 million as part of their summer spending spree.

ROCKING THE BOAT

PSG and City and their Gulf-based owners “have shaken up the established order”, said Virgile Caillaet, a marketing expert who heads the French federation of sport and leisure industries.

“For years a handful of clubs have shared out the best players, without criticising the system, and now they are facing a handful of new rivals and a bidding war that they weren’t prepared for.”

In the case of PSG, Qatar also appears to be seeking to exert its “soft power” at

a time that it is locked in a feud with its regional rivals.

In the space of August, records set last year have been swept away, with the £89 million deal that took Paul Pogba to Manchester United in 2016 more than doubled by PSG’s swoop for Neymar that broke up Barcelona’s “MSN” trio of the 25-year-old Brazilian, Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi.

Dembele’s move for a fee of 105 million euros with add-ons worth another 42 million euros, following Neymar’s Barca exit, comes as footballers’ union FIFPro has blasted “transfer market madness”. Neymar’s move, it said, “is the latest example of how football is ever

more the domain of a select group of rich, mostly European-based clubs”.

The sum paid for Neymar is however “an exception”, Caillaet argued.

“He is one of the three best players in the world and he is only 25, while the others (Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo) are in their thirties.”

And in splashing out on Dembele and his 18-year-old France international teammate Mbappe, clubs are investing in the future.

“These are investments in future superstars who have a high potential resale value. It mustn’t be forgotten that clubs are commercial entities with investment strategies,” Caillaet said.—AFP

SWANSEA KEEP DE BOER IN PALACE PURGATORY



LONDON: Frank de Boer’s miserable start to life as Crystal Palace manager continued yesterday as his side lost 2-0 at home to Swansea City in the Premier League. Tammy Abraham’s first Swansea goal since he joined on loan from Chelsea and a Jordan Ayew effort gave Paul Clement’s Swansea their first victory of the campaign.

After defeats against Huddersfield Town and Liverpool, De Boer is still waiting for his first point and his first league goal as Palace manager. The former Netherlands defender was appointed in June after Sam Allardyce retired.

Swansea gave a debut to new signing Sam Clucas and flew out of the traps at Selhurst Park, going close in the fourth minute when Ayew headed just wide from Abraham’s right-wing cross. James McArthur menaced for Palace, but Swansea remained on top and after Abraham had tested Wayne Hennessey and Alfie Mawson had headed off-target from the ensuing corner, they went ahead in the 44th minute. An injury to James Tomkins brought Martin Kelly into the Palace defence and he had been on the pitch for less than two minutes when Abraham stole in front of him to volley in Leroy Fer’s cross.

It was Swansea’s first shot on target of the season. Palace were booted off at half-time and despite De Boer sending on Lee Chung-Yong for Patrick van Aanholt at the break, the home side fell even further behind within three minutes of the restart. Kelly was once again at fault as he was robbed on halfway by Kyle Naughton, who freed Ayew to round Hennessey and score.

A perfectly timed sliding challenge by Mike van der Hoorn prevented Palace substitute Yohan Cabaye halving the arrears, while Andros Townsend dragged narrowly wide of the Swansea goal late on. — AFP

BOXING

MCGREGOR VOWS KNOCKOUT AS MOMENT OF TRUTH NEARS

LAS VEGAS: Mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor vowed to knock out boxer Floyd Mayweather on Friday as a horde of Irish fans descended on Las Vegas for the trash-talking rivals’ cross-combat super-fight. McGregor, 29, will carry a substantial weight advantage into Saturday’s 12-round boxing contest at the T-Mobile Arena after a raucous weigh-in that saw him face-off with Mayweather for the final time before fight-night. With waves of green-shirted fans in a crowd of around 6,000 roaring their support for the Irish superstar, McGregor tipped the scales at 153 pounds, well inside the 154-pound limit.

Former welterweight champion Mayweather, 40, who has emerged from a two-year retirement to take on MMA star McGregor, weighed in at 149.5 pounds. The naturally bigger McGregor—who screamed into Mayweather’s face as the two men went nose-to-nose—said he expects to enter the ring at closer to 170 pounds.

Saturday’s one-off bout is projected to be the richest fight in history, with Mayweather poised to earn as much as \$200 million and McGregor potentially pocketing around \$100 million. McGregor, who has never fought in a professional boxing contest, is a massive underdog for a fight, which is expected to beamed live to around 200 countries and territories across the globe.

But the former apprentice plumber from Dublin, who was unemployed four years ago, defiantly predicted he was ready to spring a monumental upset on the skillful Mayweather, one of the finest boxers in history who boasts a perfect 49-0 record.

“That’s the worst shape I’ve ever seen him,” McGregor said of Mayweather. “He looks blown out, out of shape. I’m going to breeze through him, trust me on that.”

‘FIGHTING WINS FIGHTS’

Mayweather this week taunted

McGregor with suggestions that he was struggling to make the weight. But McGregor’s chiselled physique drew a line under lingering doubts about his training regime. “I’m a professional, I make weight—it’s sacrifice, dedication, focus, but I make it. I’m ready,” McGregor said. “I’m going to be a lot bigger than him tomorrow night, maybe closer to 170.”

A nonplussed Mayweather shrugged off his weight disadvantage and once again vowed to stop McGregor inside the distance. “Weight doesn’t win fights, fighting wins fights,” Mayweather said. “It won’t go the distance. Mark my words—I’m not worried about the scales.” McGregor meanwhile basked in the adulation of his Irish fans who have poured into the Nevada desert gambling capital this week. “You can’t beat us—we’ve already taken over,” McGregor bellowed. “Las Vegas is Ireland now.” An army of Irish fans poured out onto the Las Vegas strip following the weigh-in, dancing and singing in blazing hot sunshine. Tonight’s bout has appalled boxing traditionalists, who have rubbished the event as a meaningless, money-grabbing, mismatch which owes more to the pantomime traditions of WWE wrestling than the noble art.

Boxing pundits, coaches and fighters have lined up to dismiss McGregor’s hopes of succeeding where 49 others in Mayweather’s 21-year career have failed. “Would a ping-pong player have a chance of scoring a point against Roger Federer?” was the withering verdict of veteran trainer Teddy Atlas. “It’s going to be like walking through a really bad neighbourhood late at night. McGregor’s going to get mugged.”

The hard-nosed heavy-hitters of the gambling world agree. Today’s fight is set to smash records as the most bet-upon bout in Las Vegas history. But while McGregor, a long-odds underdog, has attracted most wagers, the majority of the money is on Mayweather.—AFP



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
West Bromwich v Stoke City	15:30	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Chelsea FC v Everton FC	15:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Liverpool v Arsenal	18:00	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley1	8:00	beIN SPORTS HD 11 EN
SPANISH LEAGUE		
RCD Espanyol v CD Leganes	19:15	beIN SPORTS HD 7
SD Eibar v Athletic de Bilbao	19:15	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Getafe CF v Sevilla FC	21:15	beIN SPORTS HD 3
Real Madrid v Valencia C.F	23:15	beIN SPORTS HD 3
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Torino FC v Sassuolo Calcio	19:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4
ACF Fiorentina v UC Sampdoria	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 2
AC Milan v Cagliari Calcio	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 4
SSC Napoli v Atalanta	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 11 EN
AC Chievo Verona v SS Lazio	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 7
Crotone v Hellas Verona FC2	1:45	beIN SPORTS HD 9
Spal v Udinese Calcio	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 8
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA		
RB Leipzig v SC Freiburg1	6:30	beIN SPORTS HD 5
Hannover 96 v Schalke 04	19:00	beIN SPORTS HD 5
FRENCH LEAGUE		
EA Guingamp v RC Strasbourg	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6
SCO Angers v LOSC Lille	18:00	beIN SPORTS HD 1 FR
AS Monaco v Olympique Marseille	2:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United’s Christian Atsu, left, and West Ham United’s Pablo Zabaleta battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and West Ham United at Saint James’s Park Stadium, Newcastle, England, yesterday. — AP

SOCCER



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United put a smile back on Rafael Benitez’s face as new signing Joselu inspired their first win of the season in a 3-0 success against West Ham United yesterday. Frustrated by Newcastle owner Mike Ashley’s failure to back him in the transfer market, Magpies boss Benitez hinted this week that he doesn’t see his long-term future at St James’ Park. Benitez has had to make do with a series of low budget deals, prompting suggestions the former Liverpool and Real Madrid manager is on the verge of quitting. But, with the transfer window closing next week, Benitez received some much-needed evidence that his squad are capable of competing in the Premier League.

Joselu scored Newcastle’s first league goal of the season in the first half and late efforts from Ciaran Clark and Aleksandar Mitrovic wrapped up the points. While Benitez finished the afternoon with his spirits lifted, West Ham manager Slaven Bilic was down in the dumps after his side’s third successive league defeat left them bottom of the table.

Benitez had warned Ashley in pre-season that Newcastle needed a major overhaul to turn last season’s Championship winners into a team capable of surviving in the top flight. Joselu hardly seemed the answer after a disappointing two-year spell at Stoke, but the Spanish striker, signed for £5 million (\$6.4 million) earlier this month, made the most of his first start.

A midweek League Cup exit against second-tier Nottingham Forest had piled further pressure on Newcastle and Joselu couldn’t lift the gloom early on when he shanked a half-chance well wide. But, after a predictably nerve-ridden opening, Joselu broke the deadlock in the 36th minute. West Ham’s teenage midfielder Declan Rice squandered possession and Mikel Merino pounced, setting Christian Atsu free for a cross that Joselu poked home under pressure from two defenders.

Suddenly there was a spring in Newcastle’s step and Merino’s stinging strike tested West Ham goalkeeper Joe Hart. Hart had to be alert again to deny Ayoze Perez before Hammers striker Javier Hernandez, already on a booking, escaped a red card after fouling Javier Manquillo.

West Ham almost equalised when Rob Elliot kept out Aaron Cresswell’s drive before Hernandez’s follow up was cleared off the line by Clark. Matt Ritchie led the Newcastle response, forcing Hart to save his low shot before providing the assist for his side’s second goal in the 72nd minute. Racing past Manuel Lanzini, Ritchie whipped over a pin-point cross and Clark was perfectly placed to score with a header.

Mitrovic ensured there was no late sting in the tale for Benitez, the Serb rounding Hart to slot home in the 86th minute. — AFP

HUDDERSFIELD CONTINUE FINE START TO TOP-FLIGHT LIFE



HUDDERSFIELD: Huddersfield Town continued their excellent start to life in the Premier League as David Wagner’s side drew 0-0 at home to Southampton yesterday. After winning their opening two matches of their first top-flight season in more than 40 years, Huddersfield lost their 100 percent record here but remain unbeaten and are still to concede a goal.

They dominated the first half without being able to find a way through a Southampton defence again deprived of want-away Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk and for whom new signing Wesley Hoedt was an unused substitute. Looking to bounce back from a midweek League Cup defeat to second-tier Wolverhampton Wanderers, the visitors had chances in the second half through Nathan Redmond and Ryan Bertrand but had to settle

for a point. Mauricio Pellegrino’s men are also unbeaten three games into the new Premier League campaign with five points to their name.

Meanwhile, Brighton and Hove Albion collected their first Premier League point yesterday as Watford held on for a 0-0 draw at home despite the first-half dismissal of Miguel Britos.

Brighton had failed to register a goal or a point in their first two matches this season and twice hit the post at Vicarage Road through Anthony Knockaert and Tomer Hemed. Knockaert was fortunate to escape serious injury when Britos was sent off for a reckless lunge on the Frenchman on 24 minutes, but Brighton were unable to convert their man advantage into victory.

Nathaniel Chalobah, who in midweek became the first Hornets player since John Barnes in 1987 to receive an England call-up, flashed a drive just wide for Watford while club-record signing Jose Izquierdo came off the bench for his Brighton debut.

Knockaert forced Heurelho Gomes to tip a low shot behind with 15 minutes to play and Izquierdo went close to a dream start with his new club when his 25-yard effort brushed the roof of the net. — AFP



HUDDERSFIELD: Southampton’s Shane Long, centre, in action with Huddersfield Town’s Christopher Schindler, left, and Chris Lowe during the English Premier League soccer match between Huddersfield Town and Southampton at the John Smith’s Stadium, Huddersfield, England yesterday. — AP

Sports

Hamilton equals
Schumacher record
with 68th pole



Relief for Benitez
as Newcastle
crush Hammers



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

NEW ZEALAND BEAT AUSTRALIA IN BLEDISLOE CUP THRILLER

Page 13



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku (R) jumps to win a header during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Leicester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

MAN UTD SUBS RASHFORD, FELLAINI SINK LEICESTER

	Man United	2
	Leicester City	0

MANCHESTER: Substitutes Marcus Rashford and Marouane Fellaini struck to maintain Manchester United's 100 percent start to the Premier League season in a 2-0 win over Leicester City yesterday. Rashford, dropped to the bench to make way for Anthony Martial, turned in Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner in the 70th minute, less than three minutes after coming on. Fellaini added a late second from Jesse Lingard's cross-shot to

send Jose Mourinho's side back to the top of the table after Huddersfield Town briefly overtook them by drawing with Southampton earlier in the day. But it looked as if they would be denied when Kasper Schmeichel made a superb penalty save from Romelu Lukaku early in the second half. The Leicester goalkeeper, son of former United great Peter Schmeichel, dived to his right to push away Lukaku's kick. The home side began full of confidence, threatening in the opening minute as Leicester captain Wes Morgan blocked a shot from Mkhitaryan after good build-up play down the United right. Craig Shakespeare's side had to work hard to withstand that early pressure, with Morgan at full stretch in central defence alongside new England squad member Harry Maguire. United, though, continued to press, with Juan

Mata unlucky to have a goal ruled out for a marginal offside in the 18th minute. Paul Pogba's cross was cleared unconvincingly by Maguire and Lukaku turned on the edge of the area to hit a shot that Mata followed up to sweep in after Schmeichel had parried. Assistant referee Constantine Hatzidakis raised his flag, but Mata looked to have been level with the Leicester back line as Lukaku let fly. Fired by that perceived injustice, United went close twice in quick succession. **MAHREZ MENACES** First Pogba half-volleyed Martial's outswinging cross just wide at the far post and then Schmeichel dived athletically to his right to paw away a bending Mata shot. Shinji Okazaki had a half-chance for Leicester

at the other end, with David de Gea gathering his low shot from Jamie Vardy's knock-down. But United continued to look the more dangerous side, with Pogba hitting a fierce 30-yard shot that flew just wide. Schmeichel was alert to gather Martial's snap-shot from 20 yards, before beating away a Pogba effort and then watching another drive from the France midfielder whizz by his right-hand post. Having been well protected by his defenders in the first half, Schmeichel was inspired to keep the game goalless when United were awarded a penalty in the seventh minute of the second half. Leicester's former United right-back Danny Simpson was adjudged to have handled Martial's driven cross from the left, but Schmeichel flung himself to his right to push away Lukaku's spot-kick. That gave the visitors the confidence to be a

little more adventurous, with winger Riyad Mahrez cutting in from the right and driving a ball to the near post that De Gea kicked away. Mahrez, repeatedly linked with a move away from Leicester, began to carry more of a threat, scuffing one shot wide and then breaking onto a pass by substitute Demarai Gray to deliver a dangerous cross. But 20 minutes from the end, Rashford diverted in Mkhitaryan's right-wing corner on the volley, with Schmeichel only able to push it into the roof of the net. Victory was secured in the 82nd minute as Fellaini diverted in fellow substitute Lingard's cross, despite replays suggesting he had been offside. The visitors almost pulled one back in stoppage time, but De Gea reacted well to turn away Andy King's close-range shot. Lukaku then blazed over at the other end. — AFP

LAST-GASP STERLING BREAKS BOURNEMOUTH HEARTS

	Bournemouth	1
	Man City	2

BOURNEMOUTH: Raheem Sterling scored a 97th-minute winner and was then sent off as Manchester City snatched a dramatic 2-1 victory at Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday. Bournemouth took a 13th-minute lead through a remarkable strike from left-back Charlie Daniels, who slammed a half-volley in off Ederson's crossbar from a position wide on the left. But David Silva teed up Gabriel Jesus to equalise eight minutes later and just as it looked like victory would elude City, Sterling struck deep into stoppage time with the aid of a big deflection off Andrew Surman. Sterling, whose late volley earned City a 1-1 draw with Everton on Monday, celebrated by throwing himself into the away section and was shown a second yellow card by referee Mike Dean. The outcome was harsh on Bournemouth, who are still searching for their first point of the season. But for City manager Pep Guardiola, Sterling's strike will spare him from the kind of inquest about his team's goal-scoring problems that he faced after the draw with Everton. He sprang a surprise before kick-off by dropping Sergio Aguero to the bench. A glum-looking Aguero took his seat in the dug-out behind Guardiola and for 15 minutes it looked as though the visitors might have cause to regret their manager's decision. Bournemouth started positively, pressing the visitors high up the pitch and in particular making headway down the right flank. Left-back Benjamin Mendy was making his City debut following his £52 million (\$67 mil-

lion, 56.2 million euros) move from Monaco and took time to settle against Adam Smith, the energetic home right-back. The home side's early efforts were rewarded when Daniels produced a wonderfully clean strike to beat Ederson. **QUICK-THINKING JESUS** There seemed little danger when the Bournemouth wing-back moved onto a loose ball wide on the left flank following Vincent Kompany's clearing header. But Daniels met the ball on the half-volley, arrowing a sublime shot past the soaring Ederson and in off the underside of the bar. Bournemouth might have doubled their lead when Jermain Defoe-making his first league start-volleyed too close to Ederson from Surman's chipped through-ball. But Jesus was becoming more prominent and it was the

striker's quick thinking, together with Silva's vision, that led to the equaliser. The Brazilian played a quick free-kick to Silva after Bernardo Silva had been fouled by Nathan Ake before running beyond the Bournemouth defender to collect the return pass and slot home. Ake had been caught out and a minute later he was fortunate to escape with only a yellow card after being robbed of possession by Jesus before tripping the City forward, blocking a clear run on goal. The visitors were incensed by Dean's decision not to send Ake off, but it appeared as though it would prove academic as City dominated the remainder of the first half, creating a succession of clear chances. Jesus, whose explosive start to his City career was stalled here last February when he broke his foot, fired wide with a good oppor-

tunity before Bernardo Silva saw a shot saved after another mistake by Ake. Somehow Bournemouth survived to reach half-time on level terms and having maintained a foothold in the game, they could have gone ahead in the 61st minute when Joshua King fired against the post. That chance came after Nicolas Otamendi and Fernandinho combined to lose possession in a dangerous area and with his side wasteful at the other end, Guardiola's frustration was becoming clear on the touchline. Otamendi should have done better than direct a free header against the post from Kevin De Bruyne's cross, which summed up his side's second-half efforts up to then. Then, with the game deep into added time, Sterling was twice involved in a move that ended with him collecting Danilo's cross and sending a deflected shot past Asmir Begovic. —AFP



BOURNEMOUTH: Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling shoots to score their late winning goal during the English Premier League football match between Bournemouth and Manchester City at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, southern England yesterday. —AFP

MESSI MAKES AMENDS FOR MISSED PENALTY IN BARCELONA WIN

MADRID: Lionel Messi scored twice and saw a penalty saved as Barcelona maintained their perfect start to the season in La Liga with a 2-0 win at Alaves yesterday. Without new signing Ousmane Dembele, who completed the second most expensive transfer ever by moving for 105 million euros (\$125 million) from Borussia Dortmund on Friday, or the injured Luis Suarez, Messi ensured Barca didn't lose any early ground in the title race despite a tumultuous start to the campaign off the field. The five-time World Player of the Year missed from the penalty spot for the 20th time in his career as Fernando Pacheco produced a stunning save midway through the first half. However, Messi wasn't to be denied as his deflected effort opened the scoring shortly after half-time before a sweetly-struck volley secured all three points. Alaves shocked Barca a year ago by winning at the Camp Nou, and the hosts were left to rue a big chance missed by Ruben Sobrino at 0-0 before succumbing to Messi's magic. Sobrino burst past the leaden-footed Gerard Pique on the half-hour mark, but placed his shot too close to Barca 'keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen as he bore down on goal. Pique was involved at the other end as Barca were awarded a penalty moments later when he was hauled to the ground by Rodrigo Ely at a Messi free-kick. Messi's record from the spot had improved greatly since he briefly quit international football after blasting a spot-kick over as Argentina lost the Copa America Centenario final to Chile little over a year ago. However, Pacheco sprung to his right impressively to turn Messi's effort round the post. Visibly annoyed at himself, Messi responded with the opening goal 11 minutes after the break as his powerful low drive struck helpless Alaves defender Alexis to fly past Pacheco. Alexis was also at fault when Barca doubled their advantage 11 minutes later as his poor clearance was headed by substitute Paco Alcacer into Messi's path to smash home on his favoured left foot. — AFP



CARACAS: Soldiers break ranks after standing in formation behind Adm. Remigio Ceballos, chief of staff of the Venezuelan Armed Forces Strategic Operational Command, during a press conference to provide details of military drills that are being prepared in response to President Donald Trump's warning of possible military action, at Fort Tiuna, Caracas on Friday.—AP

TRUMP SLAPS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA

MADURO SAYS CRUDE EXPORTS TO US WILL BE IMPEDED

CARACAS/WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed an executive order that prohibits dealings in new debt from the Venezuelan government or its state oil company on Friday in an effort to halt financing that the White House said fuels President Nicolas Maduro's "dictatorship."

Maduro, who has frequently blamed the United States for waging an "economic war" on Venezuela, said the United States was seeking to force Venezuela to default - but he said it would not succeed.

The order is Washington's biggest sanctions blow to date against Maduro and is intended to punish his leftist government for what Trump has called an erosion of democracy in the oil-rich country, which is already reeling from an economic crisis.

It suggests a weakening in already strained relations between the two countries. Just three days ago, Maduro said the relations between Caracas and Washington were at their lowest point ever.

"All they're trying to do to attack Venezuela is crazy," said Maduro on a TV broadcast on Friday. "With the efforts of our people, it will

fail and Venezuela will be stronger, more free, and more independent."

Venezuela faces a severe recession with millions suffering food and medicine shortages and soaring inflation. The South American nation relies on oil for some 95 percent of export revenue.

Citgo Petroleum, the US refiner of Venezuela's ailing state-run oil company PDVSA, is "practically" being forced to close by the order, warned Maduro, adding that a preliminary analysis showed the sanctions would impede Venezuelan crude exports to the United States. He said he was calling "urgent" meetings with US clients of Venezuelan oil.

The new sanctions ban trade in any new issues of US-dollar-denominated debt of the Venezuelan government and PDVSA because the ban applies to use of the US financial system. As a result, it will be it tricky for PDVSA to refinance its heavy debt burden. Investors had expected that PDVSA would seek to ease upcoming payments through such an operation, as it did last year, which usually requires that new bonds be issued.

Additional financial pressure on PDVSA

could push the cash-strapped company closer to a possible default, or bolster its reliance on key allies China and Russia, which have already lent Caracas billions of dollars. "They want us to fall into default," said Maduro, adding that just under two-thirds of Venezuelan bond holders are in the United States.

Maduro insisted that Venezuela would continue paying its debts. The decision also blocks Citgo Petroleum from sending dividends back to the South American nation, a senior official said, in a further blow to PDVSA's coffers. However, the order stops short of a major ban on crude trading that could have disrupted Venezuela's oil industry and worsened the country's faltering economy.

It also protects holders of most existing Venezuelan government and PDVSA bonds, who were relieved the sanctions did not go further. Venezuelan and PDVSA bonds were trading broadly higher on Friday afternoon. "Maduro may no longer take advantage of the American financial system to facilitate the wholesale looting of the Venezuelan economy at the expense of the Venezuelan people," US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Friday. Venezuela's Oil

Ministry and PDVSA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

PDVSA under pressure

PDVSA, the financial engine of Maduro's government, is already struggling due to low global oil prices, mismanagement, allegations of corruption and a brain drain. Washington last month sanctioned PDVSA's finance vice president, Simon Zerpa, complicating some of the company's operations as Americans are now banned from doing business with him. Trump has so far spared Venezuela from broader sanctions against its vital oil industry, but officials have said such actions are under consideration. The Republican president has also warned of a "military option" for Venezuela, although White House national security adviser H R McMaster said on Friday that no such actions are anticipated in the "near future." Venezuela has for months struggled to find financing because of PDVSA's cash flow problems and corruption scandals have led institutions to tread cautiously, regardless of sanctions. Russia and its state oil company Rosneft have emerged as an increasingly

important source of financing for PDVSA, according to a Reuters report. On at least two occasions, the Venezuelan government has used Russian cash to avoid imminent defaults on payments to bondholders, a high-level PDVSA official told Reuters.

