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eclipse Saturday



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Sessions as the US
Attorney General



FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP ON TV

SEBASTIEN OGIER READY FOR SWEDEN RALLY

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Kuwait Times Friday Times

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NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED KIDS ON THE RISE

By Ben Garcia

There has been a steady rise in the number of undocumented children in Kuwait. Among the Filipino community, the problem is reaching untenable levels. Low-income expatriate parents cannot meet the salary cap, recently raised to KD 450, for dependent visas. Parents who are themselves overstayers or absconders cannot obtain legal status for their children. This means that children live effectively off-grid and are unable to be registered for daycares or schools and cannot visit local clinics and hospitals, and cannot receive government mandated vaccinations.

In October 2016, the Ministry of Interior (Immigration Department) raised the minimum salary required for expatriates to be allowed to sponsor their wives and children from KD 250 to KD 450 in a move expected to cut the number of foreign families in the country. During the past 12-year period, the number of expatriates increased to record levels of around three million, constituting almost 70 percent of the total population of Kuwait. (See Page 2)



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PHOTO OF THE DAY



A boat sits in the harbor near Shuwaikh Port. — Photo by Mohammed Al-Bader

NUMBERS OF UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN RISING IN KUWAIT

'Higher dependency visa cap, illegal status main causes'

By Ben Garcia

There has been a steady rise in the number of undocumented children in Kuwait. Among the Filipino community, the problem is reaching untenable levels. Low-income expatriate parents cannot meet the salary cap, recently raised to KD 450, for dependent visas. Parents who are themselves overstayers or absconders cannot obtain legal status for their children. This means that children live effectively off-grid and are unable to be registered for daycares or schools and cannot visit local clinics and hospitals, cannot receive government mandated vaccinations.

In October 2016, the Ministry of Interior (Immigration Department) raised the minimum salary required for expatriates to be allowed to sponsor their wives and children from KD 250 to KD 450 in a move expected to cut the number of foreign families in the country. During the past 12-year period, the number of expatriates increased to record levels of around three million, constituting almost 70 percent of the total population of Kuwait.

The higher salary cap hit low wage workers hard, especially among the Egyptian, Filipino and Indian communities in Kuwait.

"I confirm the steady rise of undocumented children," said Nilda Oliva, head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at the Philippines Embassy. "We have noticed based on our annual report, it has risen to a considerable level since they could not secure residency permit when their [combined] salary is less than KD 450."

According to Oliva, only in January this year, the embassy has processed about 27 undocumented children. It wasn't the case few months before the imposition of KD 450 salary cap. "Before we only receive 3-10 kids per month against the 27 children just last month," she argued.

But she was thankful to the assistance being provided by the Kuwaiti government. "I always appeal for our countrymen who have kids without document to come forward and let's help each other to give them necessary help. The problem is that there are parents who are legally staying in the country, they are legally married but they cannot process the residency because they were not able to reach the salary cap imposed by the government in July," she said. The old salary cap was KD 250.

"The good thing is that Kuwaiti government has been cooperating with us to send undocumented kids back home, without penalty. However, the problem now is that, we have kids



KUWAIT: Nilda Oliva, head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in her office at the Philippines Embassy in Saddiq area. — Photo by Ben Garcia

back home without parents, since they are left working in Kuwait," Oliva noted.

Impacting real people

Bong and Marites (real names have been withheld) are one of the families impacted by the higher salary cap. They married in the Philippines in 2014. Before coming to Kuwait they had one kid and he's three years old now. In September 2016, the couple had their second child and she's now six months old.

"My husband draws KD 200 salary, I earn KD 120; so combined it's only KD 320. Immigration Department told us that we need to at least have a combined salary of KD 450 to KD 500, our salary is too low for the salary cap being followed, so we cannot be allowed to sponsor our child. So till now, our kid is without residency," she said. "I want my child to be with me in Kuwait. But I don't want to be stressed and hide her all the time in our accommodation since she has no residency. I also heard that I cannot enroll her in any school in Kuwait if she has no residency; so I don't want her to grow without schooling. My eldest child now is in the Philippines already in kindergarten. So my husband and I have decided to just send her back to the Philippines," she said.

Another Filipino couple, Edgar and Vivian, are sending their 8-month-old baby to the Philippines in April because they cannot obtain a dependent visa for their son.

"I feel very sad that we are going to be separated. Just the idea of letting my son go is very saddening. You don't know how much I love my son, he's my first born baby, but I have to decide now, I don't want to have trouble with the Kuwait law," Edgar said. Edgar and Vivian married in 2013 back in the Philippines. The couple said that they are not comfortable when his only son has no residency permit. "I heard from people around that we must have KD 450 salary combined to sponsor a family. Our combined salary is KD 330, so, not enough to sponsor a family," he told Kuwait Times.

Illegal parents = illegal children

Another Filipino family are about to be separated - with the wife and two children heading back to the Philippines - and the father remaining in Kuwait. Both parents are illegal, having both absconded from domestic service. They both have cases against them but the wife and the two children have obtained travel documents to allow them to leave Kuwait.

Both children were born inside an apartment in Kuwait rather than a hospital because the parents were fearful of being arrested if they sought medical help. The children have not been vaccinated nor received any medical care until recently when the youngest developed an infection that required hospitalization.

Case after case of parents trapped due to illegal status, debts or simply too-lower salaries are resulting in growing numbers of undocumented children, a problem that could have many long term consequences on Kuwait's society.

Local Spotlight

PARENTS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Teenagers cannot be served shisha in Kuwait under law 15/1995, which prohibits the sale or provision of any type of tobacco to people under 21 years of age. The penalty for offending is a KD 50 fine, which is doubled for every repeated offense. But teenagers can always send the maid or driver to the local shop to buy it for them - prohibiting it is not a solution, because the forbidden fruit is sweetest.

Now a new rule by the Interior Ministry decrees that expatriates who serve shisha to adolescents in cafes will be subject to deportation from Kuwait. Meanwhile the cafe owner will be referred for investigation. But the expat worker will do what he is ordered. If he is a shisha cafe worker, he has no power to deny customers' requests - he can be fired if he does so. He is not a policeman investigating customers' age, and if he tries to ask young customers to produce an ID, he faces the very real threat of a beating.

Owners are not fathers deciding who comes to their cafes. Most are not necessarily available 24/7, so even if they commit to following the law, they won't be able to all the time. According to the law, we are punishing expats instead of digging deeply into the roots of the problem or thinking about how to overcome it, especially amongst teenagers. We are not

According to the law, we are punishing expats instead of digging deeply into the roots of the problem or thinking about how to overcome it, especially amongst teenagers.

engaging doctors, psychologists, parents or teachers to analyze the phenomenon. Threatening the expat community with deportation will not reduce the number of young smokers.

I understand the state is obliged to protect the youth from harm, but delving into the reasons behind the spread of smoking amongst adolescents is imperative. I believe parents bear responsibility too, and should be subject to these laws rather than cafe owners and expat workers. Parents are role models, and children naturally imitate their behavior, whether good or bad.

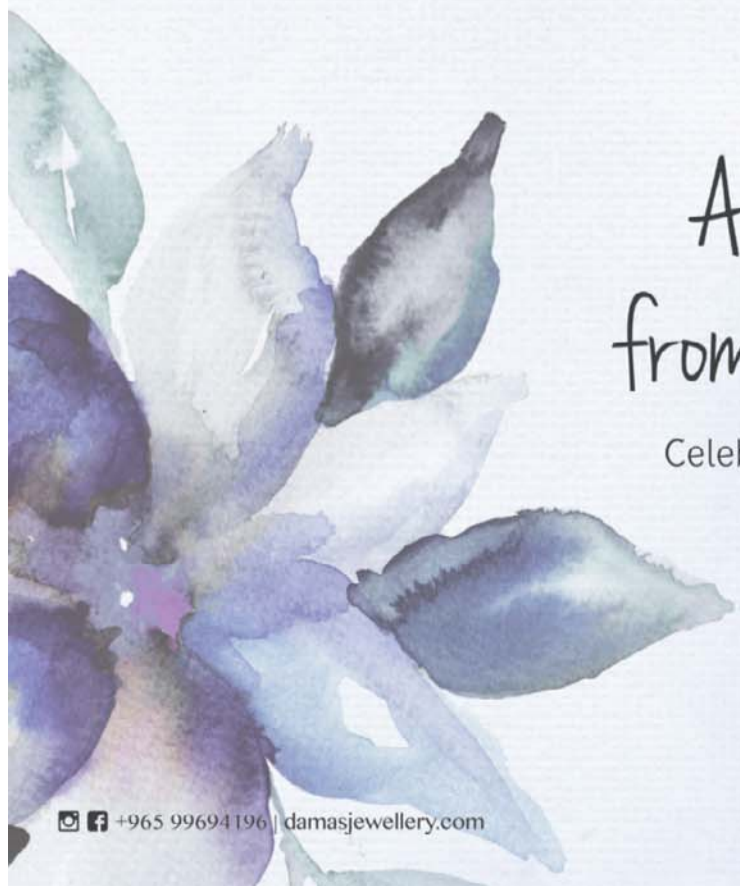
If a child playing football in the middle of the road is hit by a car, should we punish the driver? Or should we punish the parents, who did not take care of their kid by keeping an eye on him or explaining that the road is not the right place to play? For the record, in some areas of Kuwait, you can find kids playing on the road. This is not only dangerous, but parents must be punished severely for allowing it. It puts innocent lives in danger.