"At this point our view is that the country can scrape by without defaulting this year, largely with the help of Chinese and Russian backing and by further squeezing imports. Next year is a tossup," said Raul Gallegos, an analyst with the consultancy Control Risks.

However, China has grown reticent to extend further loans because of payment delays and corruption. Russia has been negotiating financing in exchange for oil assets in Venezuela, sources have told Reuters, but going forward it would be difficult for the OPEC member to provide enough assets to keep up loans destined for bond payments.

Venezuela's government has around \$2 billion in available cash to make \$1.3 billion in bond payments by the end of the year and to cover the import of food and medicine, according to documents reviewed by Reuters. — Reuters

YELLEN DEFENDS BANK RULES PASSED AFTER 2008 CRISIS

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on Friday emphatically defended the web of regulations the Fed helped enact after the 2008 financial crisis, saying it helped restore the banking system's health and disputing criticism that the rules have hurt lending.

Yellen said the Fed is prepared to adjust the regulations as needed to help financial institutions. But in a speech to an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, she implicitly rejected efforts by Republicans, including President Donald Trump, to scrap the 2010 Dodd-Frank law as a threat to the economy. The Fed chair refrained from remarking on the state of the economy or on the possible future course of interest rates. Investors had been awaiting her speech for any signals about what the Fed might do when it meets next month. The central bank has been gradually raising its benchmark short-term rate, but most Fed watchers expect no rate hike before December at the earliest.

Overhanging Yellen's speech was

the possibility that it marks her final appearance in Jackson Hole as Fed chair. Her term as chair will end in February, and Trump has made clear he is considering replacing her. One candidate he has mentioned is Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs senior executive who leads Trump's National Economic Council.

Some saw Yellen's forceful defense Friday of the regulatory structure imposed on banks since the 2008 crisis as further lessening the likelihood that Trump will reappoint her.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said Yellen's speech "puts her at odds with Trump's deregulation mandate, which could weigh against her remaining as chair when her term expires early next year." Paul Ashworth, chief US economist at Capital Economics, said that "Yellen's passionate defense of the post-crisis tightening of financial regulation isn't going to go down particularly well at the White House" and that it probably makes it less likely that Trump will re-nominate her.



JACKSON HOLE: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, talks with Mario Draghi, head of the European Central Bank, and Haruhiko Kuroda, head of the Bank of Japan, during a break at the central bankers conference at Jackson Hole, Wyoming.—AP

At the same time, tensions might be arising between Cohn and Trump. In an interview published Friday in the Financial Times, Cohn said he considered quitting the White House over the president's widely condemned response to violence at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Cohn said he ultimately

chose not to leave because of the duty he feels to his job.

A few hours after Yellen's speech Friday, Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, told the Jackson Hole conference that the global economy is strengthening but warned that countries must work together to resist a growing backlash against open trade. —AP

TRUMPONOMICS DRAWS A NOT SO SUBTLE REBUTTAL

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo: President Donald Trump's name was rarely mentioned as top central bankers and economists spent Friday mulling the fate of the global economy at a mountain lodge here.

But his presence loomed large at a Federal Reserve symposium, and even without citing the man in the White House, the presentations - from Fed chair Janet Yellen, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi and a host of researchers - amounted to a broad rebuttal of many of the ideas that carried Trump to office. It was a day when the president's calls for financial deregulation and "America First" economic nationalism were countered by Yellen's reminder of how a deep financial crisis wrecked the economy a decade ago, and economic research arguing that China and Mexico are less to blame for job losses than forces like technology.

"For some, memories of this experience may be fading - memories of just how costly the financial crisis was and of why certain steps were taken," Yellen said in arguing for only modest changes to existing regulations. Yellen is still in the running to be reappointed by Trump to a new term.

Draghi, traveling from Frankfurt and

representing a group of US allies that the administration has sparred with over climate change, trade and other issues, gave a broad call for free trade and stronger multilateral institutions of the sort Trump has criticized. "A turn towards protectionism would pose a serious risk for continued productivity growth and potential growth in the global economy," Draghi said in a lunch address that included a defense of the World Trade Organization, the Group of 20 and other global groups he felt should be strengthened.

The rise of Trump, the vote by Britain to leave the European Union and the spread of opposition to globalization have worried central bankers and many mainstream economists who feel that the problems associated with globalization have overshadowed the benefits and morphed into broad opposition to it.

Remedies for these issues may be outside the immediate sphere of monetary policy, but they are concerned that new waves of protectionism or reckless deregulation could threaten an economic system that is currently stable and that has returned to growth across the world. —Reuters

DRAGHI MUM ON STIMULUS, PLEADS FOR OPEN TRADE

ECB CALL TO COMBAT ANTI-GLOBALIZATION

WASHINGTON: European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi on Friday delivered a plea for maintaining trade liberalization but acknowledged the widespread perception that lowered trade barriers had fueled inequality.

However, Draghi's widely anticipated address to an annual gathering of global central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming made no mention of when the ECB may wind down its multi-trillion-euro bond-buying stimulus program adopted in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. The decision not to discuss Europe's "quantitative easing" policy saw the euro's value spike against the dollar, with the European currency up nearly 2.5

Draghi said that without greater productivity growth the current recovery cycle would "converge downwards" to slower growth rates, according to prepared remarks.

But he also warned against the threat of protectionism, which has risen as the developed world grows increasingly discontented with free trade. "People are concerned about whether openness is fair, whether it is safe and whether it is equitable," Draghi said.

Britain's shock vote to exit the European Union and Donald Trump's nationalist presidential campaign opposing open borders have sent waves of unease through quarters that normally



FRANKFURT: Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, speaks during a news conference in Frankfurt.—AP

percent against the greenback following the release of Draghi's remarks at 1900 GMT.

Both Draghi and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen skirted discussion of pressing policy matters in their remarks at Jackson Hole on Friday so as not to unsettle markets. "After all the excitement about possible Draghi fireworks in Jackson Hole, the just delivered speech was an anti-climax, a non-starter," said Carsten Brzeski and Bert Colijn of ING in a research note. "The demand for an ECB game plan on tapering will only get stronger and Draghi will have to address it."

promote trade liberalization, such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"A turn towards protectionism would pose a serious risk for continued productivity growth and potential growth in the global economy," Draghi said. He called for stronger public policies to support those left behind by globalization, including education and vocational training. "Taking a stand against race-to-the-bottom dynamics that threaten labor protections calls for a common regulatory approach," Draghi said, noting that European social safeguards had helped prevent this.

Globalization

Draghi said that the global economy is strengthening but warned that countries must work together to resist a growing backlash against open trade. Draghi told an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole that multi-lateral cooperation is crucial to reassuring workers who worry that free trade puts their jobs at risk. He said advanced economies need to ensure that an open global economy preserves fairness, safety and equity for their labor forces.

In his speech, Draghi did not address the financial health of the eurozone, which includes the 19 nations that share the euro currency. Some investors had expected him to send some signal about when the ECB will begin slowing its monthly bond purchases, which have been intended to keep borrowing rates low but are less needed now that the European economy is improving. The ECB is expected to take up the issue when its policymakers meet next month.

In a question-and-answer session after his speech, Draghi was asked how he thought the ECB's bond buying program had worked. Draghi had used a speech three years ago in Jackson Hole to signal that the ECB was considering following the lead of the Federal Reserve and launching bond purchases to try to lower long-term loan rates at a time when many nations were struggling to emerge from a deep recession. Draghi said he felt that the efforts the ECB had made had worked "very well" and that the bond purchases had been "very successful because the recovery ... is gaining ground."

But he said there were still factors slowing the rebound, including the slowness of wage gains. Because of that, he said, "a significant degree of monetary accommodation is still warranted." When Draghi first suggested a few months ago that the ECB might begin paring its bond purchases, the comment sent the euro rising in value against the dollar, a development that has hurt European exports by making them costlier. The euro's rise also complicated the ECB's efforts to increase undesirably low inflation.

Since then, Draghi has been cautious in sending any signals that a reduction in bond purchases could be occurring. The ECB is expected to discuss the issue at its meetings this fall. Many analysts expect the ECB to decide to begin a gradual reduction in the size of the monthly bond purchases, perhaps beginning next year. — Agencies



SEOUL: South Korean protesters sit near the banner with a picture of Lee Jae-yong, vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, near the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul on Friday. —AP

SAMSUNG CHIEF LEE IS JAILED: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

SEOUL: Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong, the de facto leader of South Korea's most successful business group, was sentenced Friday to five years prison for offering bribes and other crimes.

Lee, 49, was groomed to lead the conglomerate that was founded by his grandfather and became such a dominating force in South Korea that it's mockingly called "Republic of Samsung" by the public. He took a higher profile role at the world's largest maker of smartphones, television sets and microchips that power consumer electronics after his father suffered a heart attack in 2014 and was poised to cement control. Instead, at the end of last year Lee was implicated in a massive political scandal that culminated in President Park Geun-hye's ouster.

The court said he was guilty of offering bribes to the former president and her close friend Choi Soon-sil to facilitate a smooth handover of power at Samsung, which is a publicly traded company. Park and Choi are also on trial. A Samsung lawyer said the guilty verdict would be appealed.

ly. Usually they get suspended sentences or pardons. Civic groups said sentencing Lee to prison time was a meaningful step toward justice. But others thought the punishment was too light.

"I think the court should have accepted prosecutors' request for 12 years in prison," said Choi Sukun, a 37-year-old teacher in Seoul. "Given the gravity of the case, I think the ruling is too generous." Business lobby groups, while refraining from openly criticizing the verdict, expressed concerns that Lee's absence from the helm of Samsung would take a toll on the South Korean economy, given Samsung accounts for about one fifth of the nation's exports.

"Samsung Electronics represents South Korea as a global company so we are deeply worried about the fallout from his long absence," said a spokesman at the Korea Employers Federation, a pro-business lobby group. "It will be a disaster not just to an individual company but to the nation's economy." But South Korea's presidential office took the verdict as a step forward, issuing an unusual commentary on a court ruling. "We hope that it would pave the way to end persistent government-business collusion," a presidential spokesman said, according to Yonhap.

Has lee lost his hold on Samsung?

It's almost a rite of passage for the bosses of family-controlled South Korean conglomerates known as chaebol to go to prison for white collar crimes only to later make a comeback. Some were pardoned and others got sentences reduced on appeal. Lee's own father was twice convicted for tax evasion but received a special presidential pardon so he could help South Korea win its bid to host the Winter Olympics for the first time.

But the princeling's case may be different because the public is increasingly unwilling to indulge the double standards long enjoyed by families who were lionized a generation ago for helping to turn South Korea into a manufacturing powerhouse. The ousted Park's replacement as president, Moon Jae-in, was elected on hopes his administration would end cozy ties between government and business and end the emperor-like rule of chaebol families. "It's an entirely different world now," said Park Sang-in, a professor at Seoul National University. "The public's perception of the problems at chaebol and the need to reform chaebol has significantly changed."

Perceptions of Lee's business competency have also been damaged by the trial. To insist on his innocence, he gave testimony that made him appear clueless and not in charge. "He was stumbling, stammering, unsure of the basic functions of his own company and its offices," said Geoffrey Cain, the author of an upcoming book on Samsung.

How has the public reacted?

Many expected Lee would get a prison sentence because the judiciary has been criticized for past leniency toward major white collar crime. Lee's sentence is among the longest prison terms ever handed out in South Korea to a member of a prominent business fami-

Is Samsung's future in jeopardy?

Samsung Electronics, the crown jewel of the Samsung group, has reported record profits despite Lee's arrest in February and a damaging recall for Galaxy Note 7 phones that were prone to battery fires. The financial success was largely thanks to events set in motion by Lee's father in the 1990s. The elder Lee made the decision to break into the memory chip industry and followed up with massive and risky investments that rivals could not match every year.

Those investments are paying off. Samsung, the world's largest maker of memory chips for servers, mobile devices and computers, was the biggest beneficiary of supply constraints and explosive demand for mobile devices that pushed up prices. The boom in the memory chip industry is expected to last a couple of years. Longer term, however, some analysts see risks for Samsung and its flagship Samsung Electronics.

"South Korea's chaebol system is similar to monarchy," said Park, the Seoul National University professor. "In the monarchy system, you need a king." There is also potential for a destabilizing family feud over inheritance when the elder Lee dies. "Samsung was in the middle of change and that has stopped," said Park Ju-gun, chief executive at CEO Score, a private corporate watchdog. "That is a big risk." But one tech analyst in the US, Carolina Milanesi of Creative Strategies, doubts the imprisonment will knock the company off its perch as the world's leading maker of smartphones. That's because key decisions about Samsung's smartphones are already being made by DJ Koh, who will remain in his role as president of the company's mobile division. —AP

FRANCE TO LOAN 430M EUROS TO IRAQ: MINISTRY

BAGHDAD: France is to grant a 430-million euro loan to Iraq whose economy has been weakened by low oil prices and its fight against jihadists, a French foreign ministry official said yesterday. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian made the announcement during talks in Baghdad with Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and said the 430 million euros (\$512-million) would be released before the end of 2017, the official told AFP.

"France was present from the beginning of the battles against Daesh (Islamic State group) and will be present as well during time of peace," said Le Drian, who was accompanied by Defence Minister Florence Parly. The loan is aimed at helping the war-torn country implement reforms, improve public services and

boost the performance of its state enterprises. Le Drian also handed Abadi an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to visit Paris. The visit by France's foreign and defence ministers come as Iraqi forces announced the ouster of the Islamic State group from the centre of Tal Afar, one of the jihadists' last remaining stronghold in the north. The advance, just days into an assault on the strategic town, comes six weeks after Abadi declared victory over IS in second city Mosul, where the jihadist group declared its "caliphate" in 2014. One the plane to Baghdad, Le Drian said that Iraq now faced the dual challenge of "a war that is coming to an end and the beginning of the stabilization and reconstruction". —AFP



SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AT JARIR FOR CBK CLIENTS

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced a special offer for all holders of the bank's ATM, credit and pre-paid cards through which they get a 20 per cent discount on purchases made at Jarir Bookstore. CBK also announced that the offer would be valid from August 27 till September 16 in all Jarir Bookstore branches.

CHINA BANS NEW BUSINESS VENTURE BY N KOREANS

BEIJING: China's commerce ministry has banned North Korean nationals from setting up new businesses in the country, enforcing recent UN sanctions as Washington urges Beijing to do more to curb its ally's nuclear ambitions.

The ban, effective immediately, came as Pyongyang launched three short-range missiles yesterday according to the US military, reviving tensions days after President Donald Trump said the isolated regime was starting to show Washington some "respect". Beijing has been under pressure from Washington to rein in its neighbor,

which relies heavily on the Asian giant for its economic survival, and the ban is the latest attempt by China to dispel US concerns over its close ties with Pyongyang.

China, which is the recipient of some 90 percent of North Korea's exports, earlier this month said it would suspend its imports of iron, lead and seafood from the country after halting its coal purchases in mid-February. Under the new measures, North Korean nationals will not be allowed to establish any new company in China, whether it is a joint venture with a Chinese partner or a firm with foreign capital. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.759
Indian Rupees	4.746
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Srilankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	223.020
Hongkong Dollar	38.695
Bangladesh Taka	3.737
Philippine Peso	5.988
Thai Baht	9.127

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.787
Qatari Riyal	83.207
Omani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.482

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.200
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.972
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	427.490
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	32.414

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	356.940
Sterling Pound	395.540
Canadian dollar	239.710
Turkish lira	85.890

Swiss Franc	316.020
Australian Dollar	240.230
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr

US Dollar	302.300
Canadian Dollar	241.223
Sterling Pound	387.881
Euro	358.255
Swiss Frank	293.689
Bahrain Dinar	801.467
UAE Dirhams	82.688
Qatari Riyals	83.883
Saudi Riyals	81.501
Jordanian Dinar	426.983
Egyptian Pound	17.081
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.978
Indian Rupees	4.724
Pakistani Rupees	2.868
Bangladesh Taka	3.741
Philippines Peso	5.927
Cyprus pound	17.988
Japanese Yen	3.766
Syrian Pound	1.588
Nepalese Rupees	2.950
Malaysian Ringgit	71.517

Selling Rate

US Dollar	302.300
Canadian Dollar	241.223
Sterling Pound	387.881
Euro	358.255
Swiss Frank	293.689
Bahrain Dinar	801.467
UAE Dirhams	82.688
Qatari Riyals	83.883
Saudi Riyals	81.501
Jordanian Dinar	426.983
Egyptian Pound	17.081
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.978
Indian Rupees	4.724
Pakistani Rupees	2.868
Bangladesh Taka	3.741
Philippines Peso	5.927
Cyprus pound	17.988
Japanese Yen	3.766
Syrian Pound	1.588
Nepalese Rupees	2.950
Malaysian Ringgit	71.517

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.788
Thai Bhat	10.049
Turkish Lira	87.212

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.384421	0.394421
Czech Korune	0.005820	0.017820
Danish Krone	0.044470	0.049470
Euro	0.355830	0.364830
Georgian Lari	0.134799	0.134799
Norwegian Krone	0.035041	0.040241
Romanian Leu	0.081608	0.081608
Russian ruble	0.005131	0.005131
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Slovenian Krona	0.033987	0.038987
Swiss Franc	0.310344	0.321344

Australian Dollar	0.232201	0.244201
New Zealand Dollar	0.213367	0.222867

CURRENCY	BUY America	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.237433	0.246433
US Dollars	0.298550	0.302970
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.302970

Bangladesh Taka	0.003244	0.003828
Chinese Yuan	0.043906	0.047406

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036811	0.039561
Indian Rupee	0.004159	0.004847
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002688	0.002868
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067299	0.073299
Nepalese Rupee	0.003020	0.003190
Pakistan Rupee	0.002691	0.002981
Philippine Peso	0.005809	0.006109
Singapore Dollar	0.217891	0.227891
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001597	0.002177
Taiwan	0.009999	0.010179
Thai Baht	0.008764	0.009314

Currency	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.796004	0.804504
Egyptian Pound	0.014352	0.020260
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.422259	0.431259
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155	0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020821	0.044821
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.078841	0.083781
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.120682	0.128682
Turkish Lira	0.082489	0.092789
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082789
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984	0.001064

CHINA'S SCHOOL DROPOUTS A GROWING CONCERN FOR ECONOMY

HUANGCHUAN VILLAGE: Every day after lunch, Qu Yexiu used to potter around her house in north west China doing housework and looking after her two-year-old grandson.

Now, every day after lunch, Qu and her grandson visit the newly opened early-childhood development centre in their village of Huangchuan in the mountains of Shaanxi province, where he can play with other toddlers. "Things are better now that we have this village centre," said Qu, 56. She looks after her two grandchildren while their parents work and live in nearby Anhui province. The other grandchild attends a preschool.

"My grandson has other kids to play with and I can chat to the other grandparents."

Early-childhood development centres like the one in Huangchuan may be the answer to one of China's biggest challenges - reducing the number of children who drop out of school in rural areas.

Children in rural areas, where around half of the population lives, have far lower cognitive and social skills compared to their urban counterparts, setting them on a path of dropping out of school before they can even say their own name.

Poor education was not such a problem for previous generations of Chinese who spent their lives on the farm or in factories but it could now have far-reaching consequences. The government

wants to push the country up the value chain, so the world's second-largest economy needs a higher-skilled labour force if it wants to transition to a higher-value economy. "This is the biggest problem that China faces that no one knows about. This is an invisible problem," said Scott Rozelle, co-director of the Rural Education Action Program (REAP), a research and policy organization based at Stanford University, which partners with Chinese universities.

"China has the lowest levels of human capital (out of all the middle income countries in the world today). China is lower than South Africa, lower than Turkey. We think that's related to when they were babies, they didn't develop well," Rozelle said. China's National Health and Family Planning Commission is working with economists like Rozelle and his colleagues to provide early childhood development opportunities to babies and toddlers in rural China.

Labor force

Seventy-six percent of China's labor force did not attend high school, based on figures from the country's last census in 2010, according to an academic paper co-authored by the Asian Development Bank and published last year in the China Quarterly, an academic journal. The gap between rural and urban China is also big. Only 8



BEIJING: Early-childhood development centres like the one in Huangchuan may be the answer to one of China's biggest challenges - reducing the number of children who drop out of school in rural areas.

percent of rural Chinese in the labor force in 2010 had attended any high school, compared to 37 percent of urban Chinese, according to the China Quarterly article. The disposable income of a per-

son living in rural China was 6,562 yuan in the first half of 2017, compared to 18,322 yuan for someone in an urban area, according to China's statistics bureau. — Reuters



TIRANA: European Union's enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn, second left, chats with Serbia's Prime minister Ana Brnabic, second right during an informal meeting of Western Balkans countries in the Albanian port city of Durres, 33 kilometers (20 miles) west of the Tirana. — AP

WESTERN BALKANS LEADERS ADOPT PLAN TO DEEPEN ECONOMIC TIES

DURRES, Albania: Prime ministers from Western Balkans countries yesterday agreed on a road map to deepen their regional economic cooperation as part of the process for joining the European Union.

The agreement was reached at a meeting in the Albanian port city of Durres, where Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama hosted his counterparts from Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro. The meeting was held under tight security at a government beach resort. Police and National Guard troops maintained a heavy presence while a military warship patrolled off the coast.

Rama said the prime ministers agreed on a 115-point plan that would create a "fundamental transformation of the movement of goods, service, capital, qualified employees to make the region more attractive to investment, flexible in commercial exchange and speed up its economic growth and wellbeing along the road to the EU."

EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn and World Bank Vice President Cyril Muller also attended the meeting.

Participants discussed how to implement the 115 items, Hahn said. He noted that even though the commercial exchange of goods between EU member countries and the six Western Balkan nations has doubled in the last decade to a value of 46 billion Euros (\$54 billion), bilateral ties in the region have not changed. "The creation of an economic area is something supporting (their) European aspiration, but that also helps the countries for a better perspective," Hahn said. "Finally everything is done in the interest of the citizens, improving the living conditions of the citizens."

The leaders gathered in Italy last month for an official EU summit that focused on boosting economic growth through stronger inter-regional relations. All are at different stages of EU integration. The EU's official enlargement process is on hold until 2019. — AP

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES 3 WINNERS OF ITS MONTHLY RED ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce the three lucky winners of its eighth monthly red account draw for year 2017, which was held at the bank's head office, on Monday, 21 August 2017, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The red account draw resulted in the announcement of three students who won prizes ranging from an iPhone 7 plus to an Apple Watch and they are:

- Abdullah Hani Hussain Al-Hadad - iPhone 7 Plus
- Abdullah Tareq Abdullah Al-Ryahi - iPad Pro
- Danah Husam Mohammad Abdullah - Apple Watch

Apple Watch

Gulf Bank's red is a dedicated account for high school, college and university students aged between 15 and 25, which does not require a minimum deposit. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners until January 2018. The next draw dates are announced as follows:

- September 28, 2017
- October 23, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- January 11, 2018



BRITAIN FEELS BREXIT PINCH AMID SIGNS OF SLOWDOWN

WIDENING TRADE GAP, LACKLUSTER MANUFACTURING

LONDON: Britain's economy is beginning to feel the Brexit pinch, or perhaps given the strong performance of the rest of the world economy, it should be punch. After a prolonged period of relatively benign economic numbers following last year's vote to leave the European Union, there are now signs of a potentially serious slow down.

They stretch from retrenching households to hesitant businesses, from a widening trade deficit to lackluster manufacturing. They also come just as the EU and Britain return to the negotiating table, the latter with a handful of new post-Brexit position papers.

Since mid-August, London has been releasing official papers on issues such as trade, customs, the European Court of Justice, and what the province of Northern Ireland's future border with EU member Ireland will look like. The performance of Britain's pound over that period suggests few people were impressed enough with them or with the likelihood they will come to pass to overcome the economic signs.

Running through the release of five official Brexit papers, the pound has lost more than 1.4 percent against the dollar since Aug 14 and the euro has gained the same against sterling.