Parents must monitor their children and protect them from risks. This is the key to tackling this problem. Awareness campaigns directed towards parents are necessary. The rate of heart problems and deaths due to teenage smoking should be publicized. We need statistics and data that demonstrate the danger of this behavior if not controlled.

PUBLIC WORKS INAUGURATES ROPME BUILDING

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday the completion of the permanent headquarters' building of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) in the district of Gharnata, and handed it over to the organization. The project was completed within one-and-a-half year, Public Works Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa stated to reporters following the project's handing over ceremony. He added that it is fully equipped in a fashion that serves ROPME and Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government has constructed the new

building for the regional organization, affirming the Ministry's commitment to complete and hand all its tasked projects within the determined timeframe, as well as keenness on facilitating all procedures regarding other projects. Dr Abdulrahman Al-Awadi, ROPME's Secretary-General, described the new building as an environmental and model monument that reflects Kuwait's care of environment, indicating that the building is shaped liked a Kuwait ship, dhow, in all its components which expresses the country's fascination with the sea and its heritage. — KUNA



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MUBARAKIYA LIT UP FOR NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Story and photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Street decorations for the national holidays evoke joy and bring delight. Kuwait City's Al-Mubarakia area is bedecked with Kuwaiti flags, ornaments, decorative lighting and national songs. Scores of local and regional visitors come to Souq Al-Mubarakia every week, gathering with friends and family in a simple traditional atmosphere.

Some older Kuwaiti women wear the abaya and veil to cover their faces, even if they don't usually wear it elsewhere, in stark contrast to the younger generation. One of them told me that she doesn't want

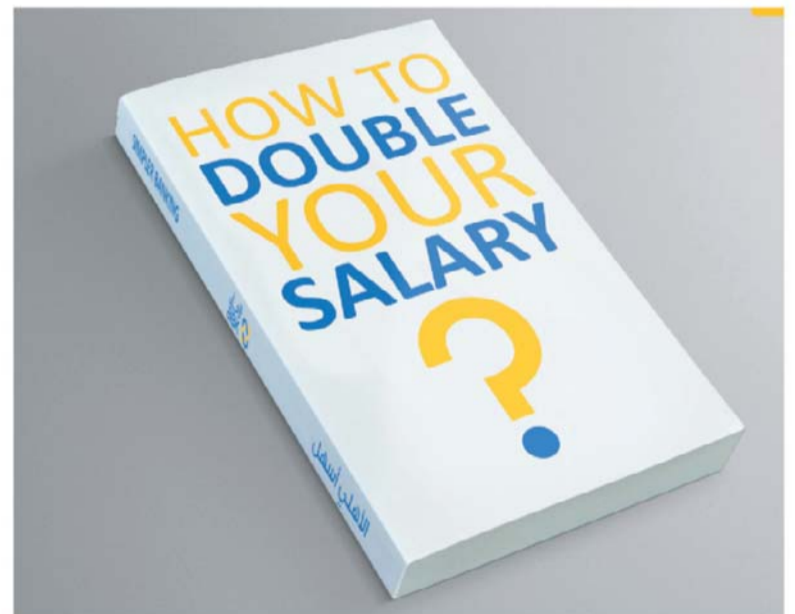
to be recognized in Mubarakia! But only a few meters away, you see young hijabi women riding their bicycles through the crowd.

The Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has decorated the streets of Souq Mubarakia as it has done for many years in Ahmadi, another place worth visiting during the national holidays. Street decorations are a symbol of the grace of security and freedom. If the celebration spirit hasn't yet captivated you, come to Mubarakia!





ABK Announces Winners of 41st 'Double Your Salary' Weekly Draws



Get KD 100 upon transfer of salary to ABK and be one of the lucky winners to double up!

Kuwait- 10 February 2017: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 41st 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 6th February, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners this week were:

- Sudhir Goud Yaragadda, Fahaheel

Branch

- Marites Galimba Palilo, Ministries Complex Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 13th February, 2017 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

A LIFE FULL OF FLOWERS

By Nawara Fattahova

It's great when you can turn your passion into your life's work. This is what Syrian expat Abu Mustafa has been doing for over 25 years in Kuwait. His flower shop is filled with beautifully designed bouquets of different types of flowers and colors, all made by him. He and his partner work for six hours daily in shifts. "When I was young, back in my home country, I used to regularly visit my uncle at his flower shop and worked with him during school vacations. I fell in love with this work, and decided to do the same," Abu Mustafa told Kuwait Times.

His dream came true after he concluded his studies and obtained a university degree in philosophy. "I love drawing and painting and flowers are very similar to art, as they symbolize beauty. After my graduation, I realized that I could turn my passion into my profession, so I launched 'Farah Flowers' with my partner 25 years ago," he said.

Most flowers in his shop are imported from the Netherlands. "Dutch flowers make up about 90 percent of my stock, while the rest are from Africa, Colombia, Ecuador, Iran, Thailand and other places," Abu Mustafa said. "All my flowers are natural. This is the only field that has not yet been invaded by fake or imitation products. I never spray water on the flowers, as this may cause the flowers to fade as oxygen is blocked," he said.

Abu Mustafa receives fresh flowers twice a week that are transported by air. "Apart from special orders, I have a fixed quantity that I order every week. But during special occasions, the quantity increases. During Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and New Year's, our flowers are in great demand," he stressed.

"Out of all the flowers most sought, red roses top the list, followed by lilies and orchids for their strong essence and fragrance. In general, the color red is



the most prevalent color amongst flowers. When we mention the word flower, we immediately think of a red rose," he noted. "Sometimes, customers demand bouquets containing particular flowers and colors that aren't an exact match to the ones I have, so I arrange them with my special touch to make the bouquets look beyond beautiful!" he added.

The logistics of floral beauty

Prices depend on the size and the type of flowers. "On a daily basis, I prepare 15 to 30 bouquets, and the majority are small-sized baskets that are not very expensive and everyone can buy them. I also prepare expensive bouquets that cost around KD 200, and these usually depend on the orders placed. The prices are high due to the expensive flowers used, which are from the Netherlands. Also, customers pay extra for some seasonal flowers like chrysanthemums and some types of lilies, as these flowers are ordered from abroad," Abu Mustafa told Kuwait Times.

"It takes around 15 minutes for me to prepare small bouquets or a regular basket and rarely more than that for special orders. Big bouquets take between 30 to 60 minutes depending on the details," he added. Usually, he prepares the bouquets at the shop, and only for big occasions does he go to the venue. "For wedding parties, I have to see the hall and other decorations, and the bride's dress if possible, to choose the best-matching bouquets. I also consider the customer's demands. It takes us half a day to prepare the floral arrangement, as we do the smaller pieces in the shop, while we spend about six hours in the hall to prepare the flower decorations. We have to wind up work two hours before the guests start arriving," Abu Mustafa explained.

"We also do floral decorations for graduations, birthdays and sports events. We previously worked for the honoring of HH the Amir, the award ceremony of a local football cup and many graduation parties. For birthday parties, it depends whether it is at home or a public ballroom, as space in a home is usually small and the selection is limited. We have also decorated a yacht for an occasion," said Abu Mustafa.

There are special patterns of bouquets and baskets depending on the occasion. "I follow international trends in arranging flowers and always look for new designs. I don't copy them, but get inspired. I use pearls, crystals and mock diamonds to decorate wedding baskets and wedding seats. For newborn baskets, we add small toys and so on," he said.



Abu Mustafa concluded that he is happy, now that more people are interested in flowers. "Everybody buys flowers now, while in the past only certain categories of people were buying them. It's nice that flowers have become a basic part of people's life. This is why there are so many flower shops in Kuwait, and all kinds of flowers are available now."

A DAY IN THE LIFE

The delivery route

By Ben Garcia

Ali, 62, is the Lebanese owner of a small business and a deliveryman. Beginning his day at 5:30 am, he and his nephew collect boxes of fresh eggs from a company in Shuwaikh.

From 6 am, you can find him roaming around Kuwait in his minivan. Venturing from Kuwait City, where I met him, Ali's minivan rolls through Hawally and Maidan Hawally before a final stop in Salmiya. Every day, he delivers eggs to baqalas, restaurants and confectionery shops.

You can have almost anything delivered in Kuwait nowadays - from food to footwear. Shops rely on daily deliveries to keep their products fresh and satisfy customers. But no one every thinks about the men - and sometimes women - who spend their days navigating Kuwait's notoriously congested traffic, fighting for parking and delivering the range of every day goods necessary for keeping the country running smoothly.

For Ali, the life of a delivery driver means more work but greater personal freedom. At his age, Ali enjoys the mundane routine of the job, despite his ill health. "I took this job after retiring from a private company in 2010," Ali said as he unloaded cartons at a Hawally baqala. "I have a small problem with my eye now, so I asked my nephew to help me with the deliveries. It tears a lot, which irritates me. Thank God, I have an operation scheduled for Feb 14. Other than that, I can still see clearly," he told Kuwait Times.

But despite his eye problem, Ali continues to do his job. "I've worked hard to secure my regular customers. If I do not deliver them an item, maybe they will replace me with one of my competitors. I can't afford to lose them over a small eye problem, so I deliver the eggs they need despite my ailment," Ali said.

By 7:30 am, he has already delivered half the boxes loaded in his minivan. Each carton contains 12 trays - 360 eggs in total. "It's not heavy, and with my stamina, I can carry it. I might be 62, but apart from my eyes, I'm fully

healthy - as good as 20!" he joked.

Ali has six adult children in Lebanon. He began working for a private foodstuff company in Kuwait in 1985 - every day for the next six years. After this marathon stretch without a break, he used to visit Lebanon every two years.

"When I retired as a storekeeper, I jumped straight into this smalltime business. It was the best thing to do at my age. I had enough of working under a boss; of not being able to do things my own way because I had to follow his orders. I still work hard now, but I don't have a boss and I am not ordered around. I am not being scolded and I never have to face any late remarks. I work at my own leisure," he said contentedly.

Of course, challenges remain if items are not delivered on time or if he runs out of stock. "I have some customers that need fresh eggs every day, like sweetshops that use the whites and yolks for their cakes and chocolates. If this happens, I try to find other sources. If this does not work and I can't get eggs from another company, the last thing I do is plead. I feel bad



when this happens," Ali said.

Given that he only works until midafternoon, most of his time is spent doing side jobs like tending his friend's garage or entertaining visitors. "I'm used to doing little things for my friends or around the house, but more often than not I'm entertaining guests!" he beamed.

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News

in brief

Bursa Kuwait trains 20 new graduates

KUWAIT: Kuwait Boursa company organized a one-day training session for 20 new graduates as a part of an ambitious plan to harness skills of national cadres. In a press statement, the company said that the training session was organized in collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority within the framework of its ambitious program to train national cadres to increase their contributions to labor market and national economy. It added that the program aims to prepare the new generations to lead the national economy and state development in the future. The trainees listened to detailed presentation about the company's different sections, work mechanisms, task, achievements and its vision for the future.



Kuwait sets up camps for displaced Iraqis

Kuwait sets up camps for displaced Iraqis in Mosul

IRBIL: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that a camp has been set up for displaced Iraqis south of Mosul funded by Kuwait. IOM's representative in Irbil Abdul Hamid Miran said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that in order to find a suitable shelter for displaced Iraqis from the city of Mosul, the organization has expanded the Qayyarah and Haj Ali's camps through erecting 900 new tents with support of the Kuwait government. Jassim Al-Jaf, Minister of Displacement and Migration, said in a press release that the expected number of displaced persons from the right side of the city during the liberation operations ranges between 200,000 to 250,000, noting that the government is ready to receive such influx and to meet their needs. He added that the number of displaced people from the city of Mosul reached 191,000, pointing out that 37,000 of them have been resettled in their areas.