While the pound weakness is not directly linked to the papers, their release has clearly done nothing to improve confidence in the currency. That is at least in part because the UK

economy is starting to feel the impact of Brexit. "Economic momentum looks uncertain. Monthly factory orders this year suggest that the sector is failing to capitalize from a weaker sterling and a pick-up in global trade," Jaisal Pastakia, investment manager at Heartwood Investment Management, said in note.

Elsewhere, second quarter economic growth figures showed consumer spending slumping to a two and a half year low of just 0.1 percent quarter-on-quarter.

Business investment was also at a standstill. Barclays said this was "highlighting just how much businesses are holding back investment in the face of high levels of uncertainty regarding the outlook for business conditions." Add to that a warning from Britain's heavyweight food supply industry that EU workers it relies on are already leaving or considering doing so.

Back to the table

It is not completely linear, of course. Car manufacturing bounced back in July and the unemployment rate is falling. Last month's purchasing managers indexes also pointed to steady-albeit sluggish-economic growth over the coming months.

So the wheels have not come off. But the backdrop for Britain as it returns to the table on Monday is nonetheless a stark contrast to what the other side is experiencing. The euro zone,

which comprises 19 of what will be the remaining 27 EU members, is flying high.

The latest data shows annual growth at 2.2 percent, the highest for more than six years; economic sentiment is cruising at levels last seen before the financial crisis; even the bloc's notoriously high unemployment rate is falling. Improvement is fairly widespread among euro-zone countries, meanwhile. Florian Hense, an economist with Berenberg bank, notes the eurozone has now had 17 consecutive quarters of growth.

"And most countries of the currency union were at the party," he said in a note. "Countries that have for a very long time... struggled to get a stable footing, are beginning to recover, too."

Whether this continues or is peaking may become clearer in the coming week when various sentiment indicators, unemployment and manufacturing reports are released. The flash composite purchasing manager index has already shown the bloc to be well in expansion mode with no sign of an August slowdown. Inflation too will be on the agenda. It is expected to be 1.4 percent year-on-year, too far below the European Central Bank's near 2 percent target to impact rates decisions on its own.

But the growth picture is enough to have the ECB at least thinking about tapering its quantitative easing bond-buying program. Some have taken to calling that QExit. — Reuters



LAGOS: A farm laborer walks in the afternoon light on the Rosedale Dairy Farm. Farming in Nigeria is not for the fainthearted. Intermittent electricity means generators are needed half the time. — AFP

'END-OF-THE-WORLD' FACTORIES STRUGGLE TO ADAPT TO MACRI'S ARGENTINA

RIO GRANDE, Argentina: On a recent morning, workers wearing blue shirts and black gloves assembled digital TV set-top boxes inside one of the world's most unlikely factory towns.

Their employer, BGH SA, for nearly 40 years has been manufacturing consumer electronics here in Rio Grande, a city in the chilly island province of Tierra del Fuego, located at the far southern tip of Argentina. Like dozens of factories that have taken root in this sparsely populated land of penguins and glaciers, BGH owes its survival to government tinkering. Special tax breaks and high trade barriers have turned this remote outpost into the source of 90 percent of the air conditioners, cell phones, TVs and microwaves sold in Argentina.

Now, it has perhaps the most to lose as President Mauricio Macri works to modernize Argentina's closed economy. The former businessman has already lifted some import restrictions and began unwinding costly subsidies for electricity and other utilities, hitting electronics sales.

Tierra del Fuego, home to just 150,000 people, is feeling the sting. Amid a deep recession, it shed 6,000 jobs last year, a 13 percent drop that was the sharpest for any province.

Output has plunged at many of the area's factories, including BGH. The Argentine company's TV set-top box business has dwindled to a single assembly line, down from five a few years ago. Its laptop unit closed last year, and the air condition-

er lines run a single shift per day, down from two earlier this year. The company's woes are emblematic of the pain rippling across Argentina's wider industrial sector, where employment shrank by 4.6 percent, or 58,000 jobs, between November 2015 and May 2017, according to Buenos Aires consultancy Elypsis.

The losses carry risks for Macri, whose 2015 presidential victory ended 12 years of populist rule. Former President Cristina Fernandez's welfare spending, electricity subsidies and industry protections were applauded by many poor and working class Argentines, but the measures generated inflation and pummeled public finances.

Macri has won plaudits from investors by winding down those distortions. But the policy shifts have generated some losers in the near-term, including factory workers left without jobs and families saddled with higher power bills. Whether Argentines feel the economic recovery that is underway will be crucial to the performance of Macri's market-friendly "Let's Change" coalition in October's mid-term legislative elections. "The government changed the rules of the game," said Diego Teubal, executive director of BGH's consumer division.

Emboldened by trade protections under the leftist Fernandez, the company invested in new equipment and doubled its Rio Grande workforce to nearly 2,600 people. Under Macri, BGH has slashed its payroll to just over 1,000 workers

and begun importing some electronics from China. "The idea that at some point that could change is always in the back of your mind," Teubal said.

A pricey label

Nowhere are decades of interventionist policies more evident than in Tierra del Fuego, a mountainous, wind-swept archipelago often referred to as the "end of the world." Cut off from the mainland by the frigid Strait of Magellan, the region is divided between Argentina and Chile. Worried about the military designs of its neighbor, Argentina in 1972 turned its portion of the main island into a special economic zone free of many taxes to lure people and businesses to settle there.

The region boomed under Fernandez, who slapped taxes on imported electronics and used import permit requirements to freeze trade. Foreign firms such as China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and Canada's Blackberry Ltd hired local Argentine factories to produce their products. But the Made-in-Tierra-del-Fuego label is a pricey one. To attract workers, factory salaries are three times higher than the national average. Shipping costs are exorbitant. Foreign-made parts first land in Buenos Aires, where they are loaded onto trucks for the 1,800 mile journey south. Once assembled, the finished goods head back the way they came. — Reuters

Companies Announced Profits - First Half 2017 with First Half 2016								
Sectors	Number of Announced companies	Common Listed Companies Profits '000		Change		% of Total		Rank
		First Half 2017	First Half 2016	'000 KD	%	First Half 2017	First Half 2016	
1 GAS & OIL	5	3,345	7,369	(4,024)	-54.6%	0.3%	0.8%	10
2 BASIC MATERIALS	2	9,615	4,089	5,526	135.1%	0.9%	0.5%	6
3 INDUSTRIALS	30	118,865	104,458	14,407	13.8%	11.7%	11.9%	3
4 CONSUMER GOODS	4	37,433	38,520	(1,087)	-2.8%	3.7%	4.4%	9
5 HEALTH CARE	2	6,579	4,923	1,656	33.6%	0.6%	0.6%	8
6 CONSUMER SERVICES	11	18,185	25,466	(7,281)	-28.6%	1.8%	2.9%	12
7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS	4	124,026	121,703	2,323	1.9%	12.2%	13.9%	7
8 BANKS	12	479,969	450,194	29,775	6.6%	47.2%	51.3%	2
9 INSURANCE	6	20,620	14,254	6,366	44.7%	2.0%	1.6%	5
10 REAL ESTATE	33	69,803	62,718	7,085	11.3%	6.9%	7.1%	4
11 FINANCIAL SERVICES	42	126,991	38,473	88,518	230.1%	12.5%	4.4%	1
12 TECHNOLOGY	2	1,455	5,824	(4,369)	-75.0%	0.1%	0.7%	11
Total	153	1,016,886	877,990	138,897	15.8%	100%	100%	

Source: Boursa Kuwait

Most Active Sectors & Companies		
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C (ZAIN)	14,404,916	18.6%
ALIMTIAZ INVESTMENT CO. K.S.C.C	9,356,927	12.1%
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	8,881,344	11.5%
AHLI UNITED BANK B.U.C	6,349,601	8.2%
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	4,038,558	5.2%
Total	43,031,346	55.5%
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
BANKS SECTOR	24,480,674	31.6%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	17,374,195	22.4%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	14,667,547	18.9%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	8,023,113	10.4%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	6,731,555	8.7%

KUWAIT POPULATION REACHES 4.415 MILLION

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: The periodical quarterly statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Kuwait (January-March 2017) published on its website provides some economic and monetary indicators whose developments worth following up and documentation. For instance, total population in Kuwait in the end of the first quarter of 2017 scored 4.415 million, which is only 4,000 people more than the figure in the end of 2016. This means that the average of quarterly growth rate of people reached 0.09 percent, or 0.36 percent per year. We believe that there is error in the figures unless reverse migration has occurred whose justifications have been missed.

The bulletin indicates that balance of trade commodity exports minus commodity imports-achieved surplus in the first quarter of 2017 in the amount of KD 1.625 billion, a drop by -4 percent from the surplus of the fourth quarter of 2016. Kuwait's exports during this quarter scored about KD 4.165 billion, 89.2 percent of which were oil exports.

Value of commodity imports in Kuwait excluding the military- scored about KD 2.539 billion. Kuwait achieved KD 392 million surplus in the first quarter of last year, KD 1.202 billion in the second quarter, KD 1.385 billion in the third quarter and KD 1.693 billion in the fourth quarter due to the rise in oil prices. This means that balance of trade in 2016 achieved surplus in the amount of KD 4.672 billion of which 89.6 percent were oil exports. This is -32.9 percent lower than its value in the counterpart period of 2015 in the amount of KD 6.964 billion. Imports value in 2016 scored KD 9.304 billion. Current year surplus is expected to score KD 6.5 billion if the first quarter surplus recurs and oil price remains around \$50 per barrel. Therefore, trade surplus rise would be between 40 percent and 50 percent.

Consumers' price index during the first quarter achieved positive growth by about 0.6 percent. Their average scored 144.3 (2007=100) rising from an average of 143.5 in the fourth quar-

ter of last year which is tolerable. This growth is attributable to the dominance of the impact of rising housing services prices from an average of 148.2 to an average of 150.4 (+1.5 percent).

The bulletin indicates drop in the weighted interest rates of balances on deposits from 1.643 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016 to 1.632 percent in the first quarter of this year, a quarterly drop rate by -0.67 percent. The weighted interest rates of balances on loans continued its rise from 4.509 percent to 4.583 percent, for the same period, 1.6 percent quarterly growth rate.

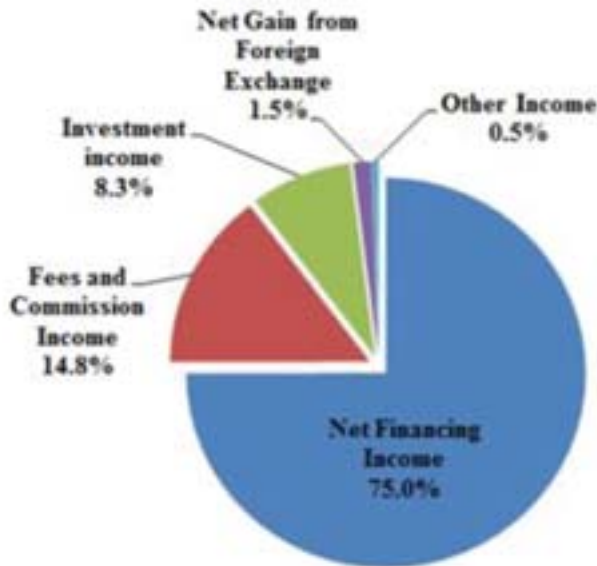
Volume of private sector deposits at local banks scored about KD 35.058 billion (KD 34.133 billion in the end of 2016), a 2.7 percent quarterly growth rate. On the other hand, local banks claims on private sectors increased to KD 36.922 billion up from KD 36.021 billion in the end of 2016, achieving 2.5 percent quarterly growth rate.

Investments In Areva

The French Government offered to buy "Areva" shares from the minority owners and granted two weeks from August 1 to August 14, 2017 to do that. It offered 4.5 euros per share which is 13.85 percent of the buying price. The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) sold its share (4.82 percent), 18.46 million shares, and received 83 million euros in return, less by 517 million euros compared to purchase price at 600 million euros with estimated 86 percent loss. We deliberately delayed commenting on the deal for two main justifications. The first one mentioned by the authority, which is correct, is that the accounting should be on the basis of the total performance of the entire investments of the sovereign fund, i.e. in one financial year, and not on the basis of investment performance within it.

The second is that Kuwait is currently at crossroads and should start with a fundamental change to its investments function. Therefore, our purpose here is not to raise debate about

Total Operating Income in the First Half 2017



the deal but to use

"Areva" investment as a prelude to call for a fundamental required change in the function of the Future General Fund by transforming it into a retirement fund after indicators of the oil age starting its retirement. Investment in "Areva" occurred at the beginning of the major prosperity for the oil market after 2008 crisis. It also came at a time with an inclination towards using the atomic energy and after the advice of an international consultant. The purchase was by a price less than that appraised by that consultant at 325 euros per share (365 euros estimated by the consultant) before splitting the one share into 10 shares.

Therefore, it is assumed that the KIA did what should have done to make an investment decision. Nevertheless, the decision was not clean from sins. The decision came to buy part of the

German "Siemens" Company share (34 percent) in "Areva." Areva employs 3,600 German professionals. All atomic industry in Germany is with Siemens. Nevertheless, the complaint of the strong partner "Siemens" came as a result of its boredom from the dominance of the French Government partner on the decision-making power. The complaint and incompetence of a partner of such magnitude and with this benefit from the partnership make replacing it with minority shareholders, the biggest being Kuwait with 4.82 percent, meaningless to the new shareholders. The decision came after "Areva" purchased a uranium company listed on Toronto stock market -Canada- in 2007 when uranium prices were at \$135 while the prices was at \$42 when Kuwait purchased the shares. "Areva" was suffering from its investment in that company from uranium prices and its reserves volume by the end of 2010, the deal time. Besides, there was general information about an arbitration case filed in 2008 against the company together with "Siemens" for compensating by 3.5 billion euros due to encountered problems in building a reactor in Finland. The purchase deal was signed on December 28, 2010. It could have been better to wait until "Areva's" financial statements had been published after the end of the year when its financial problems would have emerged together with its investment allocations in the uranium company. Knowing the financial position of the company could have been adequate enough to cancel the purchase resolution. Finally, and under all circumstances Kuwait would have not benefited neither from technological partnership nor from job opportunities. In addition, the big risk could not justify the probable investment financial return.

Again, the basis of accusing any investment entity should be the total average of its investments' performance, and not on the basis of one deal. This deal was misfortunate. In 2011, "Fukushima" catastrophe occurred in the careful Japan and not in "Chernobyl" in Russia, which caused an extensive deterioration in that industry. In addition, Kuwait may have been exposed to a trick or deliberate concealment of vital information about the company by the company management and the French Government, its main owner.

However, oil market conditions are no longer the same as in the beginning of the current decade and will get worse in the next decade. The function of the future generations is no

longer supportive of the financial conditions, but the main function is to finance the public finance at least to help Kuwait succeed in creating economy that finances itself from taxes on its activities.

The Kuwait Investment Authority announced achieving a general average return by 5.1 percent on its investments in the past four fiscal years. We believe it is close to our proposed target at 6 percent so that the revenue becomes the sustainable main financing source of about 60 percent of the budget expenditures on the basis of which the transform in the concept of sustainable public finance is built. Changing the investment function makes the measurement unit and judging any investment in par with its significant role in realizing the total goal for the total fund's investments. Then, investment will not be in any available field and standards become unified for judging the resolution, either rewarding or penalizing.

Profits of Listed Companies in H1

The number of listed companies which officially announced results of their operations for the first half was 153 companies, about 95 percent of the 161 listed companies, after excluding the suspended companies, the companies which moved from the official market to the parallel market, and those with varying fiscal years. Net profits of those companies scored KD 1.017 billion, increased by 15.8 percent from profits of the same companies in the first half of 2016 which scored KD 878 million.

When we compare profits of the second quarter of the current year, with profits of the same sample in the first quarter, which scored KD 447.9 million, we note it dropped by -11.3 percent. 8 sectors out of 12 active sectors increased their profits, if compared with its performance in the first half of 2016. The best was financial services sector which increased its profits from KD 38.5 million to KD 127 million, or by 230.1 percent. The banks sector came second and increased its profits from KD 450.2 million to KD 480 million, or by 6.6 percent. The industrial sector came third which increased its profits from KD 104.5 million to KD 118.9 million, or by 13.8 percent.

While profits of the consumer service sector retreated from about KD 25.5 million to KD 18.2 million, or by -28.6 percent. Details of the sectors performance are summarized in the attached table. Results of the first half of the current year indicate improvement in the performance of 98 companies, including 72 companies with increased profits and 26 companies reduced their losses or turned into profitability. This means that 64.1 percent of the companies which announced their results achieved better performance. 55 companies achieved drop in their performance including 39 companies whose profit level dropped, while 16 companies increased their losses or moved from profits into losses.

The weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the traded volume index, the number of transactions index, and the general index showed an increase, while the traded value index decreased, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 416.9 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 6.4 points or about 1.6 percent compared with its level last week and it increased by 53.9 points or about 14.8 percent compared with the end of 2016.

scored 86.5% compared with 86.4%.

	30/06/2017	30/06/2016	Change		
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%	
Total Assets	1,897,816	1,827,907	69,909	3.8%	↑
Total Liabilities	1,640,762	1,579,055	61,707	3.9%	↑
Total Equity Attributable to The Equity Holders of The Bank	253,789	245,687	8,102	3.3%	↑
Total Operating Incomes	30,676	31,419	(743)	-2.4%	↓
Total Operating Expenses	15,253	13,858	1,395	10.1%	↑
Provision	3,950	5,043	(1,093)	-21.7%	↓
Taxation	506	529	(23)	-4.3%	↓
Net income	10,967	11,989	(1,022)	-8.5%	↓
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	1.2%	1.3%			↓
**Return on Average Equity Relevant to The Bank Shareholder (ROE)	8.7%	9.8%			↓
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	21.1%	23.1%			↓
Earnings per share (EPS) – (Fils)	11.7	12.8	(1.1)	-8.9%	↓
Closing Price – (Fils)	244	182	62	34.1%	↑
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplies (P/E)	10.4	7.1			
Price to Book Value Multiplies (P/B)	1.0	0.8			

* Indicators Ended June 30, 2017 on an annual basis

STOCKS UP; S&P 500 BREAKS TWO-WEEK LOSING STREAK

NEW YORK: US stocks rose on Friday, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index cruised to its first winning week in the last three. It was a relatively quiet week, with fewer shares trading hands than usual, and one where the most anticipated event was a pair of speeches expected to create only a ripple in the market, if that. The annual symposium of central bankers in Wyoming followed through on those expectations.

The S&P 500 rose 4.08 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,443.05, and it barely budged off its course after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen gave her speech in the morning. The day's other headline event, a speech by European Central Bank head Mario Draghi, likewise did little to alter the course for stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 30.27 points, or 0.1 percent, to 21,813.67, the Nasdaq composite dipped 5.68, or 0.1 percent, to 6,265.64 and the Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks rose 3.58, or 0.3 percent, to 1,377.45. Central bankers have used past gatherings of economists in Jackson Hole to signal big changes in policy, and investors were listening in case this time followed suit.

But Yellen focused on defending regulation of the financial industry and gave no indication of changes to interest-rate policy. While the speech may lower her chances of getting reappointed Fed chair next year, as President Donald Trump has been in favor of

reducing regulations, it didn't change investors' expectations that the Fed will continue to slowly raise interest rates and prepare to pare back its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet. The biggest reaction to the speeches may have been in the currency market, where the dollar fell against rivals following Yellen's speech. Gains for the euro also accelerated following Draghi's speech.

The dollar fell to 109.24 Japanese yen from 109.51 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1888 from \$1.1806, and the British pound rose to \$1.2880 from \$1.2802.

In the stock market, design-software company Autodesk jumped to one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after reporting stronger results for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It gained \$4.36, or 3.9 percent, to \$114.97. Stocks have been winding up and down since the S&P 500 set a record earlier this month. Stronger-than-expected earnings reports from big US companies have helped to support the market, while worries about politics have intermittently chipped away at confidence.

The S&P 500 climbed 0.7 percent this week, following losses of 0.6 percent and 1.4 percent the last two weeks. President Trump plans to make a push next week in his efforts to overhaul the tax system, with a stop scheduled in Springfield, Missouri. Tax reform was one of the big pro-business policies that investors were banking on early this year

WALL STREET WEEKLY ROUNDUP



NEW YORK: The New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rallied on Friday with technology companies, banks and industrial companies making some of the largest gains.—AP

after Republicans swept control of Washington, though expectations have dimmed in recent months.

"The market generally does not believe that anything is going to happen, it's maybe a 20 to 30 percent chance," said Phil Orlando,

chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors. Orlando, though, thinks it's more likely that tax reform will happen, as Republicans look to notch a major win before the 2018 elections.

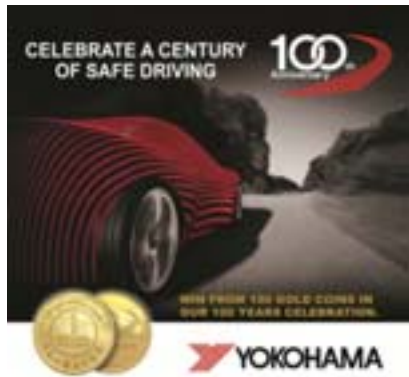
"Republicans have got to know that if they don't get anything done, they're toast," Orlando said. "This concept of self-preservation is a powerful one, in terms of keeping their jobs." In overseas markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index picked up 0.5 percent, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong jumped 1.2 percent and South Korea's Kospi edged up by 0.1 percent. European markets were weaker. The CAC 40 in France fell 0.2 percent, the German DAX dipped 0.1 percent and the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.1 percent.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.17 percent from 2.20 percent late Thursday. The two-year yield held steady at 1.33 percent, and the 30-year yield slipped to 2.75 percent from 2.77 percent.

Benchmark US crude added 44 cents to settle at \$47.87 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 37 cents to \$52.41 per barrel. Wholesale gasoline was little changed at \$1.67 per gallon, heating oil was virtually unchanged at \$1.62 per gallon and natural gas fell 6 cents to \$2.89 per 1,000 cubic feet. Gold rose \$5.90 to \$1,297.90 per ounce, silver rose 9 cents to \$17.05 per ounce and copper was little changed at \$3.03 per pound.—AP

AL-SAYER ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF YOKOHAMA'S SECOND RAFFLE DRAW

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies held the second raffle draw of the special promotion celebrating Yokohama's 100th Anniversary at the Yokohama Center - Canada Dry on 21st August 2017 to announce 10 winners of Yokohama special summer promotion.



List of the 10 winners of the promotion are as below		
	Prize	Names
First Prize	10 Gold Coins	Saad Mohammed Shabib
Second Prize	5 Gold Coins	Abdulrahman Awad Al Azmi
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Fourth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Mohammed Mubarak Al-Khalidi
Fifth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Eldo PunnDose
Sixth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Mohammed Sayar Al Shammari
Seventh Prize	2 Gold Coins	Salem Mohammed Al Mutawa
Eighth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Sultan Mohammed Fahd
Ninth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Nasser Abdelrahman Hassan
Tenth Prize	2 Gold Coins	Ayas Mohamed Ali

The draw was organized under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce & Industry - for Consumer protection affairs along with Krishna Kumar General Manager

Tires, Oil and Paint (TOP) Division MNSS, Inderpal Singh Senior Manager, Tire Sales from Al-Sayer Yokohama and Mohammad Amin Nasimi Senior Manager After-Sales



Marketing. Yokohama special promotion entitles customers to enter the final draw upon purchase of Yokohama tire from an authorized dealer for a chance to win Gold

coins. Remaining draw of this promotion will be held on 14 September 2017 and the last date to enter the draw will be the 10th of the respective month.



120 فائز في 120 يوم

KFH ANNOUNCES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN 12TH DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the twelfth draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Adnan Al-Rashed, Khalil Abed, Khawla Al-Nisf, Jawahar Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Nuwashri, House of Tayeb and Shawq Al-Shaya.

The campaign that lasts for 120 days gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw.

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefiting clients and merchants.

It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

NMC HEALTH TO OPERATE, MANAGE EMIRATES HEALTHCARE ASSETS

REVENUES FROM O&M CONTRACTS TO EXCEED AED 70M

ABU DHABI: Emirates Healthcare, a leading healthcare provider owned by Abu Dhabi investment group KBBO, has announced signing an operating and management contract with NMC Health, the leading integrated healthcare provider operating across the United Arab Emirates, for the management of Emirates Healthcare assets.