GACA Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Sabah tours the new airport terminal. — KUNA

New airport terminal to be operational by Nov

KUWAIT: Construction work at the new terminal of the Kuwait International Airport (Terminal No 2) is expected to be completed in November, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) announced yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, GACA Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Sabah underscored the significance of the terminal that will assist travelers perturbed over increasing congestion at Kuwait's main airport. As he toured the terminal, which has been 30 percent completed, the GACA Chairman noted that national carrier Kuwait Airways will be operating the terminal. Located north of Kuwait International Airport, the terminal contains 14 departure gates and will help ratchet up passenger capacity to accommodate some 5 million travelers.

'EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MAIN CHALLENGE FACING WOMEN'

AL-SHAREKH CALLS FOR WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti women's rights activist Dr Al-Anoud Al-Sharekh said yesterday that the issue of equal opportunities is among the most prominent difficulties faced by Kuwaiti women, calling for further women's representation in politics. In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of being granted the National Order of Merit by the Embassy of France, Al-Sharekh said that the biggest dilemma for women was the "lack of equal opportunity and the existence of a social difficulties," especially some of the social norms that prevent women's participation in public affairs.

Regarding future aspirations, Al-Sharekh expressed desire of Kuwaiti women for a larger representation in politics, adding that Kuwaiti women seek to be granted the opportunity to partake in the political decision-making process in the legislative and executive branches in a manner that satisfies the ambitions.

She expressed her gratitude for the honoring by the French Republic which was the culmination of work that extended over 18 years in the field of women's rights, in addition to academic contributions to the civil society. She added that the award was also granted for her due to her contributions to Kuwait's civil society and her books and researches written in English and Arabic, in addition to teaching in overseas countries such as Sweden,



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti researcher Al-Anoud Al-Sharekh with French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhlah during her honoring ceremony. — KUNA

France, America and Britain.

She explained that her membership in public utility associations concerned with women and youth activities has contributed to the enrichment of her career, besides her being selected by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the

future personality program in 2015. She noted that the march of Kuwaiti women is luminous and bright and is constantly achieving success, indicating that the award will contribute to highlighting the importance of Kuwaiti women more on a global level. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials and teachers take a group photo during the ceremony marking graduation of the first batch of teachers who specialized in nanotech. — KUNA

KUWAIT GRADUATES NANOTECH TEACHERS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education is keen on setting up nanotechnology clubs for such tech is essential in information technology nowadays, the undersecretary said yesterday.

Dr Haitham Al-Athari made the assertion on sidelines of a ceremony marking graduation of the first batch of teachers specialized in nanotech, organized by Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity-held under auspices of Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares.

Several nanotech projects, executed by the ministry in cooperation with the center, aim to contribute to overhauling education, with emphasis on sciences and nat-

ural sciences, Dr Al-Athari said. He indicated that graduation of the specialized teachers would be prelude to establishing the clubs. For his part, Dr Omar Al-Bannai, the general director of Sabah Al-Ahmad center, affirmed to KUNA keenness on establishing cooperation with state departments for spreading culture of sciences and keeping abreast of international scientific innovations.

There will be other courses for qualifying educators in nanotech; he said also indicating that future plans envision various cooperation projects and memos; all for sake of discovering talented students. Sabah Al-Ahmad center is affiliated with Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of

Sciences (KFAS). Dr Al-Bannai affirmed the vital approach to sponsor talented and creative citizens and investing their potentials in sustainable development.

Addressing the ceremony, Abdullah Al-Jedaan, in charge of the innovation department at Sabah Al-Ahmad center, said national tasks and concepts in the field would be accredited by a renowned British university. Dr Mohammad Al-Enezi, nanotech advisor, said the technology is the latest that has been reached by humanity in the realm. "This technology achieved sales worth nearly two trillion US dollars in a single year," he said, noting that many studies affirm its key role in boosting global economy. — KUNA

MODERATE TEMPERATURES DURING WEEKEND

KUWAIT TO WITNESS PENUMBRA LUNAR ECLIPSE

KUWAIT: Kuwait will witness a penumbral lunar eclipse at 01:32 am until 6:00 am local-time tomorrow, Kuwaiti astrologist Adel Al-Sa'doun said yesterday. The eclipse will not be as visible as the total lunar eclipse, he said. This eclipse happens at the time of a full moon in the mid of the month of February where the earth, the moon, and the sun are parallel to each other.