Yazen Abu Gulal, CEO of KBBO Group and Emirates Hospital Chairman commented, "We are particularly pleased to have NMC Health, a prestigious and recognized brand, handle the operations and management of Emirates Healthcare's assets. Our expansion strategy and vision is to provide the highest level of care for our customers and the expertise of NMC Health in operations and management has made them an ideal partner to provide a world-class experience."

Emirates Healthcare assets that fall under this agreement include recognizable brands such as CosmeSurge, which provides cosmetic medical services in the UAE and the UK, as well as Emirates Hospitals and Clinics which provide medical services across six emirates in the UAE. It also includes Emirates Rehab and Homecare Services, a division that provides home nursing, rehabilitation, therapeutic care and home-based care with a presence in the UAE, Slovakia and Oman.

"Top international bodies responsible for regulating and governing healthcare provided positive feedback on NMC Health's track record in all aspects of managing the operations of major medical institutions.

The phenomenal reputation of NMC Health informed our decision to sign over the management of Emirates Hospitals and Clinics, CosmeSurge and Emirates Rehab & Homecare Services. With this signing, we look forward to the future of these assets with great anticipation," added Abu Gulal.



CEO of NMC Health, Prasanth Manghat, stated, "The brands under Emirates Healthcare are among the most well-known in this market, and NMC Health is delighted to help bolster that reputation by streamlining their operations.

We take great pride in the signing of this contract as it signifies NMC Health is rightfully recognized as a leader in the healthcare industry for its innovative management solutions and outstanding customer service. We look forward to working with Emirates.

Healthcare to help them achieve the vision of their management team and that of KBBO Group, setting the standard for the entire healthcare industry within the UAE."

NMC Health is now managing multiple private and public sector healthcare facilities across varied geographies, with total annual revenues from O&M verticals set to reach \$519 million. These contracts continue to be associated with good returns and require minimal capital expenditure or working capital on part of the group.

UPSET WITH TRUMP'S RESPONSE, ECONOMIC AIDE MULLED QUITTING

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's top economic adviser sharply denounced the president's response to the racial violence in Charlottesville, saying in an interview that he felt "compelled" to speak out. Gary Cohn, who is Jewish, was so upset by Trump's comments that he wrote a letter of resignation but never submitted it.

"Citizens standing up for equality and freedom can never be equated with white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK," Cohn told The Financial Times in an interview published Friday. "I believe this administration can and must do better in consistently and unequivocally condemning these groups and do everything we can to heal the deep divisions that exist in our communities." It was an extraordinary public rebuke of the president by a senior adviser, and came just as Cohn will be a key figure in the administration's fall push for sweeping tax reforms. It also played out as Cohn emerged as a candidate to replace Janet Yellen as chairman of the Federal Reserve when her term ends in February.

Cohn told associates he expressed his unhappiness to Trump in a conversation a week ago at the president's New Jersey golf club and considered stepping down, according to a person familiar with the conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private talks. Two people familiar with his thinking said he'd written a resignation letter but then pocketed it.

"As a Jewish American, I will not allow neo-Nazis ranting 'Jews will not replace us' to cause this Jew to leave his job," Cohn said in the Financial Times interview.

Cohn said he had come under "enormous pressure" both to resign and to remain in his position with the administration. He told the Financial Times, "As a patriotic American, I am reluctant to leave my post as director of the National Economic Council because I feel a duty to fulfill my commitment to work on behalf of the American people."

Markets rattled

Financial markets were rattled last week by rumors that Cohn would resign, and US stocks dropped until the White House put such talk to rest. In the interview, Cohn aired publicly what he had been telling those close to him for more than a week: that he was upset by Trump's remarks that "many sides" were to blame for the violence in Charlottesville.

The White House had signed off on Cohn's interview, which was meant to outline the



WASHINGTON: National Economic Director Gary Cohn speaks in the briefing room of the White House, in Washington. — AP

administration's plans for overhauling the tax code, according to officials. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Cohn has spoken often with the president and that "Gary has not held back how he feels about the situation." "He's been very open and honest, so I don't think anyone was surprised by the comments," Sanders said. Nonetheless, longtime Trump associate Roger Stone said on Twitter that Cohn "should be fired immediately for his public attack on the president."

Cohn was one of three aides who appeared with Trump last Tuesday at the president's free-wheeling news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower. It was there that Trump defended his original assessment that "both sides" were responsible for the violence and suggested that some of those who marched with the KKK and neo-Nazis were "fine people."

Cohn was then left to field questions about infrastructure and did not address the president's remarks. But Cohn told people close to him that he was dismayed at the president's comments and that many friends had urged him to quit. Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left with a \$285 million payout, has been motivated to stay because he feels he is providing an important public service and is concerned that no one capable is poised to step into his role if he leaves, said one outside White House adviser with knowledge of his thinking.

Others in the administration have privately expressed displeasure at the president's remarks, but Cohn is among the first to go public. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who also is Jewish, earlier put out a statement defending Trump's response. On Friday, Mnuchin said that "under no circumstances was I going to resign."

Cohn is viewed as part of a moderate faction within the White House, along with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser; top aide and daughter Ivanka Trump; and deputy national security adviser Dina Powell. They have been derided as "globalists" by ousted chief strategist Steve Bannon, a preacher of populism who frequently clashed with the "New Yorkers."

Replacement

There has been widespread speculation that Cohn wants to be the next chair of the Federal Reserve, though he has dismissed the talk publicly. With Yellen's four-year term ending in six months, Trump has made clear he is considering replacing her, though he hasn't ruled out asking her to remain. Cohn's chances for the Fed job could be harmed if he were to resign from his current position. Cohn said in the Financial Times interview that a tax overhaul is the White House's "No. 1 focus right now" and that the president will begin a big push on it next week, including an appearance in Missouri on Wednesday. — AP

EID CASH GIFT FROM CHEVROLET ALGHANIM!

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons, the exclusive dealer of Chevrolet cars in Kuwait, announced the launch of its Eid Al-Adha offers for this year. This exclusive four-day offer gives Chevrolet enthusiasts an excellent chance to get an Eid cash gift of up to KD1600, and is only valid from the 27th to the 30th of August.

This offer includes a selection of 2017 models of Tahoe, Silverado, Camaro, and Malibu LTZ, making it the best time to visit one of our Chevrolet showrooms in either Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Al-Ghanim), Sharq, Fahaaheel or Ahmadi to get your hands on one of these cars.

Part of this offer is the legendary Tahoe, a favorite among the youth who are looking for a vehicle that possesses powerful performance qualities with its mighty 5.3 liter, 355 HP engine and best-in-class fuel efficiency, in addition to its elegant design and technology. Also included is the Camaro, which is the first car that comes to mind when talking about excitement and passion.

The Chevrolet Silverado has a special standing in Kuwait, because of its combi-

nation of safety, durability and superior performance, while the Malibu LTZ is the car of choice for those who are looking for a mid-size sedan with elegance, innovative design and a luxurious interior.

Chevrolet Care Program "I Care"

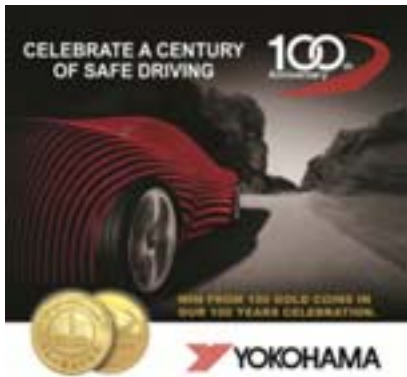
All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust.

The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for four years.

Customers can take advantage of the limited summer offer to own the car of their dreams by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, Fahaaheel and Ahmadi.

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The winners are: Adnan Al-Rashed, Khalil Abed, Khawla Al-Nisf, Jawahar Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Nuwashri, House of Tayeb and Shawq Al-Shaya.

The campaign that lasts for 120 days gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw.

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefiting clients and merchants.

It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

NMC HEALTH TO OPERATE, MANAGE EMIRATES HEALTHCARE ASSETS

REVENUES FROM O&M CONTRACTS TO EXCEED AED 70M

ABU DHABI: Emirates Healthcare, a leading healthcare provider owned by Abu Dhabi investment group KBBO, has announced signing an operating and management contract with NMC Health, the leading integrated healthcare provider operating across the United Arab Emirates, for the management of Emirates Healthcare assets.

Yazen Abu Gulal, CEO of KBBO Group and Emirates Hospital Chairman commented, "We are particularly pleased to have NMC Health, a prestigious and recognized brand, handle the operations and management of Emirates Healthcare's assets. Our expansion strategy and vision is to provide the highest level of care for our customers and the expertise of NMC Health in operations and management has made them an ideal partner to provide a world-class experience."

Emirates Healthcare assets that fall under this agreement include recognizable brands such as CosmeSurge, which provides cosmetic medical services in the UAE and the UK, as well as Emirates Hospitals and Clinics which provide medical services across six emirates in the UAE. It also includes Emirates Rehab and Homecare Services, a division that provides home nursing, rehabilitation, therapeutic care and home-based care with a presence in the UAE, Slovakia and Oman.

"Top international bodies responsible for regulating and governing healthcare provided positive feedback on NMC Health's track record in all aspects of managing the operations of major medical institutions.

The phenomenal reputation of NMC Health informed our decision to sign over the management of Emirates Hospitals and Clinics, CosmeSurge and Emirates Rehab & Homecare Services. With this signing, we look forward to the future of these assets with great anticipation," added Abu Gulal.



CEO of NMC Health, Prasanth Manghat, stated, "The brands under Emirates Healthcare are among the most well-known in this market, and NMC Health is delighted to help bolster that reputation by streamlining their operations.

We take great pride in the signing of this contract as it signifies NMC Health is rightfully recognized as a leader in the healthcare industry for its innovative management solutions and outstanding customer service. We look forward to working with Emirates.

Healthcare to help them achieve the vision of their management team and that of KBBO Group, setting the standard for the entire healthcare industry within the UAE."

NMC Health is now managing multiple private and public sector healthcare facilities across varied geographies, with total annual revenues from O&M verticals set to reach \$519 million. These contracts continue to be associated with good returns and require minimal capital expenditure or working capital on part of the group.

UPSET WITH TRUMP'S RESPONSE, ECONOMIC AIDE MULLED QUITTING

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's top economic adviser sharply denounced the president's response to the racial violence in Charlottesville, saying in an interview that he felt "compelled" to speak out. Gary Cohn, who is Jewish, was so upset by Trump's comments that he wrote a letter of resignation but never submitted it.

"Citizens standing up for equality and freedom can never be equated with white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK," Cohn told The Financial Times in an interview published Friday. "I believe this administration can and must do better in consistently and unequivocally condemning these groups and do everything we can to heal the deep divisions that exist in our communities." It was an extraordinary public rebuke of the president by a senior adviser, and came just as Cohn will be a key figure in the administration's fall push for sweeping tax reforms. It also played out as Cohn emerged as a candidate to replace Janet Yellen as chairman of the Federal Reserve when her term ends in February.

Cohn told associates he expressed his unhappiness to Trump in a conversation a week ago at the president's New Jersey golf club and considered stepping down, according to a person familiar with the conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private talks. Two people familiar with his thinking said he'd written a resignation letter but then pocketed it.

"As a Jewish American, I will not allow neo-Nazis ranting 'Jews will not replace us' to cause this Jew to leave his job," Cohn said in the Financial Times interview.

Cohn said he had come under "enormous pressure" both to resign and to remain in his position with the administration. He told the Financial Times, "As a patriotic American, I am reluctant to leave my post as director of the National Economic Council because I feel a duty to fulfill my commitment to work on behalf of the American people."

Markets rattled

Financial markets were rattled last week by rumors that Cohn would resign, and US stocks dropped until the White House put such talk to rest. In the interview, Cohn aired publicly what he had been telling those close to him for more than a week: that he was upset by Trump's remarks that "many sides" were to blame for the violence in Charlottesville.

The White House had signed off on Cohn's interview, which was meant to outline the



WASHINGTON: National Economic Director Gary Cohn speaks in the briefing room of the White House, in Washington. — AP

administration's plans for overhauling the tax code, according to officials. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Cohn has spoken often with the president and that "Gary has not held back how he feels about the situation." "He's been very open and honest, so I don't think anyone was surprised by the comments," Sanders said. Nonetheless, longtime Trump associate Roger Stone said on Twitter that Cohn "should be fired immediately for his public attack on the president."

Cohn was one of three aides who appeared with Trump last Tuesday at the president's free-wheeling news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower. It was there that Trump defended his original assessment that "both sides" were responsible for the violence and suggested that some of those who marched with the KKK and neo-Nazis were "fine people."

Cohn was then left to field questions about infrastructure and did not address the president's remarks. But Cohn told people close to him that he was dismayed at the president's comments and that many friends had urged him to quit. Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left with a \$285 million payout, has been motivated to stay because he feels he is providing an important public service and is concerned that no one capable is poised to step into his role if he leaves, said one outside White House adviser with knowledge of his thinking.

Others in the administration have privately expressed displeasure at the president's remarks, but Cohn is among the first to go public. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who also is Jewish, earlier put out a statement defending Trump's response. On Friday, Mnuchin said that "under no circumstances was I going to resign."

Cohn is viewed as part of a moderate faction within the White House, along with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser; top aide and daughter Ivanka Trump; and deputy national security adviser Dina Powell. They have been derided as "globalists" by ousted chief strategist Steve Bannon, a preacher of populism who frequently clashed with the "New Yorkers."

Replacement

There has been widespread speculation that Cohn wants to be the next chair of the Federal Reserve, though he has dismissed the talk publicly. With Yellen's four-year term ending in six months, Trump has made clear he is considering replacing her, though he hasn't ruled out asking her to remain. Cohn's chances for the Fed job could be harmed if he were to resign from his current position. Cohn said in the Financial Times interview that a tax overhaul is the White House's "No. 1 focus right now" and that the president will begin a big push on it next week, including an appearance in Missouri on Wednesday. — AP

EID CASH GIFT FROM CHEVROLET ALGHANIM!

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim and Sons, the exclusive dealer of Chevrolet cars in Kuwait, announced the launch of its Eid Al-Adha offers for this year. This exclusive four-day offer gives Chevrolet enthusiasts an excellent chance to get an Eid cash gift of up to KD1600, and is only valid from the 27th to the 30th of August.

This offer includes a selection of 2017 models of Tahoe, Silverado, Camaro, and Malibu LTZ, making it the best time to visit one of our Chevrolet showrooms in either Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Al-Ghanim), Sharq, Fahaaheel or Ahmadi to get your hands on one of these cars.

Part of this offer is the legendary Tahoe, a favorite among the youth who are looking for a vehicle that possesses powerful performance qualities with its mighty 5.3 liter, 355 HP engine and best-in-class fuel efficiency, in addition to its elegant design and technology. Also included is the Camaro, which is the first car that comes to mind when talking about excitement and passion.

The Chevrolet Silverado has a special standing in Kuwait, because of its combi-

nation of safety, durability and superior performance, while the Malibu LTZ is the car of choice for those who are looking for a mid-size sedan with elegance, innovative design and a luxurious interior.

Chevrolet Care Program "I Care"

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons benefit of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust.

The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for four years.

Customers can take advantage of the limited summer offer to own the car of their dreams by visiting any of Chevrolet Alghanim showrooms at the following locations: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai (Safat Alghanim), Sharq, Fahaaheel and Ahmadi.

SAMSUNG LEADER LEE GIVEN 5-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE

SEOUL: The billionaire head of South Korea's Samsung Group, Jae Y. Lee, was sentenced to five years in jail for bribery on Friday in a watershed for the country's decades-long economic order dominated by powerful, family-run conglomerates. After a six-month trial over a scandal that brought down the then president, Park Geun-hye, a court ruled that Lee had paid bribes in anticipation of favours from Park. The court also found Lee guilty of hiding assets abroad, embezzlement and perjury.

Lee, the 49-year-old heir to one of the world's biggest corporate empires, has been held since February on charges that he bribed Park to help secure control of a conglomerate that owns Samsung Electronics, the world's leading smartphone and chip maker, and has interests ranging from drugs and home appliances to insurance and hotels. Lee, who emerged stony-faced from the Seoul courtroom in a dark suit, but without a tie, and holding a document envelope, was escorted by justice ministry officials back to his detention centre.

"This case is a matter of Lee Jae-yong and Samsung Group executives, who had been steadily preparing for Lee's succession ... bribing the president," Seoul Central District Court Judge Kim Jin-dong said, using Lee's Korean name. Kim said that as the group's heir apparent, Lee "stood to benefit the most" from any political favours for Samsung. Lee denied

wrongdoing, and one of his lawyers, Song Wu-cheol, said he would appeal. "The entire guilty verdict is unacceptable," Song said, adding he was confident his client's innocence would be affirmed by a higher court. The case is expected to be appealed all the way up to the Supreme Court, likely next year. The five year-sentence - one of the longest given to a South Korean business leader - is a landmark for South Korea, where the family-run conglomerates - or chaebols - have long been revered for helping transform the once war-ravaged country into a global economic powerhouse. But they have more recently been criticized for holding back the economy and stifling small businesses and start-ups. Samsung, a symbol of the country's rise from poverty following the 1950-53 Korean War, has come to epitomize the cosy and sometimes corrupt ties between politicians and the chaebols.

Precedent

"The ruling is a turning point for chaebols," said Chang Sea-jin, a business professor at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. "In the past, chaebols weren't afraid of laws because they were lenient. Now, Lee's ruling sets a precedent for strict enforcement of laws, and chaebols should be wary." Under South Korean law, sentences of more than three years cannot be suspended. LEADERSHIP VACUUM The third-generation de facto



SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong (right) leaves after his verdict trial at the Seoul Central District Court on Friday in Seoul. —AP

head of the powerful Samsung Group, Lee has effectively directed operations since his father, Lee Kun-hee, was incapacitated by a heart attack in 2014.

Some investors worry a prolonged leadership vacuum could slow decision-making at the group, which has more than five dozen affiliate companies and assets of 363.2 trillion won (\$322.13 billion). Its listed companies make up about 30 percent of the market value of South Korea's KOSPI stock index. Many tycoons, including Lee's father, were convicted of crimes in the past, ranging from bribery, embezzlement and tax evasion, only to get presi-

dential pardons, as both the government and the public feared going too hard on them would hurt the economy. But South Korea's new liberal president, Moon Jae-in, who won a May election, has pledged to rein in the chaebols, empower minority shareholders and end the practice of pardoning tycoons convicted of white-collar crime. The presidential Blue House said in a statement that it hopes the ruling will serve as an opportunity to "end the nexus of business and politics that has held back the country."

Transparency

In a June interview with

Reuters, Moon said he did not believe Samsung's operations depended just on Lee. "When Lee was taken into custody, the share prices of Samsung went up," Moon said. "If we were to succeed in reforming the running of the chaebols and also increasing transparency, I believe this will not only help the economic power of Korea but also help to make the chaebols themselves more competitive."

Investors say shares in chaebol companies trade at lower prices than they would otherwise because of their opaque corporate governance - the so-called Korea Discount. Shares of Samsung Electronics dropped more than 1 percent, and other group companies, including Samsung C&T and Samsung SDS, also turned lower after the verdict. The court said Samsung's financial support of entities backed by a friend of Park's, Choi Soon-sil, constituted bribery, including 7.2 billion won (\$6.4 million) in sponsoring the equestrian career of Choi's daughter. In return, prosecutors say, Samsung sought government support for the 2015 merger of two of its affiliates, which helped Lee tighten control of the conglomerate. His lawyers had argued that the merger was done for business reasons.

Some criminal lawyers had expected Lee to be found innocent of the major charges, as much of the evidence at the trial has been circumstantial. The appeals court and the Supreme

Court might put a greater emphasis on prosecutors to provide direct proof of quid pro quo, the lawyers said. PARK SUPPORTERS OUTRAGED Park, who was forced from office in March, faces her own corruption trial, with a ruling expected later this year. Prosecutors have argued that Park and Lee took part in the same act of bribery - so Lee's conviction would appear ominous for the former president. Hundreds of Park's diehard supporters who rallied outside the court on Friday reacted with outrage to the ruling. "Our ultimate goal is Park's acquittal and release," Kim Won-joon, a 62-year-old former construction worker said.

"We worry how today's guilty verdict for Lee would affect Park's ruling." Such supporters are a minority compared with the huge crowds that turned out in Seoul every week to call for Park's ouster after the bribery scandal surfaced late last year. Public approval of Lee's prosecution may underscore growing frustration in Asia's fourth-largest economy that the wealth amassed by conglomerates has not trickled down. "I think it was difficult for a court to ignore public opinion, given that the scandal rocked the country," said Chung Sun-sup, chief executive of research firm Chaebul.com. "The five-year sentence was low given that he was found guilty of all the charges. I think the court gave him a lighter sentence, taking into account Samsung's importance to the economy." —Reuters



COLOGNE: Fantasy game characters are seen during gaming fair "gamescom". —AFP photos



COLOGNE: This file photo shows people dressed up as game characters during the opening ceremony of gaming fair "gamescom" in Cologne, western Germany.

ESPORTS HOPEFULS DARE TO DREAM BIG AT GAMESCOM

GAMERS SURGE THROUGH COLOGNE'S TRADE FAIR

COLOGNE, Germany: As hundreds of thousands of gamers surge through the halls of Cologne's Gamescom trade fair, a select band ducks out of the throng into roped-off lounges and VIP sections to talk tactics and prize money-the professional eSports players.

Fast becoming one of the biggest trends in gaming, eSports sees teams of professional computer game players battle it out for cash prizes in front of giant audiences online or in real-life arenas with tens of thousands of seats. A slightly-built 23-year-old from Slovakia, Martin Styk could easily have passed unnoticed at an event like Gamescom if it weren't for his bright red football-style shirt emblazoned with the logos of big-name sponsors like Vodafone and Dr. Pepper.

Under his online alter-ego Styko, German eSports team mousesports hired him in early August for his skills in the tactical shooter game Counter-Strike that pits insurgents against counter-terrorists. "It's definitely not an easy task to become this kind of a player, but I can say so far it's really worth it," he said across the barrier to a VIP area punctuated elsewhere by gawkers angling for a view into the lives of the energy drink-sipping pros.

Styk spends up to 10 hours a day practicing his chosen game, a rhythm he's kept up for around two years since eSports became his full-time job. On top of keeping their skills sharp, professional players maintain intense interaction with their fans, streaming live video of their playing sessions while chatting about their performance and post-

ing a steady flow of tweets. Even with the pressure to perform and to be available to fans, perks for an eSports pro can be attractive, with all-expenses-paid travel to tournaments or events like Gamescom, where mousesports played friendly matches against rival team Flipsid3 Tactics.

"We as the players are kind of living the dream while we're on the road. It's something that maybe will not last forever, but since I have it I want to enjoy it as much as I can," Styk said.

Billion dollar business

Dane Saief Al-Faour-whose team Meet Your Makers claimed the title of world champions in Battlefield 4 at Gamescom 2014 — was a little more cautious at the height of his gaming career. Now 32, he never quit his job as a software developer even back when prize money was rolling in.

That turned out to be the safer choice, as the combat game's star faded and the cash dried up.

"I've always been a hardcore Battlefield fan, I don't play for money. If I played for money then I would play something else," Al-Faour explained. The most popular games can be lucrative. At Gamescom, some \$237,000 (200,000 euros) was set to be distributed among winners of a Rainbow Six league, while contenders in a Playerunknown's Battlegrounds league had their sights on total prize money of \$350,000.

Al-Faour still nurtures hope that the latest installment of the Battlefield franchise will propel the series back into big-time competitions. But he's

equally enthusiastic about other possibilities opening up in the field. eSports "is changing a lot and we don't know where it's gonna take us, what the limit is," he said. Estimates cited by the organisers of the E3 industry show in July suggest eSports could hit the threshold of \$1 billion in revenue next year, five times its size in 2015. eSports will be an official part of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2022 after a dry run at next year's event-although the oft-discussed prospect of gaming securing a place at the Olympics still appears remote.

Passion project

And with more cash and larger crowds come new opportunities for insiders, like working as a talent spotter for big-name teams or offering on-camera analysis of live events. "I'm getting too old for the game personally, but I would like to be more involved. I need to go for my passion, and my passion is eSports," Al-Faour said. Even for those striving to break into the exclusive world of the professionals, gaming remains a passion rather than a piggy bank.

"Having a lot of money or getting a lot of fans isn't the goal. It's about playing and making people happy," said Fabian Robbe, a 21-year-old Call of Duty player from western Germany using his ample downtime as a student to hone his bid for the big leagues. In any case, "only maybe one percent of people manage" to make a living from eSports, he pointed out. "That's why I'm focusing on my studies right now." — AFP

DIGITAL SAFEGUARDS NEEDED TO MEET INDUSTRIAL CYBER SECURITY DEMANDS IN KUWAIT

By Safdar Akhtar

K U W A I T :

Nationwide digital transformation is expected to play a central role for Kuwait in realizing its new 2035 vision, which was announced earlier this year. The country aims to attract more than KD400 million in investments to information technology, services, and renewable energy in the short and medium term. It is widely believed that - in line with the rest of the major Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) markets - Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), cloud technology and Big Data will drive this movement. The region's digital markets are expanding at an overall compound annual growth rate of 12 percent and it is estimated that digitization could add as much as \$820 billion to regional GDP by 2020.

The Kuwait National Development Plan's short-to-medium term objectives include positioning Kuwait as a global hub for the petrochemical industry. The rise in digitization across Kuwait's petrochemical sector brings both opportunities for growth and challenges - particularly in a country where oil and gas remains the leading industry. With the increasing focus on cyber security threats across industrial sites, it is evident that Kuwait will need to ensure full protection of its assets and information through a greater focus on digital safeguards. It was announced in April of this year that Kuwait has enacted several legislations aimed at minimizing irregular use of emerging communication means. This comes on the back of increased cyber security threats amidst a rapid rise in technological advancement across the country. Kuwait is not alone in this regard, as organizations across the Middle East strive to create a secure digital environment.

The Middle East cyber security market size is expected to grow from \$11.38 billion in 2017 to \$22.14 billion by 2022. This is due to the increasing number of cyber incidents in the region, resulting in more focus on implementing advanced technology to combat the threats.

According to Repository of Industrial Security Incidents (RISI) data, cyberattacks against oil and gas organizations in the Middle East make up more than half of the recorded instances. Major energy players in Kuwait and across the GCC have also witnessed a rise in the number of cyberattacks in recent years. As such, businesses and government agencies in Kuwait are increasingly implementing services that help protect on-site data and information stored at remote locations.

One key area for protecting information includes USB devices on industrial sites.

Malware spread through USB devices - used by employees and contractors to patch, update and exchange data with onsite control and computer systems - is a fundamental risk for industrial control systems. It was the second leading

threat to these systems in 2016, according to BSI publications, after cyber-attacks. Uncontrolled USBs have taken power plants offline and downed turbine control workstations, among other industrial accidents.

Industrial operators often have hundreds or thousands of employees and dozens of contractors on site every day. Many of those rely on USB-removable media to get their work done. Plants need solutions that allow people to work proficiently, but also don't compromise cyber security and industrial safety. presently, many plants either ban USBs - which is difficult to enforce and significantly reduces productivity - or rely on traditional IT malware scanning solutions, which are problematic to maintain in an industrial control facility and provide inadequate protection. These systems fail to protect process control networks against the latest threats, and offer no means to address targeted or zero-day ICS attacks. New industrial cyber security innovations are now enabling secure use of USB devices, offering solutions to CIOs of oil and gas organizations across Kuwait and the region. The new innovations provide hassle-free, multi-layered protection for managing USB security, letting users simply plug in and check devices for approved use in the facility. Contractors "check-in" their USB drive by plugging it into an Intelligence Gateway. The ruggedized industrial device analyzes files using a variety of techniques included with Advanced Threat Intelligence Exchange (ATIX), a secure, hybrid-cloud threat analysis service.

For most plants, the proliferation of removable media and USB devices is unavoidable, but the security risks they bring don't have to be. The new technology provides easy and secure solution to USB security in industrial plants. It helps prevent the spread of malware through removable media; stops unverified files being read by Windows hosts; and, through the private ATIX connection, provides continually updated threat information and advanced analytics to help detect advanced, targeted, and zero-day malware. It is these types of solutions that will allow Kuwait and regional oil and gas players to ensure that they have the proper protection needed to ensure maximum cyber security. Studies show that the adoption of digital safeguards is increasing as IT spending within the Middle East oil and gas sector grew to around \$1.66 billion in 2016.

Clearly, security remains the most important area of focus for energy-sector CIOs in the region. The level of digitization in the industry is increasing, while the threat landscape is becoming increasingly multifaceted, resulting in CIOs turning more of their attention towards IT security.

For organizations within Kuwait that are keen to ensure maximum cyber security, implementing state-of-the-art solutions that protect data and information will go a long way in achieving that goal. *Note: Safdar Akhtar is Business Development Director, Industrial Cyber Security for EMEA and Asia at Honeywell Process Solutions (HPS)*

FACEBOOK LAMBASTED OVER RANSOM VIDEO OF TRAFFICKERS ABUSING MIGRANTS

LONDON: People smugglers are using Facebook to broadcast the abuse and torture of migrants in order to extort ransom money from their families, the UN migration agency said on Friday.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) lambasted the tech giant for failing to police the platform and help crack down on traffickers. One video hosted on the site since June shows Libyan gang-masters threatening emaciated and abused migrants - mostly Somalis and Ethiopians - huddled in a concrete room. IOM said the traffickers had sent clips to the captives' families via the encrypted messaging service WhatsApp - a Facebook channel - along with threats that

their loved ones would be killed unless ransoms of up to \$10,000 were paid. One young Somali man is seen lying face down with a concrete block on his back. "I was asked for \$8,000," he says, according to the IOM. "They broke my teeth. They broke my hand. I have been here 11 months. They put this stone on me for the last three days. It's really painful."

British newspaper The Times, which ran the story on its front page on Friday, also quoted a young Ethiopian who had been held for 15 months. "They beat me with iron bars," he said.

"They ordered me to pay \$8,300 and my family cannot afford to pay that amount." Hundreds of thou-

sands of refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean from North Africa to Europe since 2014, and thousands have died trying.

Facebook, which has also been criticised for failing to stop traffickers using the platform to advertise their services, said posts by smuggling groups would be removed if reported. "We encourage people to keep using our reporting tools to flag this kind of behavior so it can be reviewed and swiftly removed by our global team of experts, who work with law enforcement agencies around the world," a spokesperson said. But Facebook said it had not removed the June video as it had been posted by a Somali journalist and was important for raising

awareness of the problem. However, IOM spokesman Leonard Doyle accused Facebook of "arrant nonsense", adding that the smugglers had used the journalist to publicize their demands.

He told the Thomson Reuters Foundation it was totally inappropriate for Facebook to host a video showing the faces of vulnerable people being abused. "Don't let Facebook off the hook here," he said. "It's an absolutely nonsensical argument that it's up to the public to notify Facebook of stuff that's happening on Facebook."

"They should invest heavily in policing their platforms to stop vulnerable migrants being exploited, extorted and murdered." —Reuters

HOW TO TELL IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT ON THE PRESCRIPTION

NEW YORK: Filling a prescription is no longer the simple errand you run after a doctor visit. With drug prices rising and insurance coverage shrinking, it pays to ask questions and do a little research before handing over your insurance card at the pharmacy counter. Having coverage offers no guarantee that you're getting the best price for your medicine. Customers of CVS and Walgreens brought that concern to light earlier this month when they sued the drugstore chains over prices paid for generic prescriptions. The lawsuits accuse the companies of charging insured patients more for generic drugs than what people pay without coverage. It also says the drugstores don't tell insured patients about the cheaper option. CVS and Walgreens reject the claims and promise

to fight them. Before you fill your next prescription, consider these steps to help find the best possible price.

Talk to your doctor

Start a habit of asking your doctor about prices whenever you get a new prescription. If you have insurance, bring information about your formulary, or list of covered drugs, to your visit. Your doctor deals with many different insurers and may not know the costs tied to your coverage. The list can tell your doctor how your treatment or any alternatives might be covered, said AARP drug pricing expert Leigh Purvis.

Do some research

Approach prescription buying like car shopping. You don't want to do it with-

out some idea of the prices in your market. Websites like GoodRx and WeRx can show how drug prices without insurance will vary by store. Knowing what's in the market helps you tell quickly if your favorite drugstore is pricey. "When we talk about the price of a drug, it's sort of an arbitrary estimate instead of a hard-and-fast rule," said Caitlin Morris of the advocacy group Families USA. When comparing costs online, note that some websites may show the cash price without insurance while others only show the cost if you use one of their coupons.

Quiz the pharmacist

The best deal you can get may be the price you pay through insurance. This is especially true with brand-name drugs. The price without insurance for

those is typically much more expensive than the co-payment or deductible you pay with coverage. However, most prescriptions filled are generic and the cash price for those drugs may be cheaper than what a person would pay through insurance, depending on your plan. Ask the pharmacist what your prescription will cost based on your coverage before you have it filled. If the price is too high, ask what it would cost without coverage. If your research turned up a lower price elsewhere, ask your pharmacist if they would match that price. The drugstore also may offer a discount program. Pharmacists in some states can substitute a brand-name drug for a cheaper generic. But check first with your doctor about how that may affect your treatment.

Understand the risks

Paying cash for prescriptions comes with some side effects. Those costs won't help you reach your insurance plan's annual deductible or out-of-pocket maximum, after which the insurer picks up more of the bill. Paying cash or using different drugstores for the best price also means that your insurer or your regular pharmacist won't be monitoring to make sure your medicines don't conflict and cause a bad reaction. That responsibility will fall largely on you, especially if you have more than one doctor. If a prescription is still too expensive after all your research and negotiating, you can walk away and not pay for it. But doing so won't help you get better and it could make your condition more expensive to treat later on. — AP

GAZA SWIMMER'S DEATH PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON POLLUTION CRISIS

GAZA CITY: The death of a little boy after swimming in polluted seawater has put the spotlight on Gaza's pollution crisis and the human impact of desperate electricity shortages in the Palestinian enclave. Mohammed Al-Sayis, five, died late last month a few days after swimming in the sewage-polluted waters, with his brothers also hospitalized, his family and health ministry said. Dozens of others have been treated after swimming along the strip's filthy Mediterranean coastline in the past two months, a ministry

spokesman in Gaza said.

Pollution in Gaza is not a new phenomena-a decade of a crippling Israeli blockade, coupled with three devastating wars with the Jewish state since 2008, have left infrastructure falling apart. But the worsening spat between the two leading Palestinian political blocs has exacerbated an already grim situation for the two million residents of the impoverished and densely-populated Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has sought to squeeze the Islamist

group Hamas which controls Gaza.

In April, it reduced the amount of electricity they buy from Israel for Gaza, where the enclave's sole power plant is barely operational. The electricity shortage is so severe that all of Gaza's sewage treatment facilities have ground to a halt in recent months, according to Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights. As a result, sewage that was previously cleaned and pumped further out into the sea is being released along the coast untreated. At least 100,000 cubic meters of sewage is being pumped into the sea each day, according to the United Nations, which says more than two-thirds of the coastline is polluted.

The UN has previously estimated the whole of Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020, but a recent report has said that catastrophe is likely to come sooner. Ahmed Halas, an official in the environment agency, told AFP all of Gaza's beaches are polluted to varying degrees and the health ministry advises against swimming altogether. It has also spread beyond Gaza-last month a beach in southern Israel was temporarily closed after sewage from Gaza washed upstream.

Our only outlet

While the electricity crisis has caused the pollution that has ruined the beaches, it has also driven Gazans to take to the seaside as an escape. The enclave's borders with Israel and Egypt are all but sealed, but it has a 40-kilometre coastline stretching the length of the strip along the Mediterranean. On the edge of a desert, temperatures can reach over 35 degrees Celsius in summer months. Long, power-free summer days in sweltering heat have seen children off school for the holidays nag their parents to go to the beach, tantalizingly close anywhere in tiny Gaza.

There are few public pools to cool down, while many houses have little water. Around 95 percent of Gaza's groundwater is unsuitable for human consumption. Yasser Al-Shanti, head of the water authority in Gaza, said that Gaza needed an extra 120 million liters of water a year. Those who can afford it pay to keep their families cool. "The water in the house is unsuitable for drinking or showering. The sea water is polluted and mixed with sewage," said Humam, 34, as he poured water on his four children from a filtered water truck. But the poorest in the enclave have no option.

On Gaza's beaches, hundreds of children still play in the sea on an average day, with thousands flocking there on Fridays, the Muslim day of rest. Mohammed Al-Sayis went swimming with his siblings in Sheikh Ijlin in southern Gaza after pressuring their father Ahmed to give them a breather from the summer heat. "It's hot and humid and there is no power, water or fans in the house," said his devastated father Ahmed. "The sea is our only outlet." —AFP



NEW YORK: Information cards provide calorie count and price for food items on display at a Whole Foods store, in New York. — AP

NYC CALORIE RULE SCRUTINIZED IN COURTS OF LAW, AND SCIENCE

NEW YORK: As a court fight simmers over New York City's pioneering requirement for calorie counts on chain restaurant menus, scientists say the jury's still out on whether giving people the numbers spurs them to eat healthier. The city says that by requiring eateries to tell people that their \$4 cheeseburger will also cost them about 540 calories, it's helping diners make informed choices in an era of rising obesity.

New York City's first-in-the-nation rule took full effect in 2008. It was copied by other cities and counties and a half-dozen states and became part of President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul. The repeatedly delayed federal regulation, which extends to grocery and convenience store chain menus, is now set to take effect next year. But plenty of opponents to the idea remain, including some who question its effectiveness.

Studies to date haven't conclusively shown that restaurant-goers, on the whole, actually order lighter foods when the calorie tally is right there. It appears to influence some people, in some settings, and possibly restaurants' recipes, researchers say. "What we haven't seen so far is any sort of dramatic change in the number of calories purchased at the population level," says Dr Brian Elbel, a New York University health policy professor who co-authored a 2014 analysis of 31 studies on the subject, some of them his own. But "some people are definitely seeing and using this information."

The National Association of Convenience Stores cited some of that

research when it sued to stop New York City from enforcing a retooled rule expanding the calorie labeling requirements to groceries and other small markets, saying the city was forcing businesses to spend thousands of dollars complying with a local rule when a national one is coming. On Friday, a Manhattan federal judge approved a deal among lawyers on both sides that ensures the city will not enforce the expansion before May.

The agreement also ensures that calorie counts won't disappear from chains that have posted them for years. "This addresses the most basic of needs - providing us with nutrition information to make healthful decisions at the time of decision-making," spokeswoman Stephanie Buhle said this week. About 1 million New Yorkers see calorie data every day, according to Health Department research, and a 2011 Quinnipiac University poll found 79 percent of city voters found the information useful.

But if it's useful, do people use it?

At least three research analyses have said there's no definitive proof it leads to lower-calorie orders for diners and eateries in general, though researchers involved note that they may not have captured small effects. Some scientists feel the research shows the policy falls short. Menu labeling "might not be the proper prescription," Indiana University medical professor Dr Aaron Campbell wrote in The New York Times in 2015. But some individual studies have found effects. — AP



GAZA: Palestinians spend time at the pool in Gaza City. Around 95 percent of Gaza's groundwater is unsuitable for human consumption. There are few public pools to cool down, while many houses have little water. — AFP

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CELEBRATE EID AL-ADHA AT SHERATON AND FOUR POINTS

The Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait conveys its good wishes and blessings for the forthcoming Eid Al Adha and invites you to spend unforgettable times with indigenous food culture. Engaging our guests with wide selection of menus from around the world with the high level of hospitality and outstanding services preserved by Sheraton Kuwait for over 50 years. Guests can indulge in a luxurious Eid spirit through its prestigious restaurants which extends from the Sheraton Kuwait to the Avenues - the largest mall in Kuwait, where they can choose from a wide selection of menus around the world.

Riccardo Restaurant, experience the exemplary fine dining genuine Italian cuisine. Enjoy lavish dining experience with Al-Hambra restaurant and savor a variety of international buffet especially prepared for this occasion; Lebanese delicacies in a distinctive traditional ambiance at the Le Tarbouche restaurant, enjoy the best cold and hot mezzas while being entertained by live music. Also the Bukhara restaurant which offers a rich treasure of Indian dishes prepared with the finest types of authentic spices. Iranian cuisine at its best - the Shahrayar restaurant where you can relish the most vibrant cuisine of ancient Persia.

Enjoy traditional English tea in a luxurious and classic ambiance with original flavors at the English Tea Lounge along with a variety of delectable scones and snacks. Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait welcomes you at the La Mamma Pizzeria, to celebrate a unique Eid where you can enjoy an assortment of appetizing antipasti, freshly prepared pasta and pizza baked to perfection on a wood-fired oven surely to meet your culinary desire.

The Sheraton Kuwait restaurants at the Avenues-Grand Avenue welcomes you to enjoy both shopping and taste the best cuisines in a very classy atmosphere starting with the newly conceptualized Al-Hambra restaurant offering tempting a La Carte food dishes prepared with open live cooking stations as well as special event menu; to the diversified cuisines; Le Tarbouche, Shahrayar, Bukhara and the luxurious English Tea Lounge to satisfy all your desires.

On this occasion, Fahed Abushaar - General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mr. Mounir Amer - General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, the Executive Committee and all the associates wishes the people of Kuwait and its residents a - Happy Eid.



ASDA'A BURSON-MARSTELLER AWARDED 'GRAND STEVIE'

ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller won big at this year's International Business Awards (IBAs) - known as "the Stevies" - taking home 28 medals, including five gold, 14 silver and nine bronzes in the PR and Marketing categories, resulting in a Best of the IBAs 'Grand Stevie' Award for the second year in a row. This was a record win for the agency, and for any Middle East company, at the IBAs, and the 'Grand Stevie', which is earned, based on the total number of awards won, ranked the Agency among the top ten awarded firms globally. The launch campaign for The Dubai Font, for The Executive Council of the Government of Dubai, won Gold in two categories: Multicultural and Reputation/Brand Management; while the gala launch of Dubai Parks and Resorts won a Gold for Events & Observances and two Silvers in the Media Relations and Travel & Tourism categories.

The Global Education and Skills Forum and Global Teacher Prize 2017 for the Varkey Foundation took home a gold for Media Relations, and two Silvers for Events & Observances and Global Issues; while the Warriors in Pink campaign

for Ford won a Gold in Public Service and a Silver in Healthcare. The International Business Awards are the world's premier business awards program, with the 2017 edition receiving 3,800 entries from more than 60 nations and territories. This year's awards ceremony and gala dinner will take place in Barcelona, Spain on 21 October.

Sunil John, Founder and CEO of ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller, said: "I am delighted to see our work recognized at the global level, with our best-ever performance at the IBAs. Winning 28 awards across so many categories demonstrates the depth and breadth of our expertise, and underlines the sterling work we do for all our clients across all practices." ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller collected a Silver medal for 'PR Agency of the Year' in the Middle East and Africa, and the Agency's thought leadership initiative - the 9th Annual Arab Youth Survey 2017, won three Silver medals for Communications Research, Global Issues, and Public Service.

The Agency's work on the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit,

organized by the Mubadala subsidiary Strata, won two Silvers for Events & Observances and Media Relations, along with a Bronze for Global Issues. Emirates National Bank of Dubai won a Silver medal for Public Service for the agency's work on the #togetherlimitless campaign, while Dubai Design Week, for Art Dubai, won silver and a bronze award for Media Relations and Arts and Entertainment respectively.

The agency's innovative Ford Edge Unboxing campaign won a Bronze in the Social Media Focus category, while the campaign for GE's announcement of billions of dollars' worth of deals during the US presidential visit to Saudi Arabia won three Bronze awards for Marketing - Business-to-Business, Reputation/Brand Management, and Technology. The agency's campaign for Avaya Engage won two Bronze medals for Social Media Focus, and Technology. In the Marketing Awards category, the agency's work for Dussur - formerly known as the Saudi Arabian Industrial Investment Company - won a Bronze for Rebranding/Brand Renovation of the Year.

X-CITE LAUNCHES 'GET BACK TO SCHOOL' OFFERS

With the return to schools and universities in the coming weeks, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics launched its "Back to School" promotions, inviting school and university students to discover the latest products from the widest range of brands, which will make a difference during the new academic year. The promotions offer never-before-seen prices on most wanted electronic devices to support studies and projects, such as laptops, convertibles, tablets, projectors and printers as well as cases, bags, power banks, flash drives and other must-have accessories.

Acknowledging the importance of refreshing the gear and acquiring the right and latest innovation in computing to satisfy one's needs, X-cite has proudly provided its free Computing Buying Guide service available in all of its showrooms and on xcite.com. Students will find an exhaustive list of products and accessories featuring comparison tables, purchasing guidelines and concise product descriptions that help them understand the unique benefits of each product depending on the type of usage.

University students also benefit from the Credit Student Program, entitling them to a credit purchase, which in turn allows them to enter the "Back to School" draw to win valuable prizes, including a 2017 Chevrolet Camaro car. As part of their ambition to support the new generation in their education and academic pursuits, the promotional campaign allows students, teachers and



employees of the Ministry of Education to own the devices they have always wanted while alleviating the financial burden for parents thanks to a 0 percent interest upon purchasing on credit and a 12 percent discount on all Apple MacBooks, a rare opportunity to own a top-ranking laptop at a very competitive price.

The "Back to School" promotions start on August 24 till October 7, 2017. X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Kuwait's largest electronic retail has 19 showrooms across Kuwait, and also offers the convenience of shopping from home with X-cite's free-to-download app as well as the store's official website www.xcite.com.

ENJOY YOUR EID AT MOVENPICK HOTEL KUWAIT

Final touches for Eid packages at Movenpick Hotel Kuwait were finalized to turn the property into a family heaven with great discounts and special offers. For all connoisseurs, the Movenpick Hotel Kuwait provides an exceptional offer at Bays Restaurant during their stay. Renowned for its panoramic view overlooking the hotel's swimming pools, guests can enjoy lavish Eid brunch buffets at Bays International Restaurant.

Eating at Movenpick Hotel Kuwait becomes a beautiful experience with the Italian restaurant Al-Dente offers the real Italian spirit with its special and diversified Italian menu, as for Cuts restaurant, it offers delicious varieties of meat, alongside of succulent platters.

Furthermore, Movenpick Hotel Kuwait guests have the freedom to choose from



the hotels air conditioned tents at the Garden Cafe, where generous special dishes are served to family and friends with music and flavored Shisha throughout Eid days. And it is important to mention that Movenpick Hotel Kuwait offers the famous Movenpick Ice Cream with a huge variety of tea and snacks at the special and elegant English Tea Lounge.

KANA KUWAIT REVIEWS DRAMA COMPETITION PREPARATIONS

The Kerala Arts and Nataka Academy (KANA), Kuwait, an Indian Association registered with the Indian Embassy, has convened a meeting to review the preparations for the upcoming amateur drama competition slated for September 29, 2016. Four amateur Malayalam theatre groups are competing in the drama competition titled 'Thoppil Bhasi Natakolsavam 2017' which will be held from 5pm onwards at the Indian Community School, Khaitan.

The drama competition is the first major theatre event being organized by the Academy since its inception which has been formed by a group theatre-lovers to promote, practice and produce Malayalam dramas in Kuwait. The academy proposes to produce at least one drama every year for the theatre-lovers in Kuwait. 'Thoppil Bhasi Theatre Festival' will be held every year providing high quality performing arts opportunities for Malayalam theatre troupes in Kuwait. The winning troupes will be presented trophies and cash awards.

Importantly, KANA is also in the process of producing this year's major drama titled 'Abraham' based on the Bible. 'Abraham', written by Francis T Mavelikkara will be directed by Kalashri Babu Chakola. A team comprising top theatre artistes and actors are working on the production which will be staged mid-November this year in Kuwait.



The review meeting was attended by KANA president Kumar Thrithala, General Secretary Jiju Kalayail, Babu Chakola, Advisor K P Balakrishnan, Sajeev K Peter, Technical Advisor Idiculla Mathews and PRO Reji Mathew and other executive members.



00:45 Gator Boys
v05:02 Preposterous Pets
05:49 Preposterous Pets
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 Wild Animal Repo
13:45 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
14:40 The Vet Life
15:35 Gator Boys
16:30 Gator Boys
17:25 Gator Boys
18:20 Catching Monsters
19:15 Monster Croc Invasion
20:10 Project Grizzly
21:05 North America
22:00 North America
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
01:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
02:00 American Murder
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
05:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
09:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Fritz! By Fred Dinenage
19:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
23:00 Deadly Wives



00:30 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
01:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
01:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
02:10 Playhouse Masters
03:00 Playhouse Masters
04:00 Finding Bigfoot
04:40 Finding Bigfoot
05:30 Science Of The Movies
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Kids vs Film
08:15 Kids vs Film
08:40 How It's Made
12:50 Guinness World Records
13:40 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:05 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:30 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:55 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
15:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
15:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
17:00 Redesign My Brain
17:50 Science Of The Movies
18:40 Deception With Keith Barry
19:30 Serious Amazon
19:55 Serious Amazon
20:20 How The Earth Works
21:10 Track Me If You Can
22:00 Finding Bigfoot
22:50 Finding Bigfoot



00:30 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
01:20 Jonben??: An American Murder Mystery
02:10 Jonben??: An American Murder Mystery
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:00 Bad Blood
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
12:00 The Perfect Murder
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Suspicion
17:00 I Am Homicide
20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 Disappeared



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 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binnie And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Austin & Ally
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 The ZhuZhus
07:45 Gravity Falls
08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:35 Elena Of Avalor
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Best Friends Whenever
09:50 Bunk'd
10:15 Bizaardvark
10:40 The Emperor's New Groove
12:05 Welcome To The Ronks

12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:25 Jessie
15:15 Austin & Ally
15:40 Austin & Ally
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Girl Meets World
17:00 Good Luck Charlie
17:25 Cow Belles
19:05 Best Friends Whenever
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Austin & Ally
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolo Rock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binnie And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopedoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopedoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopedoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopedoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopedoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
07:50 Goldie & Bear
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 PJ Masks
09:35 Sofia The First
10:00 The Lion Guard
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:20 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
16:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:50 PJ Masks
17:05 Goldie & Bear
17:35 Doc McStuffins
18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:35 PJ Masks
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 The Lion Guard
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:50 Harry And Bip
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:30 Sofia The First
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster



00:20 What On Earth?
01:05 Fast N' Loud
01:50 Fast N' Loud
02:35 Fast N' Loud
03:20 Fast N' Loud
03:48 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:00 Bad Blood
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
12:00 The Perfect Murder
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Suspicion
17:00 I Am Homicide
20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 Disappeared



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Gravity Falls
09:25 Gravity Falls
09:50 Gravity Falls
10:20 Gravity Falls
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Walk The Prank
12:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
12:55 Kirby Buckets
13:20 K.C. Undercover
13:45 Kirby Buckets
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped Mech-X4
17:40 Gravity Falls
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 Mighty Med
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
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



00:00 Famously Single
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Rob & Chyna
04:40 Rob & Chyna
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
07:00 Just Jillian
08:00 El News
08:55 Botched
10:45 Botched
11:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
13:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:20 Botched
15:15 Botched
16:10 WAGs Miami
17:05 WAGs Miami
18:00 WAGs Miami
19:00 El News
20:00 Life Of Kylie
20:30 Life Of Kylie
21:00 Life Of Kylie
21:30 Celebrity Style Story
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 Botched



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Steakout
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
12:00 Man Fire Food
12:30 Man Fire Food
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Barefoot Contessa
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
17:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
19:00 Man Fire Food
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
22:00 Smollett Eats



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Victoria
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
04:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
05:50 Don't Tell The Bride
06:55 Don't Tell The Bride
08:00 Endeavour
09:30 Broadchurch
10:25 Victoria
11:25 Tonight At The London Palladium
12:20 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
13:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
14:10 Doc Martin
15:05 Martin Clunes: Islands Of Australia
15:45 Endeavour
16:10 Wheelers Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters
18:20 Storage Hunters
18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:45 Broadchurch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Idris Elba: Fighter
21:50 Last Chance Hospital
23:30 Fast N' Loud



00:00 Decoding The Past
01:00 Decoding The Past
02:00 Decoding The Past
02:50 Ancient Top 10
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Decoding The Past
05:20 Decoding The Past
06:10 Decoding The Past
07:00 Serial Killer Earth
08:00 Decoding The Past
09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
10:00 Decoding The Past
11:00 Serial Killer Earth
12:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
14:00 Decoding The Past
15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
16:00 Decoding The Past
17:00 Serial Killer Earth
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 The Lost Evidence
20:00 United Stuff Of America

21:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
22:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
23:00 Heroes Of War



00:20 Mystery Pickers
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Lost In Transmission
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
04:05 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 Big Easy Motors
06:25 Big Easy Motors
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Leepu And Pitbull
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Leepu And Pitbull
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Big Easy Motors
15:35 Big Easy Motors
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Mountain Men
21:25 Pawn Stars
21:50 Mystery Pickers
22:40 Counting Cars
23:05 Counting Cars
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Places We Go
00:45 Sinful Sweets
01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:40 Bad Trip
02:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
03:30 Living Free With Kimi Werner
04:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
06:15 Delinquent Gourmet
06:40 Delinquent Gourmet
07:10 World's Greatest Food Markets
08:05 Eat Street
09:00 Fish Of The Day
09:55 Bad Trip
10:50 Places We Go
11:45 Sinful Sweets
12:10 Sinful Sweets
12:40 Raw Travel
13:05 Raw Travel
13:35 Bad Trip
14:30 World's Greatest Food Markets
15:25 Living Free With Kimi Werner
16:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
17:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
18:10 The Food Files
18:25 The Food Files
19:05 Living Free With Kimi Werner
20:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
20:30 David Rocco's Dolce India
21:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
22:00 The Food Files
22:25 The Food Files
22:55 Bad Trip
23:50 World's Greatest Food Markets



00:10 Big Fix Alaska
01:00 King Fishers
02:00 Wicked Tuna
03:00 Highway Thru Hell
04:00 Big Fix Alaska
05:00 Two Tales Of China
06:00 Seconds From Disaster
07:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
08:00 Airport Security: Colombia
09:00 Locked Up Abroad
10:00 Nazi Megastructures
11:00 Supercar Megabuild
12:00 Surgery Ship
13:00 Diana: In Her Own Words
15:00 King Fishers
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Year Million
18:00 J.K.: Seven Days That Made A President
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Year Million
21:40 J.K.: Seven Days That Made A President
23:20 Nazi Megastructures



00:20 Soul Of The Elephant
01:10 Wild Untamed Brazil
02:00 My Life Is A Zoo
02:50 Insect Wars
03:45 Animal Record Breakers
04:40 Jobs That Bite!
05:35 Kings Of The Kill
06:30 Hooked
07:25 Monster Fish: Fantastic Beasts
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Wild 24
10:10 The Invaders
11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
12:00 World's Weirdest Pets
12:55 My Life Is A Zoo
13:50 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers
14:45 Clan Of The Meerkat
15:40 Badass Animals
16:35 Baby Animals In The Wild
17:30 Hooked
18:25 Untamed Americas
19:20 Clan Of The Meerkat
20:10 Badass Animals
21:00 Baby Animals In The Wild
21:50 Hooked
22:40 Untamed Americas
23:30 World's Weirdest Pets

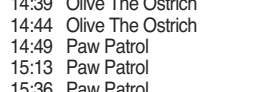


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners

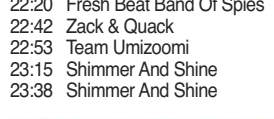
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High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



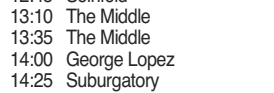
00:07 Paw Patrol
00:31 Paw Patrol
00:55 Paw Patrol
01:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Zack & Quack
01:51 Team Umizoomi
02:13 Team Umizoomi
02:36 Olive The Ostrich
02:41 Olive The Ostrich
02:46 Paw Patrol
03:09 Paw Patrol
03:33 Paw Patrol
03:56 Shimmer And Shine
04:19 Shimmer And Shine
04:43 Rusty Rivets
05:06 Rusty Rivets
05:29 Blaze And The Monster Machines
05:50 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:22 Bubble Guppies
07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:09 Dora The Explorer
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:23 Paw Patrol
09:46 Rusty Rivets
09:59 Paw Patrol
10:23 Paw Patrol
10:46 Paw Patrol
11:11 Paw Patrol
11:34 Paw Patrol
11:46 Paw Patrol
12:10 Paw Patrol
12:33 Paw Patrol
12:58 Paw Patrol
13:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:44 Zack & Quack
13:54 Team Umizoomi
14:17 Team Umizoomi
14:39 Olive The Ostrich
14:44 Olive The Ostrich
15:13 Paw Patrol
15:36 Paw Patrol
16:00 Shimmer And Shine
16:22 Shimmer And Shine
16:44 Rusty Rivets
17:08 Rusty Rivets
17:31 Blaze And The Monster Machines
17:52 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:14 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:21 Bubble Guppies
19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:18 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:54 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:21 Paw Patrol
21:44 Rusty Rivets
21:56 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:38 Shimmer And Shine



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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

21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 Saturday Night Live Syndicated
23:00 The Big C
23:30 The Simpsons



00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:20 The Unit
03:20 APB
04:10 Quantico
05:00 Bones
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Chicago Med
09:20 APB
10:10 Quantico
11:00 The Unit
11:45 Chicago Fire
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Bones
15:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
16:00 Quantico
17:00 APB
18:00 The Unit
19:00 Rosewood
20:00 Chicago Fire
21:00 Chicago Med
22:00 Still Star-Crossed
23:00 Beyond
23:50 The Strain



00:25 Toy Story 2
02:00 Toy Story 3
03:45 The Muppets
05:30 Robots
07:00 Toy Story
08:25 Toy Story 2
09:55 Toy Story 3
11:40 The Muppets
13:25 Treasure Planet
15:00 Lilo & Stitch
16:30 Stitch! The Movie
17:40 Lilo & Stitch 2
18:55 Charlotte's Web
20:35 Treasure Planet
22:15 Lilo & Stitch
23:45 Stitch! The Movie



01:20 The Gallows
02:55 Echo Effect
04:35 Knight And Day
06:30 Beverly Hills Cop 3
08:15 Echo Effect
09:50 The Gallows
11:20 Grosse Pointe Blank
13:10 Knight And Day
15:10 The Transporter: Refueled
16:50 Twister
18:45 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
20:20 Survivor
22:00 Every
23:35 Montana



00:00 There's Something About Mary
02:00 When In Rome
03:35 A Thousand Words
05:10 Lovelick
06:40 Hanging Up
08:15 A Thousand Words
09:55 Lovelick
11:25 Hanging Up
13:05 Almost Christmas
15:00 Oscar
16:55 After The Ball
18:45 Mr. Deeds
20:25 The Out Of Towners
22:00 Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse
23:40 Tales Of Halloween



00:25 The Revenant
03:05 Rushmore
04:45 Lawrence Of Arabia
08:25 Words And Pictures
10:25 I Am Bolt
12:15 Rushmore
14:00 No God No Master
15:45 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
18:00 Spotlight
20:10 99 Homes
22:10 The Long Goodbye



00:10 Bark Ranger
01:40 Ethel & Ernest
03:20 Mune
04:50 Pooch's Heffalump Halloween Movie
06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
07:35 Paws
09:05 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
10:30 Memory Loss
11:55 Ethel & Ernest
13:35 Mune
15:05 Robosapien: Rebooted
16:35 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
18:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
19:15 Song Of The Sea
20:55 Robosapien: Rebooted
22:25 Paws
23:55 Memory Loss



01:30 Forces Of Nature
03:20 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
05:05 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
07:30 The Guardian
09:50 Forces Of Nature
11:35 Eight Men Out
13:35 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
15:20 Kicking And Screaming
16:55 Last Action Hero
19:10 Dick Tracy
21:00 San Andreas
23:00 Ouija

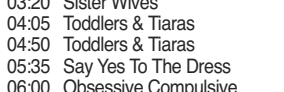


00:30 Kings Of Construction
01:20 Kings Of Construction
02:10 Kings Of Construction
03:00 Kings Of Construction
03:48 How Do They Do It?
04:12 How Do They Do It?
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 Food Factory
05:48 Food Factory
06:12 Food Factory

06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Kings Of Construction
08:14 Kings Of Construction
09:02 Kings Of Construction
09:50 Kings Of Construction
10:38 Kings Of Construction
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 Mythbusters
13:50 Mythbusters
14:38 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 Space Voyages
20:20 Space Voyages
21:10 Space Voyages
22:00 Science Of The Movies
22:50 Science Of The Movies



00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 The Day I Almost Died
01:50 Katie Price's Pony Club
02:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddler's Tiaras
04:50 Toddler's Tiaras
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:07 Say Yes To The Dress
07:30 Sister Wives
08:15 Kate Plus 8
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddler's Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Married By Mum And Dad
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Katie Price's Pony Club
13:10 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
13:55 Toddler's Tiaras
14:40 Kate Plus 8
15:25 Married By Mum And Dad
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Ultimate Shopper
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 The Undateables
21:50 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
22:40 Katie Price's Pony Club
23:30 90 Days To Wed





00:45 Gator Boys
v05:02 Preposterous Pets
05:49 Preposterous Pets
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Whale Wars
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Treehouse Masters
11:55 Treehouse Masters
12:50 Wild Animal Repo
13:45 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
14:40 The Vet Life
15:35 Gator Boys
16:30 Gator Boys
17:25 Gator Boys
18:20 Catching Monsters
19:15 Monster Croc Invasion
20:10 Project Grizzly
21:05 North America
22:00 North America
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
01:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
02:00 American Murder
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
05:00 Who Was I? My Past Lives
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
09:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Fritz! By Fred Dinage
19:00 Fred Dinage: Murder Casebook
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak
23:00 Deadly Wives



00:30 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
01:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
01:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
02:10 Playhouse Masters
03:00 Playhouse Masters
04:00 Finding Bigfoot
04:40 Finding Bigfoot
05:30 Science Of The Movies
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kenny The Shark
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Kids vs Film
08:15 Kids vs Film
08:40 How It's Made
12:50 Guinness World Records
13:40 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:05 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:30 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
14:55 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
15:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
15:45 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
17:00 Redesign My Brain
17:50 Science Of The Movies
18:40 Deception With Keith Barry
19:30 Serious Amazon
19:55 Serious Amazon
20:20 How The Earth Works
21:10 Track Me If You Can
22:00 Finding Bigfoot
22:50 Finding Bigfoot



00:30 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
01:20 Jonben??: An American Murder Mystery
02:10 Jonben??: An American Murder Mystery
03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:00 Bad Blood
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 How (Not) To Kill Your Husband
12:00 The Perfect Murder
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Suspicion
17:00 I Am Homicide
20:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 Disappeared



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 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binnie And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Austin & Ally
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 The ZhuZhus
07:45 Gravity Falls
08:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:35 Elena Of Avalor
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Best Friends Whenever
09:50 Bunk'd
10:15 Bizaardvark
10:40 The Emperor's New Groove
12:05 Welcome To The Ronks

12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
14:25 Jessie
15:15 Austin & Ally
15:40 Austin & Ally
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Girl Meets World
17:00 Good Luck Charlie
17:25 Cow Belles
19:05 Best Friends Whenever
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 Jessie
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Austin & Ally
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolo Rock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binnie And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopedoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopedoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopedoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopedoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopedoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
07:50 Goldie & Bear
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 PJ Masks
09:35 Sofia The First
10:00 The Lion Guard
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:20 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
16:25 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:50 PJ Masks
17:05 Goldie & Bear
17:35 Doc McStuffins
18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:35 PJ Masks
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 The Lion Guard
20:05 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:50 Harry And Bip
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:30 Sofia The First
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster



00:20 What On Earth?
01:05 Fast N' Loud
01:50 Fast N' Loud
02:35 Fast N' Loud
03:20 Fast N' Loud
03:48 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
07:00 Bad Blood
09:30 Blood Relatives
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21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 Disappeared



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Ant-Man
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Gravity Falls
09:25 Gravity Falls
09:50 Gravity Falls
10:20 Gravity Falls
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Walk The Prank
12:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
12:55 Kirby Buckets
13:20 K.C. Undercover
13:45 Kirby Buckets
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Kirby Buckets Warped Mech-X4
17:15 Gravity Falls
17:40 Gravity Falls
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 Mighty Med
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
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



00:00 Famously Single
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Rob & Chyna
04:40 Rob & Chyna
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
07:00 Just Jillian
08:00 El News
08:55 Botched
10:45 Botched
11:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:30 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
13:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:20 Botched
15:15 Botched
16:10 WAGs Miami
17:05 WAGs Miami
18:00 WAGs Miami
19:00 El News
20:00 Life Of Kylie
20:30 Life Of Kylie
21:00 Life Of Kylie
21:30 Celebrity Style Story
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 Botched



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Steakout
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
12:00 Man Fire Food
12:30 Man Fire Food
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Barefoot Contessa
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
17:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
19:00 Man Fire Food
19:30 Man Fire Food
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
22:00 Smollett Eats



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Victoria
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
04:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
05:50 Don't Tell The Bride
06:55 Don't Tell The Bride
08:00 Endeavour
09:30 Broadchurch
10:25 Victoria
11:25 Tonight At The London Palladium
12:20 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
13:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
14:10 Doc Martin
15:05 Martin Clunes: Islands Of Australia
15:45 Endeavour
16:10 Wheelers Dealers
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Storage Hunters
18:20 Storage Hunters
18:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:45 Broadchurch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Idris Elba: Fighter
21:50 Last Chance Hospital
23:30 Fast N' Loud



00:00 Decoding The Past
01:00 Decoding The Past
02:00 Decoding The Past
02:50 Ancient Top 10
03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Decoding The Past
05:20 Decoding The Past
06:10 Decoding The Past
07:00 Serial Killer Earth
08:00 Decoding The Past
09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
10:00 Decoding The Past
11:00 Serial Killer Earth
12:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
13:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
14:00 Decoding The Past
15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
16:00 Decoding The Past
17:00 Serial Killer Earth
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 The Lost Evidence
20:00 United Stuff Of America

21:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
22:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
23:00 Heroes Of War



00:20 Mystery Pickers
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Lost In Transmission
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars
03:40 Pawn Stars Australia
04:05 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 Big Easy Motors
06:25 Big Easy Motors
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Leepu And Pitbull
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Leepu And Pitbull
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Big Easy Motors
15:35 Big Easy Motors
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Mountain Men
21:25 Pawn Stars
21:50 Mystery Pickers
22:40 Counting Cars
23:05 Counting Cars
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Places We Go
00:45 Sinful Sweets
01:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:40 Bad Trip
02:35 Confucius Was A Foodie
03:30 Living Free With Kimi Werner
04:25 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
06:15 Delinquent Gourmet
06:40 Delinquent Gourmet
07:10 World's Greatest Food Markets
08:05 Eat Street
09:00 Fish Of The Day
09:55 Bad Trip
10:50 Places We Go
11:45 Sinful Sweets
12:10 Sinful Sweets
12:40 Raw Travel
13:05 Raw Travel
13:35 Bad Trip
14:30 World's Greatest Food Markets
15:25 Living Free With Kimi Werner
16:20 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
17:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
18:10 The Food Files
18:35 The Food Files
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20:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
20:30 David Rocco's Dolce India
21:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
22:00 The Food Files
22:25 The Food Files
22:55 Bad Trip
23:50 World's Greatest Food Markets



00:10 Big Fix Alaska
01:00 King Fishers
02:00 Wicked Tuna
03:00 Highway Thru Hell
04:00 Big Fix Alaska
05:00 Two Tales Of China
06:00 Seconds From Disaster
07:00 Diamonds, Gold And Guns: Explorer XL
08:00 Airport Security: Colombia
09:00 Locked Up Abroad
10:00 Nazi Megastructures
11:00 Supercar Megabuild
12:00 Surgery Ship
13:00 Diana: In Her Own Words
15:00 King Fishers
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Year Million
18:00 J.K.: Seven Days That Made A President
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Year Million
21:40 J.K.: Seven Days That Made A President
23:20 Nazi Megastructures



00:20 Soul Of The Elephant
01:10 Wild Untamed Brazil
02:00 My Life Is A Zoo
02:50 Insect Wars
03:45 Animal Record Breakers
04:40 Jobs That Bite!
05:35 Kings Of The Kill
06:30 Hooked
07:25 Monster Fish: Fantastic Beasts
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Wild 24
10:10 The Invaders
11:05 Dr. K's Exotic Animal 2.5
12:00 World's Weirdest Pets
12:55 My Life Is A Zoo
13:50 Planet Carnivore: Perfect Killers
14:45 Clan Of The Meerkat
15:40 Badass Animals
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18:25 Untamed Americas
19:20 Clan Of The Meerkat
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21:00 Baby Animals In The Wild
21:50 Hooked
22:40 Untamed Americas
23:30 World's Weirdest Pets

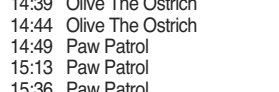


00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners

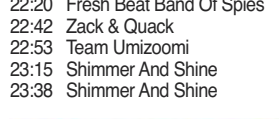
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Henry Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:24 Rabbids Invasion
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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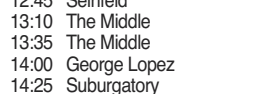
00:07 Paw Patrol
00:31 Paw Patrol
00:55 Paw Patrol
01:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:40 Zack & Quack
01:51 Team Umizoomi
02:13 Team Umizoomi
02:36 Olive The Ostrich
02:41 Olive The Ostrich
02:46 Paw Patrol
03:09 Paw Patrol
03:33 Paw Patrol
03:56 Shimmer And Shine
04:19 Shimmer And Shine
04:43 Rusty Rivets
05:06 Rusty Rivets
05:29 Blaze And The Monster Machines
05:50 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:22 Bubble Guppies
07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:09 Dora The Explorer
08:53 Nella The Princess Knight
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:23 Paw Patrol
09:46 Rusty Rivets
09:59 Paw Patrol
10:23 Paw Patrol
10:46 Paw Patrol
11:11 Paw Patrol
11:34 Paw Patrol
11:46 Paw Patrol
12:10 Paw Patrol
12:33 Paw Patrol
12:58 Paw Patrol
13:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:44 Zack & Quack
13:54 Team Umizoomi
14:17 Team Umizoomi
14:39 Olive The Ostrich
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15:36 Paw Patrol
16:00 Shimmer And Shine
16:22 Shimmer And Shine
16:44 Rusty Rivets
17:08 Rusty Rivets
17:31 Blaze And The Monster Machines
17:52 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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18:37 Dora The Explorer
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20:54 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:21 Paw Patrol
21:44 Rusty Rivets
21:56 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:38 Shimmer And Shine



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03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners

21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 Saturday Night Live Syndicated
23:00 The Big C
23:30 The Simpsons



00:40 Chicago Med
01:30 Stan Lee's Lucky Man
02:20 The Unit
03:20 APB
04:10 Quantico
05:00 Bones
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Chicago Med
09:20 APB
10:10 Quantico
11:00 The Unit
11:45 Chicago Fire
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Bones
15:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
16:00 Quantico
17:00 APB
18:00 The Unit
19:00 Rosewood
20:00 Chicago Fire
21:00 Chicago Med
22:00 Still Star-Crossed
23:00 Beyond
23:50 The Strain



00:25 Toy Story 2
02:00 Toy Story 3
03:45 The Muppets
05:30 Robots
07:00 Toy Story
08:25 Toy Story 2
09:55 Toy Story 3
11:40 The Muppets
13:25 Treasure Planet
15:00 Lilo & Stitch
16:30 Stitch! The Movie
17:40 Lilo & Stitch 2
18:55 Charlotte's Web
20:35 Treasure Planet
22:15 Lilo & Stitch
23:45 Stitch! The Movie



01:20 The Gallows
02:55 Echo Effect
04:35 Knight And Day
06:30 Beverly Hills Cop 3
08:15 Echo Effect
09:50 The Gallows
11:20 Grosse Pointe Blank
13:10 Knight And Day
15:10 The Transporter: Refueled
16:50 Twister
18:45 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
20:20 Survivor
22:00 Every
23:35 Montana



00:00 There's Something About Mary
02:00 When In Rome
03:35 A Thousand Words
05:10 Lovelick
06:40 Hanging Up
08:15 A Thousand Words
09:55 Lovelick
11:25 Hanging Up
13:05 Almost Christmas
15:00 Oscar
16:55 After The Ball
18:45 Mr. Deeds
20:25 The Out Of Towners
22:00 Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse
23:40 Tales Of Halloween



00:25 The Revenant
03:05 Rushmore
04:45 Lawrence Of Arabia
08:25 Words And Pictures
10:25 I Am Bolt
12:15 Rushmore
14:00 No God No Master
15:45 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
18:00 Spotlight
20:10 99 Homes
22:10 The Long Goodbye



00:10 Bark Ranger
01:40 Ethel & Ernest
03:20 Mune
04:50 Pooch's Heffalump Halloween Movie
06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
07:35 Paws
09:05 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
10:30 Memory Loss
11:55 Ethel & Ernest
13:35 Mune
15:05 Robosapien: Rebooted
16:35 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
18:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
19:15 Song Of The Sea
20:55 Robosapien: Rebooted
22:25 Paws
23:55 Memory Loss



01:30 Forces Of Nature
03:20 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
05:05 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
07:30 The Guardian
09:50 Forces Of Nature
11:35 Eight Men Out
13:35 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
15:20 Kicking And Screaming
16:55 Last Action Hero
19:10 Dick Tracy
21:00 San Andreas
23:00 Ouija

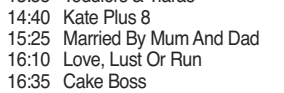


00:30 Kings Of Construction
01:20 Kings Of Construction
02:10 Kings Of Construction
03:00 Kings Of Construction
03:48 How Do They Do It?
04:12 How Do They Do It?
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 Food Factory
05:48 Food Factory
06:12 Food Factory

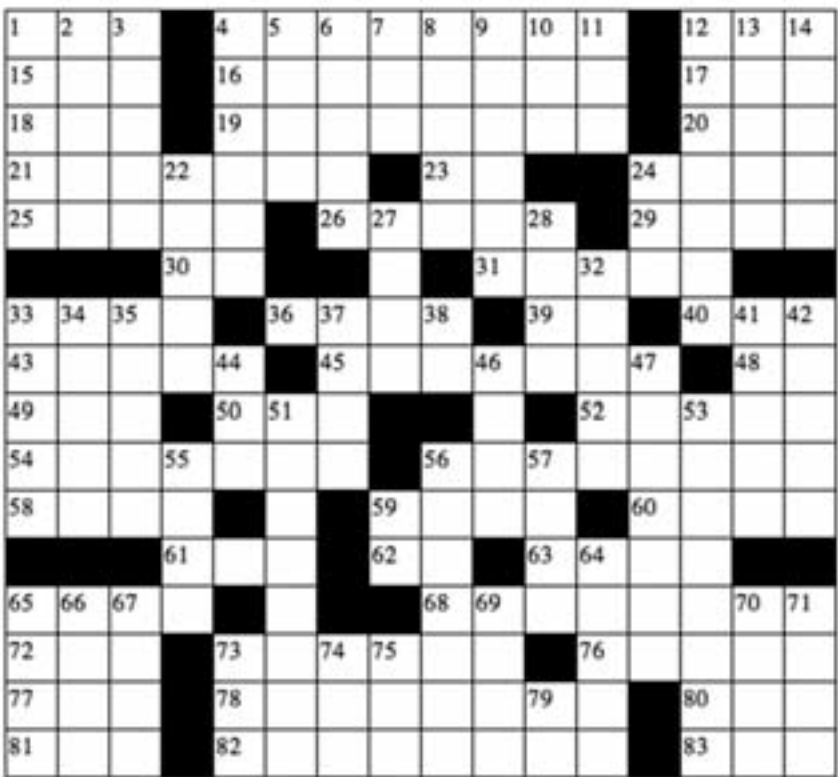
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Kings Of Construction
08:14 Kings Of Construction
09:02 Kings Of Construction
09:50 Kings Of Construction
10:38 Kings Of Construction
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 Mythbusters
13:50 Mythbusters
14:38 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 Space Voyages
20:20 Space Voyages
21:10 Space Voyages
22:00 Science Of The Movies
22:50 Science Of The Movies



00:20 My 600lb Life: Where Are They Now?
01:05 The Day I Almost Died
01:50 Katie Price's Pony Club
02:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddler's Tiaras
04:50 Toddler's Tiaras
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:07 Say Yes To The Dress
07:30 Sister Wives
08:15 Kate Plus 8
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddler's Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Married By Mum And Dad
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Katie Price's Pony Club
13:10 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
13:55 Toddler's Tiaras
14:40 Kate Plus 8
15:25 Married By Mum And Dad
16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
18:50 Ultimate Shopper
19:40 Say Yes To The Dress
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 The Undateables
21:50 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
22:40 Katie Price's Pony Club
23:30 90 Days To Wed



CROSSWORD 1696



ACROSS

1. A vehicle carrying many passengers.
4. In a gregarious manner.
12. Standard time in the 8th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 120th meridian west.
15. The residue that remains when something is burned.
16. Distribute according to a plan or set apart for a special purpose.
17. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
18. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
19. Increased pressure in the eyeball due to obstruction of the outflow of aqueous humor.
20. Owed and payable immediately or on demand.
21. Of or relating to the heart.
23. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
25. An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in south-eastern Asia.
26. Deciduous South African tree having large odd-pinnate leaves and profuse fragrant orange-yellow flowers.
29. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
30. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
31. God of wealth and love.
33. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
36. An indistinct shapeless form.
39. A public promotion of some product or service.
40. The money risked on a gamble.
43. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
45. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
48. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
49. A doctor's degree in education.
50. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
52. A laborer who is obliged to do menial work.
54. Of a leaf shape.
58. Again but in a new or different way.
60. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
61. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
62. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
63. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
65. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
68. A flask that holds spirits.
72. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
76. Genus of tropical plants with creeping root-stocks and small umbellate flowers.
77. A bachelor's degree in theology.
78. A three-sided polygon.
80. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
81. Grass mowed and cured for use as fodder.
82. Clothing for the head.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
2. Goddess of dawn.
3. (British) A former administrative district of England.
4. Small low-growing annual or perennial herbs of temperate and cool regions.
5. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
6. A sharp abrupt noise as if two objects hit together.
7. An informal debt instrument.
8. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
9. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp pulled monkey bread.
10. Your general store of remembered information.
11. An affirmative.
12. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
13. Of or relating to Saudi Arabia or its people.
14. A step in walking or running.
22. Little known Kamarupan languages.
24. A flexible container with a single opening.
27. A material effigy that is worshipped as a god.
28. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
32. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
34. American poet (born in England) (1907-1973).
35. Mix up or confuse.
37. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
38. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
41. A brief stanza concluding certain forms of poetry.
42. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
44. Two items of the same kind.
46. (Scottish) A narrow secluded valley (in the mountains).
47. Large mackerel with long pointed snout.
51. A benefice to which no spiritual or pastoral duties are attached.
53. Gregarious burrowing rodent larger than the chinchillas.
55. Affectedly dainty or refined.
56. Immersing the body in water or sunshine.
57. A protocol (utilizing TCP) to transfer hypertext requests and information between servers and browsers.
59. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
64. Located farther aft.
66. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
67. Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
69. English prelate noted for his pessimistic sermons and articles (1860-1954).
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. God of love and erotic desire.
73. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
74. Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
75. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
79. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself awake at an early hour this morning. You could be helping someone move or driving someone to the airport. Whatever the case, you are available to help. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on a greater importance now. Even though it is the top of the morning when you help this person, you are reflective and may be a mirror for this person's focus. You are equality-minded and easy to talk with-a good mediator as well. As a sociable and slightly frivolous orientation sets in this afternoon, you may find yourself planning a neighborhood get-together. There is time to relax-perhaps a massage or some leisure time in a pool. You are driven to excel in any form of physical or creative expression today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are good at relations regarding politics, diplomacy and sales-not to mention considerate and helpful. This is a good day for you to deal in sales or presentations. You have an inner urge to be all things to all people and would rather bend than argue. You will be helping a friend today because you are willing to listen and not criticize. You are a natural diplomat, always concerned with the comfort and welfare of others. You stay in the background, but are able to manipulate and bring out cooperation in others every time. A real estate profession is something you might seriously consider. This is a day you should enjoy-relax. With your strong drive to do and accomplish, every bit of relaxation you get will be beneficial.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Progressive people and idealistic groups or concepts play a more important role in your life now-a new cycle begins. There is a concern for something bigger than any one person-perhaps an interest in civic affairs or even some new recycling technique. You are very communicative, flexible, mental and other-oriented today. You will find many, particularly young people, listen to your ideas and advice. Your laser-like mind makes conversations fast-paced and illuminating. A ready wit and a great sense of humor create a rewarding day. You may join a self-help group or find yourself talking about a self-help book to a close friend this evening. Whatever the case, you have insight into your own emotions and drive. You can be a good mentor.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Easy does it-this is one of those busy days. If you need to concentrate on a particular chore, it would be a good idea to suggest that others either help you or leave you alone to do your work. This way, you will not get as many interruptions-and who knows-someone might help you with your special chore or project. A family gathering may be planned for later this day, perhaps a picnic. Tonight could complete your little gathering with a nearby outdoor concert. A music festival or some other type of fun activity with lots of children and unique exhibits just gives everyone the perfect opportunity to get to know each other better. There are opportunities to teach young people a sense of sharing and support of each other.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Having and appreciating things of beauty and value plays a big role in your life at this time. Making the most of what you have, striving for security and stability: that's the impulse that stirs in you now. You find yourself talking about investing and may even have a personal plan. Provided you do not spend the entire budget on the fancy things that catch your eye, a shopping expedition can be a financially favorable one for you now. Circumstances may expand your appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. There is a desire to purchase items and you might forget when to stop adding to your basket. You are inspired to write poetry.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are not bound by relationships and are thus not much of a domestic. You find it easy to work with other people and tend to pour a lot of energy into those around you. Foreign affairs may catch your attention at this time. Perhaps an investment you are thinking about is beginning to show quite an upswing in potential. You will find support from others when you turn your attention to health, food, nutrition and areas where service or attention to detail is in high focus. You may enjoy working with a group of people that have similar thinking or politics. With your powerful spirit, you enjoy your strong emotions and have an active social life. There are opportunities to show off your charming side this evening at an upscale social affair.

WORD SEARCH

Physics 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 58 letters spell a Bruce Feirstein quotation.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ABSOLUTE ZERO | DRAG | IONIZATION | PROTON |
| ADHESION | ELASTICITY | JOULE | PULLEY |
| AERODYNAMICS | ELECTRONICS | KINETICS | REFLECTION |
| AIR MASS | ENTROPY | LIGHT | SCIENCE |
| AMPLIFIER | FARADAY | MATTER | SPEED |
| BIG BANG | FORCE | MOLECULE | TEMPERATURE |
| BOILING POINT | FRICTION | MOTION | TORQUE |
| CENTRIFUGAL | FUNCTION | NEUTRON | VACUUM |
| CHAIN REACTION | GALILEO | NIELS BOHR | VELOCITY |
| DECIBEL | HALF LIFE | PARTICLE | VOLUME |
| DIFFRACTION | HEAT | PHOTON | WAVELENGTH |
| DISTANCE | INERTIA | PRESSURE | WEIGHT |



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are very much the creature of habit. The encircling network of friends and relationships are crucial to your success or lack thereof from time to time. You are nourished in great measure by the atmosphere and conditions you are able to set up. You may, however, tend to fluctuate between uninspired routine and crazy binges. For the next few days you may want to spend some time in organizing your thoughts and goals-making lists. Do not forget to walk around your home and make any necessary notes about updates. This is a good time to change the air filters, set out a soaker hose, clean vents, etc. Enjoy a bit of time away from work and responsibilities, perhaps by short trips to fun places this weekend. Consider creating a butterfly garden.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is easy for you to express yourself to others-you always manage to make a good appearance. You have an easy manner and find it easy to communicate with just about anyone. You like beautiful surroundings, everything that is calm, tasteful and harmonious. You may be planning a water garden for those hot summer days-maybe a few goldfish. This afternoon you will find yourself involved in several fun conversations with those you love. You are very giving, conciliatory and even flattering in relationships, able to adjust to any situation. Budget restraints are definitely needed so that some item you want in the future will become more attainable. Suggestions by young members in the family will give you new ideas.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like your conversations and thinking to stay somewhere near the surface today. This is a day of rest, and deep problem-solving conversations are certainly not on your to-do list. You can create new subjects easily with all the interests you have. You will enjoy your friends today-you love to interact with them. There may be an occasion to teach someone how to write music or to put one of your poems to music. You appreciate change, variety and making local connections-there may be an open house or opening day for some new business. You have many avenues to explore this weekend and many positive things to accomplish. You are more attractive than usual. Intimacy with a person you love will go beyond the usual.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Circumstances may press you and tend to bring out the rebel in you. A little bicycle ride or just a change of scenery for a short while will help to bring your emotions back in balance. Self-control is the accepted and admired behavior, and you are able to respond in positive ways. Circumstances work together to bring out your ideals-making it easier to make your dreams real. You are very original when it comes to home and surroundings-the environment you build around you. This could also manifest in new ideas for unusual ways of supporting yourself in the future. Get outside and be with friends this afternoon-enjoy a breath of fresh air! This evening, literature is on your mind. That book you want to write or read may hold your attention.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There are changes around your household that may not be the most pleasant for you. Change would be easier if you could have more control. However, if you are paying for these changes, you have the power! This doesn't mean you could be bossy, but it does mean you could become more influential with the price, color, style, etc. If you do not care about any of these, the changes will probably stay. Progressive people and idealistic groups or concepts play an important role in your life. This may be a special day when you have been looking forward to a trip to a museum, art show or the opening night of a play where a family member is performing. You enjoy a bit of culture from time to time and this experience is special.

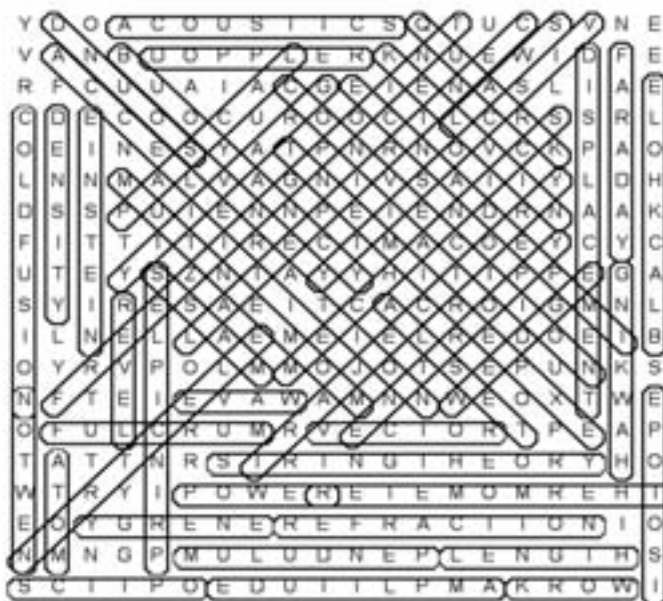


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Everything points to your taking the lead in today's activities. You could feel great support from those around you. You feel healthy and natural. You will find that today is packed full of communication with friends, especially those you may not have seen in some time. Perhaps it is time for a reunion. Practical and effective ideas are the ones that make the most sense-putting them to good use is a focus for you. Material things are foremost on your mind in many respects; an emphasis on the real rather than the ideal. This is the time you may decide to install a porch instead of a deck. Now when company comes, there will be a place to put them. If it is a porch with wide windows, you will enjoy sitting out there for meditations.

Yesterday's Solution

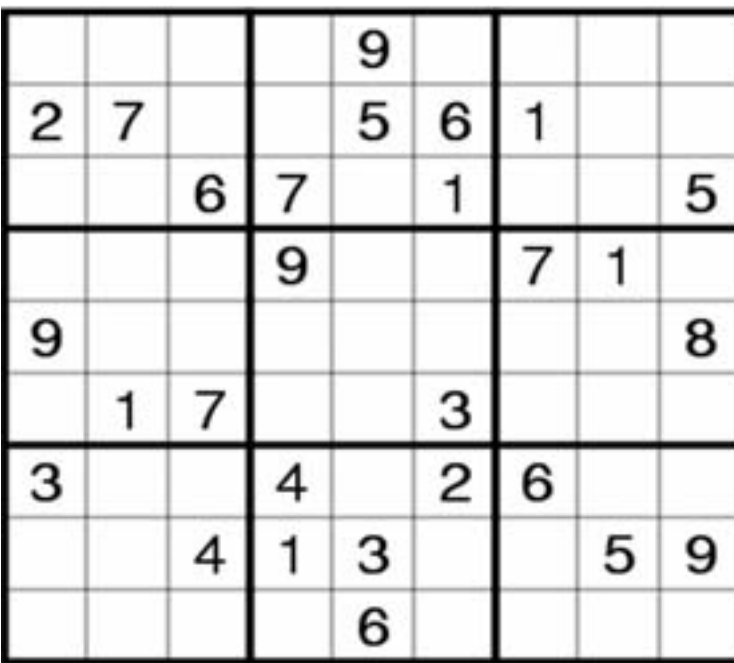
Physics 1



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

The hidden message is: YOU NEVER FAIL UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

Kuwait Times

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h with a chance for light fog forming at night.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.
KUWAIT CITY	47 °C	36 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	30 °C
ABDALY	49 °C	31 °C
BUBYAN	39 °C	26 °C
JAHLA	49 °C	35 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	41 °C	31 °C
SALMIYAH	42 °C	35 °C
AHMADI	40 °C	35 °C
NUWAISIB	44 °C	31 °C
WAFRA	47 °C	32 °C
SALMY	46 °C	29 °C

SFC. CHART 26/08/2017 1200 UTC

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	08/27	Hot with a chance for light fog forming at night	45 °C	30 °C	NW-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Monday	08/28	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog forming at night	45 °C	28 °C	SE	08 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	08/29	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	08/30	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	47 °C	30 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:00
Sunrise	05:22
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:17
Isha	19:38

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	56 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	N 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES



American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	177
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Air Slovakia	22425747
Olympic Airways	22434940
Royal Jordanian	22420002/9
Reservation	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22433388
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
Lufthansa	22423073
PIA	22422493
Alitalia	22421044
Balkan Airlines	22414427
Bangladesh Airlines	22416474
Czech Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22417901/
Oman Air	2433141
Turkish Airlines	22456700
Aeroflot	22958787
	22453820/1
	22404838/9

Kuwait Times

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FOR RENT

NEW SMALL VILLA IN AL-SALAM AREA
TWO FLOORS WITH EUROPEAN

• 3 bedrooms • Maid's room
• Full equipped kitchen • Garden

Rent: K.D 1200

Contact: 55055615

WANTED

Bilingual (Arabic and English)
Kuwaiti national male/female
for office secretary work.

Contact: 65002939 - 65002933
info@technocraftkuwait.com

FOR RENT

Flats for rent in Kheitan looks at airport road

◆ 3 bedrooms ◆ Saloon

◆ Kitchen ◆ 3 bathrooms

Free services for you and your family

Contact: 55517659 - 60414701

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 27/8/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 27/8/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	SAW	704	Damascus	11:45
KAC	102	London	00:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	VIZ	201	TQD	12:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	413	Bangkok	12:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	MSC	416	Sohag	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	SAW	710	Latakia	16:50
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	1442	Doha	17:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
QTR	8320	Doha	05:20	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
BAW	157	London	06:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
MSC	412	Asyut	06:45	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	07:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
KAC	344	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	RBG	552	Alexandria	23:40
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
JZR	239	Amman	12:25				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45				

GOSSIP



Van Morrison finds making album's 'boring'

Sir Van Morrison doesn't enjoy making albums anymore. The 71-year-old folk singer is gearing up to release his 37th studio album, a blues record called 'Roll Back The Punches' - which features the likes of Jeff Beck, 'Out of Time' hitmaker Chris Farlowe and regular collaborator Georgie Fame - on September 22. Despite having amassed a vast back catalogue over the past five decades, Van says he now finds the recording process "boring." Asked if he still believes in releasing records, he told Uncut magazine: "No, it's just the way it happens. It's not an album a year, because 'Keep Me Singing' was finished quite a while before it came out. "I took probably a year to get that one out. "This one hasn't taken a year. What was the reason for doing it? I just wanted to record some blues and have - allegedly - some fun. But then it turns into hard work, as it always does. "I don't enjoy recording the tracks, but then the mixing and all the rest of it, it's so boring. "People would not believe how boring it is. I used to enjoy making albums, but the whole process of doing it now, I don't enjoy it at all." It was not a desire to release another LP, but simply the 'Brown Eyed Girl' hitmaker's aficionado for blues music that led him to make this record. He explained: "From a very early age, I connected with the blues. The thing about the blues is you don't dissect it - you just do it. I've never over-analysed what I do; I just do it. Music has to be about just doing it and that's the way the blues works - it's an attitude. I was lucky to have met people who were the real thing - people like John Lee Hooker, Jimmy Witherspoon, Bo Diddley, Little Walter & Mose Allison. I got to hang out with them and absorb what they did. They were people with no ego whatsoever and they helped me learn a lot."

Swift's video to feature 'subtle hints' about Kimye feud

Taylor Swift's new music video will feature "not-so-subtle hints" about Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West. The 27-year-old singer's latest single 'Look What You Made Me Do' is believed to be aimed at the rapper and his wife and Taylor will reportedly give fans some clues in the footage, which will premiere at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. A source told TMZ: "Taylor feels she was backstabbed by the couple and there will be more not-so-subtle hints in the official music video, which will debut Sunday during the VMAs." And Taylor also appeared to take aim at Kanye in the track, as she slammed someone for their "titled stage", which Kanye had during his 'Saint Pablo' tour in 2016. Declaring her hate towards the person, the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker sings the line: "I don't like your little games/ Don't like your titled stage/ The role you made me play/ Of the fool/ No, I don't like you." She also vows revenge against her enemies, singing: "Honey, I rose up from the dead, I do it all the time/I've got a list of names and yours is in red underlined/I check it once, then I check it twice." Taylor and Kanye have been feuding ever since the 40-year-old rapper stormed the stage at the MTV VMAs in 2009 because he thought Beyonce deserved the Best Female Video prize over her. Although they enjoyed a brief truce, Kanye also took aim at Taylor on his track 'Famous' last year, in which he referred to the singer as a "b****" and joked about sleeping with her. While Taylor lashed out at the song, Kim shared videos on Snapchat revealing that Kanye had discussed it with the star before release, although Taylor insisted she was not aware of the full content.



Shane Filan: Westlife reunion could happen

Shane Filan says a Westlife reunion "could happen" in the future. The 38-year-old singer gets asked if the band will get back together all the time and his honest answer is that he "doesn't know," but he'll never say never. Asked if he thinks the group - who disbanded in 2012 - will reunite one day, Shane exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "The Westlife question I get asked all the time. "The honest truth is I don't know. It could happen someday, of course there is a chance, but there is also a chance that it might not." The 'Flying Without Wings' hitmaker says when he meets up with his former bandmates - Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan and Markus Feehily - they never talk about reuniting, but they do reminisce on their time in the chart-topping band, which sold over 50 million records worldwide during their career spanning 14 years. He continued: "We haven't talked about it. There is no plans right now. "Whether that will change in the future, I suppose you will have to wait and see you never know. "We still have a friendship. It's always nice to see the lads. Whenever I see the lads it's never awkward. "When we see each other it's nice and we chat about stuff and reminisce. "We have a bond that no matter whether the band happens again we will always have a bond that no one else has." Shane's third solo album 'Love Always' is out now. Fans can catch the 'Unbreakable' singer on his UK and Ireland tour this autumn.

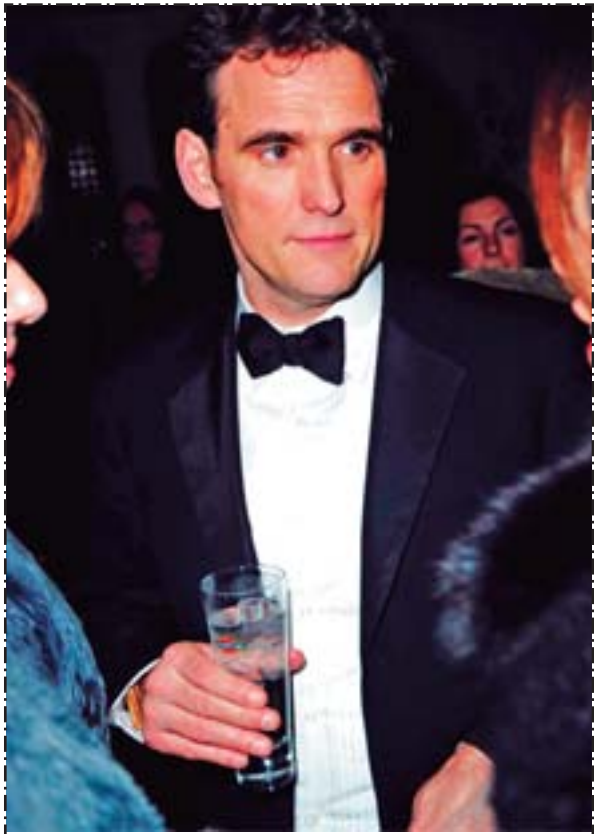
QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE'S SURPRISE LEEDS FESTIVAL SET

Queens of the Stone Age have announced a surprise performance at Leeds Festival this afternoon. The 'Villains' rockers will bring their ferocious live show to the NME/ BBC Radio 1 Stage at 12.45 pm. Tweeting the news within less than an hour of them going on stage, the band wrote: "HERE. WE. COME 'villainsworldtour (sic)" Rumors have been circling for a while that Josh Homme and his bandmates were expected to play the rock extravaganza. The heavy metallers haven't said if they are going to give the festival's sister site in Reading the surprise set treatment yet. As the festival, which is held from Friday until Sunday, kicks off, there have been a number of changes to the line-up. Rising pop rockers The Xcerts are set to open the main stage at both Reading today and Leeds this afternoon, after Royal Republic were forced to cancel their set due to "personal reasons" A tweet from the organizers read: "For personal reasons, @RoyalRepublic have to regrettably cancel their festival performances. @thexcerts will take their place. (sic)" The likes of Kasabian, Liam Gallagher, Muse, Eminem, Blossoms, Major Lazer, Korn, PVRS, Bastille, Charli XCX, Halsey, Haim and many more are set to perform at Richmond Park in Reading and Bramham Park in Leeds this weekend.



Solange Knowles announces digital exhibition Seventy States

Solange Knowles has announced a digital art exhibition called 'Seventy States'. The 31-year-old singer has teamed up with London's Tate Modern museum for the visual and interactive project to coincide with the 'Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power' exhibit. It features exclusive unreleased performances and concepts from the soulful star's music videos for her songs 'Cranes in the Sky', 'Don't Touch my Hair' and 'We Sleep in Our Clothes'. There is also an original performance and score created by Solange - who is the younger sister of R&B megastar Beyonce - and Carlota Guerra, which features an installation by Ricardo Basbaum. The piece was directed by Alan Del Rio Ortiz. And that's not all, the dark-haired beauty - whose last record was 2016's 'A Seat at the Table' - has also written two poems which are showcased within the visual. Speaking about the project, Solange said: "I wanted to create a specific scenography through movement and landscape to communicate my states of process through this record, I decided to do this through a visual language." Today visitors at Tate Modern in the British capital can view the gallery animated by a one-off digital display of the visually captivating 'Seventy States' at Uniqlo Tate Late on the walls of the Tanks Foyer. The online project will also be released on the Tate's website www.tate.org.uk.



Dillon praises 'There's Something About Mary'

Matt Dillon wishes all movies were as fun to make as 'There's Something About Mary'. The 53-year-old actor co-starred with Cameron Diaz in the 1998 comedy directed by the Farrelly brothers and has praised both the process and the movie's endurance. Speaking at the SANFIC Santiago International Film Festival, he said: "If they all were like that it would be so great. We all had fun making it. "I was getting on the airplane and someone said to me 'To Santiago?' and I remembered that I had a line in that movie about Santiago! Matt also spoke about his upcoming Lars von Trier's thriller 'The House That Jack Built', which he admitted is quite dark. He said: "The content of the movie is quite dark. That was something that I had to take a leap of faith in. [Lars told me], you couldn't play anybody worse. At dinner before we started Lars asked me to trust him and I said OK. The experience was really good for me from a creative standpoint." And Dillon explained that he has seen many changes in the movie industry in his 30-year career. He said: "I've watched the business side of the industry change a lot. I've never been all that comfortable with the business side, I'm more into the creative processes."



EMILIA CLARKE 'BURNED' BY TERMINATOR GENISYS



Emilia Clarke and Alan Taylor were both "burned" by 'Terminator Genisys'. The 'Game of Thrones' actress starred in the 2015 flop, directed by Taylor and he says that the experience was "rough" and not something they would like to repeat. He told Newsweek: "That was a rough one. It was tough, it was tough on [Clarke] and me. I think we came away feeling a little bit burned by the process. It was hard for her in ways that I didn't have to experience, because it was her face up on the screen and facing the [criticism] we had to face. I'm not surprised she's more content to carry on with her other fantastic projects than re-enter that world." And he insisted that even if a sequel was suggested, neither of them would be back. He said: "Well, it hasn't come up...but you won't see either of us back in that world, I think it's safe to say." However, Taylor acknowledged that there were some great moments on set and he was full of praise for Arnold Schwarzenegger, who reprised his most famous role for the flick. He said: "There were so many great things about it. I think she and I loved some of the same things. Arnold was a delight, in every way, to work with; the crew were a delight; being on location in New Orleans was a delight."



Lady Gaga doc to premiere at TIFF

Lady Gaga's documentary will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. 'Gaga: Five Foot Two' will debut at the Canadian festival on September 8 at the Princess of Wales Theatre, and will be followed by an intimate performance from the singer songwriter. The Netflix documentary - directed by Chris Moukarbel - follows the star over an eight-month period as she records and releases her 2016 album, 'Joanne'. TIFF artistic director Cameron Bailey said: "Moukarbel's documentary offers an unprecedented look at Lady Gaga in full creative mode: the ideas, the emotion, the sheer work it takes to do what she does. "We're thrilled to be bringing this film to audiences in Toronto, and even more excited that Lady Gaga will follow the screening with a performance. This one is for all her fans, Little Monsters, and movie lovers alike." Moukarbel added: "I had a rare opportunity to create a portrait of an artist with such an open heart and mind. I feel really lucky that Gaga trusted me and my vision." Gaga, 31, has shared some footage of the documentary on Instagram, including discussing her fear of being alone. The star - who has been single since splitting from fiancé Taylor Kinney in July 2016 - finds her life can go from an extreme of constantly being surrounded by people to be left in "total silence". She said: "I'm alone, every night. And all these people will leave, right? They will leave, and then I'll be alone. And I go from everyone touching me all day and talking at me all day to total silence." In another clip, she discussed her ongoing feud with Madonna, and insisted she doesn't have a problem with the '4 Minutes' singer, but the video then ended on a cliffhanger. She teased: "The only thing that really bothers me about her..." The documentary, will also show the 'Bad Romance' rehearsing for her Super Bowl Halftime Show earlier this year.

FASHION



A US FASHION SHOW WITH A BANG: CARRYING GUNS IN STYLE



In a distinctly American form of haute couture, a runway fashion show Friday showcased a range of accoutrements designed to carry concealed firearms-in style. From purses to holsters, attendees of the gun ownership and self-defense convention hosted by the National Rifle Association (NRA) will be treated to what the group says is the first-ever fashion show of its kind. "We couldn't find an event that's been done like this before," NRA spokesman Jason Brown told AFP ahead of the show in Milwaukee, in the Midwestern state of Wisconsin. "It's going to be really, really interesting to see all of these different products up on stage and modeled by people."

Models will display offerings from some 30 companies, including Femme Fatale, whose products include corset holsters, and Man-Pack, which makes shoulder bags designed for quick gun access. Gun-toting attendees at the Milwaukee convention hall-yes, guns are allowed inside-will vote for their three favorites at the end of the show.

The NRA, the politically powerful gun rights group that regularly tussles with lawmakers over gun control, says some 16 million Americans are licensed to carry concealed firearms. It insists that the country is safer-not less so-when more people carry guns. Unlike the organization's annual meetings, which are reserved for members, the three-day convention is described as more of an educational opportunity for the general public.

"It's kind of this full, comprehensive look of what it means to be able to defend yourself," Brown said. In addition to the fashion show, there are plans for a concert and dozens of workshops, such as one on how to stop life-threatening bleeding. "We're going to pull out all the stops," Brown said, to help people make informed decisions about guns and self-defense. — AP



Models walk the runway during the NRA Concealed Carry Fashion Show on Friday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP photos



Discover Beauty: Covetable treats at Bloomingdale's signature beauty concept

Located on the ground floor of Bloomingdale's, 360 Mall, Discover Beauty is a beauty platform for both new and emerging beauty brands and products with strong representation in color, skincare and haircare. An incubator for potential beauty stars in the making.

With the choice and service associated with a boutique, and the convenience and dynamic ambience of a department store; it is a haven of cutting edge trends in cosmetics and global brands, as well as everyday products and innovative treatments to benefit any beauty regime.

Discover Beauty Highlights

Alpha H

Specializing in gently resurfacing and regulating overactive and sensitive skins, Alpha-H is renowned for its ability to perfect even the most troublesome of complexions. Michelle Doherty founded the brand after years of battling with her own seemingly incurable adult acne and pioneered the use of Glycolic Acid in skincare. Now, the brand has a global following and is used the world over to banish blemishes, unify uneven skin-tones and restore a radiant, youthful glow.

111 Skin

When Dr Alexandrides started his practice, it was difficult for him to find skincare that would help heal the skin more efficiently after cosmetic procedures. Dedicated to continuous research he discovered that skin ages faster in Outer Space because of environmental extremes. For that reason he sought the collaboration of space scientists responsible for the wellbeing of astronauts. Together they created the patented NAC Ys formula.

The demand for the 'Dramatic Healing Serum' became so high that Dr Alexandrides created a range based on the unique NAC Y formula. This became 111SKIN, a skincare range named after Dr Alexandrides' Harley Street practice where it all began.



deCURE

As founders of deCURE, Ola Oquist and Niclas Engstrom have a history of creating ground-breaking products. After trying out various expensive skin care products with no real effect, Niclas and Ola decided to develop skin care products 'that really work'. deCURE aims at fulfilling the promises of the beauty industry.

Hampton Sun

Salvatore Piazzolla and Grant Wilfley founded Hampton Sun to create healthy, protective sunscreens that also feel glamorous and luxurious - their mantra is "Smart Serious Sunbathing". These weightless, antioxidant and moisture-rich formulas not only shield from aging rays but also strengthen and soothe your skin, sustaining a bronzed glow for longer.



DrApa

Unable to find the right products to recommend to his clientele, renowned cosmetic dentist Dr Apa set out to create them. His Apa Beauty line offers both a total-care and total-beauty effect-from a whitening toothpaste that helps rebuild your enamel, to a rejuvenating lip gloss that makes your teeth look whiter. His groundbreaking formulations make use of powerful ingredients that help strengthen your teeth over time as well as glamorous tricks of the trade that provide an instant pop of radiance.

The BrowGal

The BrowGal offers premier eyebrow shaping and make-up tools that provide a VIP experience for every gal's brows. Established and based in Los Angeles and designed with innovation in every step by celebrity eyebrow and makeup

artist Tonya Crooks, The BrowGal products are a celebrity favorite and the ideal choice for fuller, thicker eyebrows everyone can work with - no stencils necessary.

bkr

Since 2011, bkr has been proving that beauty will change the world, with water bottles so beautiful that drinking from them becomes a joy. Founded by Tal Winter and Kate Cutler, bkr is the antidote to cheap, disposable plastic bottles, and the key to skin that glows from the inside. These notoriously addictive glass water bottles feature signature small mouths, and silicone sleeves inspired by everything from fashion and photography to contemporary culture and fine art.

Anastasia Beverly Hills

Global cosmetics brand Anastasia Beverly Hills was founded in 1997 by Romanian-born beauty entrepreneur Anastasia Soare. Long before professional eyebrow shaping became an essential beauty ritual, she was the go-to beauty specialist for top celebrities, and has singlehandedly turned perfect brows and youthful eyes into essential accessories.

Sarah Chapman Beauty

Sarah Chapman's skincare line delivers salon-strength results in the comfort of your home. Formulated from a blend of key active ingredients including powerful botanical stem cells and pure flower extracts, this targeted line of products fuses science and nature to visibly protect and rejuvenate.

New brands at Discover Beauty include Magic Washcloth, Malin & Goetz-Beauty, GHD-Beauty, HIF HAIR, Hand Chemistry, Sarah Chapman, Real Techniques, Niod, Tweezerman, Philip Kingsley, Philip B, Youngblood, Lipstick Queen and more.

DIANA-MANIA SPREADS FROM BRITAIN AS DEATH ANNIVERSARY LOOMS 'DIANA-FOREVER AND EVER'



In this July 29, 1981 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer are shown at their wedding at St Paul's Cathedral in London. — AP/AFP photos



This Nov 7, 1985 file photo shows Britain's Prince Charles with his wife Princess Diana in front of Lodge Canberra, Australia.



In this Aug 4, 1987 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, left, and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II smile to well-wishers outside Clarence House in London.

The 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's death has filled magazines, newspapers and television screens in Britain for weeks, but not only there: across Europe, media groups are marking the occasion, underlining her international appeal. Britain's celebrity press have offered special editions, supplements and reams of news articles picking over the impact of her tragic life and death as well as her relationships with her sons and Prince Charles. The popularity of Charles, the heir to the British throne, has plunged as a result of the renewed attention on his former wife and their apparently loveless marriage.



In this 1980 file photo, Lady Diana Spencer, 21, Prince Charles's girlfriend, is pictured at the Kindergarten in St Georges Square, Pimlico, London, where she works as a teacher.



In this Feb 24, 1981 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer pose following the announcement of their engagement.



In this June 22, 1982 file photo Britain's Prince Charles, and his wife Princess Diana look at their newborn son Prince William, as they leave St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London.



In this July 9, 1986 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, with his wife Diana, the Princess of Wales, and their sons Prince Harry, lower left and Prince William, are seated on the steps during a photo call at the Marivent Palace, in Palma de Mallorca.



In this Wednesday, June 18, 1997 file photo, Mother Teresa, left, says goodbye to Britain's Princess.

In Europe, many media groups have commissioned documentaries, special reports or their own investigations two decades after her death in a Paris car crash on August 31, 1997. In Austria, public broadcaster ORF will screen several documentaries about the princess this week, including one entitled "Diana-Forever and Ever", a retrospective of her life inside Buckingham Palace. "It shows a life inside a golden cage, imprisoned by traditions, and Diana's repeated attempts to break out of this golden cage," ORF's royal expert Lisbeth Bischoff said in a statement to AFP.

On August 31, the anniversary of her death, Radio Vienna will dedicate its entire programming to the princess, led by Austrian journalist and Diana fan Ewald Wurzingler who raised a monument to her in a Vienna park in 2013. In France, the public channel France 2 will offer a day of programming about her on Sunday which is to include several documentaries and an investigation. "Twenty years after, it's time to look

again at what she brought to the monarchy in spirit and who she was really," said one of the channel's royal experts, Stephane Bern.

He said her enduring appeal was her "tragic destiny" which put her among stars whose early deaths have immortalized them, such as American actresses Grace Kelly or Marilyn Monroe. Matthias Gurtler, director of the celebrity weekly Gala, said the magazine had published a special edition on Diana in response to French interest in the British princess. The attraction for her was linked to her image as a rebel and someone who "broke the rules in a stiff and uptight world," he said.

In this Thursday July 17, 1997 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana rides a personal watercraft with her son Prince Harry, steering, in Saint Tropez, on the French Riviera, where she is spending a few days holidaying.



FEATURE



In this Sept 16, 1984 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana, leave St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, with their new baby son.



In this Aug 29, 1985 file photo, Pope John Paul II and Diana, Princess of Wales, are seen on occasion of the private audience at the Vatican.



In this April 24, 1991 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana, the Princess of Wales, hugs and plays with an HIV positive baby in Faban Hostel, San Paulo, on the second day of her visit to Brazil.



In this Saturday, Sept 6, 1997 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles, Prince Harry, Earl Charles Spencer, Prince William and Prince Philip, from left, stand as the coffin bearing the body of Princess Diana is taken into Westminster Abbey in London.



This file photo taken on April 25, 1991 shows Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, talking with a man infected with the AIDS virus, during a visit to a hospital in Rio de Janeiro.



In this Sunday Aug 31, 1997 file photo people buy Sunday newspapers reporting the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.



In this November, 1995 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, is shown.



In this Aug 9, 1987 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana of Wales smiles as she sits with her sons, Princes Harry, front, and William, on the steps of the Royal Palace on the island of Mallorca, Spain, where the British Royal family is on holiday with the Spanish King Juan Carlos and his family.



In this Sunday Aug 31, 1997 file photo police prepare to take away for investigation the motorbike of a photographer that was chasing the car of Diana, Princess of Wales, when a crash took place in a tunnel along the Seine river in Paris.



In this Tuesday Sept 24, 1996 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, arrives for dinner in Washington.



In this Monday, June 2, 1997 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, arrives at Christie's Auction house in London to attend a private viewing and reception in aid of AIDS Crisis Trust and The Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund.



In this Tuesday, June 17, 1997 file photo, Princess Diana arrives at the Red Cross in Washington where she was scheduled to meet with American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole to discuss land-mines.



In this Friday, Aug 22, 1997 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, and her companion Dodi Fayed, walk on a pontoon in the French Riviera resort of St Tropez.



This is an aerial view showing the large pile of flowers at the gates of Kensington Palace in London, as the crowds continue to arrive to pay their respects to the late Princess Diana, in this Thursday, Sept 4, 1997 file photo.



In this July 30, 1992 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana, the Princess of Wales, right, meets actor Tom Cruise and his co-star wife actress Nicole Kidman at the Charity Premiere of the film Far and Away in London's West End.



In this Tuesday, January 14, 1997 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, talks to amputees at the Neves Bendinha Orthopedic Workshop in the outskirts of Luanda, Angola.



This Thursday, Dec 21, 1995 file photo shows the London newspapers front page headlines.



In this Monday, Nov 2, 1987 file photo, Britain's Diana, the Princess of Wales, is pictured during an evening reception given by the West German President Richard von Weizsacker in honor of the British Royal guests in the Godesberg Redoute in Bonn, Germany.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017

'Diana-mania' spreads from Britain as death anniversary looms

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In this June 1, 1989 file photo, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana and their sons, Princes William, right, and Harry begin a cycle ride around the island of Tresco, one of the Scilly Isles, England. The royal family was vacationing in the islands, located off the southwest tip of Britain. It has been 20 years since the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris and the outpouring of grief that followed the death of the People's princess. — AP

Palestinian ex-banker devotes her life to West Bank dogs

Palestinian Diana Babish enters a cage full of dogs at a rare shelter in the West Bank and is immediately swamped by puppies clamoring to be picked up or petted. Babish, in her 40s, runs the shelter in the Israeli-occupied territory, where residents are not all known to be dog lovers. The shelter opened 18 months ago in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem after Babish gave up a 20-year career in banking to devote her life to care for the animals.

As she makes her way into the shelter, she pats each puppy as she searches for one particular dog that needs an injection for a bite injury. Babish has no veterinary or medical background, but the shelter, which is now home to around 40 dogs, has become her labor of love and she has learned to give shots and other medical treatment. About 200 puppies and 130 mature dogs have been treated, given affection, fed and prepared for adoption since the shelter opened. "In the Palestinian areas animals are subjected to abuse. These animals were created by God," says Babish, who wears discreet jewelry and make-up.

10,000 strays in Bethlehem

"These animals can't talk. So we have to talk for them because they need our help," she says. Babish spent much of her own money on setting up the shelter, but eventually needed outside help to meet the steep cost of running the refuge. Now the shelter receives funding from international groups,



Diana Babish carries a dog at the first dog shelter.

including the France-based Brigitte Bardot Foundation as well as from British and German charities. The cost of running the shelter is high-around \$60,000 a year, says Babish, as the dogs need 50 kilos of food each day, much of it leftovers from nearby chicken farms.

She says the biggest challenge is not acquiring the funding but "getting people to accept the idea that animals can live in the streets and you should not exterminate them". Babish estimates that there are about 10,000 stray dogs in the Bethlehem district alone, and many people favor poisoning or shooting them. The local government has committed to not killing them and Babish says they are working together to find ways to reduce canine

birth rates. Islam generally calls for people to be kind to animals.

A savage attack

The Prophet Mohammed once told the story of a man who saw a dog panting with thirst and gave him water. The man was rewarded by God for his good deed and allowed to enter heaven. And yet many religious authorities consider dogs to be unclean or impure. Last year, a shelter opened in the Gaza Strip, which is ruled by the Islamist Hamas movement.

Kareema Allan, a Palestinian teacher who lives in a town south of the southern West Bank city of Hebron, recalls how she called Babish in a panic when a stray dog had puppies under a tree on her property. It was during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and she gave the dog food and water. But one day, "I woke up to the dog's screams" and found the mother "stabbed in the neck, while her puppies were still breastfeeding". Allan cleaned the animal's wound with iodine and fed the puppies. She then phoned the shelter and Babish quickly arrived and took both the mother and her puppies to the vet. They all survived. An average of two dogs a week are adopted from the Beit Sahour shelter, most of them finding new homes in Israel. — AFP



Palestinian Diana Babish, an ex-banker from Bethlehem, takes care of dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour near the biblical city. — AFP photos



Dogs in a cage at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour near Bethlehem.



Diana Babish holds the paws of a dog at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.



Dogs in a cage at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.



Diana Babish pats dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank, in the town of Beit Sahour.



Diana Babish takes care of dogs at the first dog shelter in the West Bank.

Bizarre News

Kid breaks 800-year-old coffin at museum

A family had to flea a museum after their child broke an 800-year-old coffin. Staff at Prittle well Priory Museum in Southend, Essex, were left "shocked" after the parents' of the kid let them stand inside the ancient sarcophagus and watched on CCTV as bits of it crumbled to pieces. The stone dates back to 1921 and was complete with a skeleton. Conservator Claire Reed has been tasked with fixing it. She told the BBC: "Staff heard a thump and that was the first indication something had happened. "It was one of those isolated, terrible incidents. "It's a very important artefact and historically unique to us as we don't have much archaeology from the priory."



A study shows half of British people have 'very limited' free time

A study has found almost half of British people have "very limited" free time. Research conducted by vape retailer ElectricTobacconist, has discovered 43 per cent of people feel time escapes them and they never have enough hours in the day to enjoy some quality me time. And among the 43 per cent of people 38 per cent suffer stress as a result of not being up to tick their errands of their to do list. The founder of the company, Pascal Culverhouse, said: "Clearly, free time is seriously limited for many adults in 2017, and this is having some pretty negative effects - not only in terms of people's mental health, but for some it is actually impacting on their general health, which is definitely a concern. "Taking time out of your day for yourself is obviously really important - but for some, it can be very difficult to find the time to do so. Those who live with housemates, partners or their families could try to share out tasks like household chores, cooking and paying utility bills or doing the food shopping, to make it equal and free up time outside of work." Although a vast majority of people believe they do not have any free time, 39 per cent of people feel their spare

moments are eaten up by undertaking household chores, while 26 per cent have extended their working day.

Couple's home invaded by bees

A couple realized their home had a bee infestation after they found honey leaking from their ceiling. The homeowners, who lived in a Grade II listed 18th Century house in Market Harborough, discovered a sticky substance oozing from the walls and out of their light fittings, and when the matter was investigated further they discovered a huge bee hive had been created in their attic. The pair took the unusual matter to their insurance company Ecclesiastical Insurers who safely removed the infestation and replaced the destroyed ceiling, the Mirror Online has reported. Speaking about the discovery, a spokesperson for Ecclesiastical said: "The couple noticed a patch and on closer inspection they could see that the substance was sticky and coming through the light fixtures. They also noticed a lot of bees around the house and at this point sought an expert view."

Helicopter jump-started by car

A helicopter can be jump-started by a car. James McIntosh, a ski centre owner, has revealed in 1974 the Bell 47G-5 chopper he had parked, in Bellabeg in the Highlands in Scotland, near a garage was blocking the road so he borrowed his father's Rover to get it back up and running after the pistons failed, and within 10 minutes it was up in the air. He told the Daily Record: "We wheeled the chopper out onto the road and went to fire up the engine and there was nothing. "It was a piston driven engine which can sometimes be difficult to start, especially after being hosed down and cleaned. "Knowing that the local bus and other folks would be needing past soon we had to act quickly. "As the battery on the helicopter is fairly small a car can jump start it, so I hijacked my father Gibbie's Rover. The road was at a standstill for about 10 minutes while we got the helicopter off the ground. "There were a few bemused drivers and some of the locals were peering out their doors to watch proceedings. "It's not every day a helicopter uses the main road through Strathdon as a helipad." — Bang Showbiz