Meanwhile, the temperature in Kuwait yesterday was between 21-24 Celsius - with light to moderate southeasterly wind between 15-40 km per hour, according to Kuwait Meteorological Department. Sea level is light to moderate waves with a height of two to six foot, head of Forecast Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said.

Clouds and rain will gradually subside during the night and wind will be south-

easterly to northwesterly, light to moderate between 12-38 klm per hour, he said. The minimum temperature will be 10-12 Celsius with light to moderate sea level between two to five foot, he added. Today will be sunny with light to moderate northwesterly wind between 10-32 klm per hour, and the highest temperature will be at 20-22 Celsius.

Sea level will be light to moderate

between two to four foot. He added that today's night would be cold with northwesterly light to moderate wind between 10-35 km per hour, with a minimum temperature at eight to ten Celsius - and sea level at two to four foot.

Al-Qarawi, meanwhile noted that tomorrow will also be sunny with light to moderate northwesterly wind between 8-30 km per hour. — Agencies

Crime

Report

Swindling and forgery case

KUWAIT: The Finance Prosecution is questioning a lawyer over a swindling and forgery case, following a complaint by a police colonel who lost his KD 2 million. When the police colonel asked the bank what happened, he was told that a real estate company owned by a lawyer withdrew the money from his account. The colonel initially planned to buy a house from the real estate company after which he rejected to the deal. Police investigations revealed that the cheques used to withdraw the money from the colonel's account were forged. The lawyer told the prosecution his father committed the crime. The prosecution found out the agency is a bogus one, and ordered the arrest of the lawyer.

Shooting incident probed

Jahra detectives are investigating a citizen's report that he was shot at by an unknown person while driving along Salmi highway, security sources said. The sources noted that the main's testimony appears contradictory, after claiming to have known the shooter before changing his story. He claimed he chased the suspect, whose license plate fell off, before losing him. After returning to the scene neither the license plate or bullets were found. Despite the discrepancies, the case was filed and further investigations are underway.

Kuwaiti man duped

An Iraqi man is accused of duping a Kuwaiti for a sum of KD 5,000. The citizen told Nugra police that the suspect lured him into investing in a media agency, and has been avoiding him and his calls since then. Police found out that the Iraqi has similar criminal cases against him.

Dancing in public

Police recently arrested a man who was found dancing in public near the Nationality and Travel Documents Department in Dhajeej area. A video clip shows a man dancing in the street and obstructing traffic after parking his car in a strange manner leaving its door open. — Al Rai



KUWAIT: Theater director Dr Ed Simone addresses the participants during a three-day workshop to enhance the acting techniques of some members of Loyac at Al-Qibliya School in Kuwait City. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

LOYAC AND US EMBASSY ORGANIZE A WORKSHOP

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A three-day workshop to enhance the acting techniques of some members of Loyac (an organization of youth development in Kuwait) ended Wednesday at Al-Qibliya School in Kuwait City. The workshop was conducted by famous theater director Dr Ed Simone and sponsored by the US Embassy's Cultural Section. "The acting workshop was held for two days. The last day, I taught them voice character lesson and voice modulation. It is terrific working with these students, I enjoyed working with them. They are great students and I enjoy the

experience," he said. Dr Zennia Paganini, Cultural Attache of the US Embassy in Kuwait lauded Loyac for organizing the event. "You know acting is a real talent.

Here, Dr Simone shared some tips on how to really act in front of the audience/camera. You only have your body to use, no instruments, you have the body language, the mouth to speak and the voice and that's it!" She admitted that it was the first time the embassy has collaborated with Loyac in terms of theater acting. "I hope that in the future we will be able to work more and be of help to the local students. We are trying to engage our embassy in some local activities," she said.

'KIDNAPPED AND SMUGGLED OUT'

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Relations and Security Information Department has launched an investigation over a social media report about a child who was kidnapped and smuggled out of the country with the help of an Interior Ministry employee. An investigation committee has been formed to find out about the child's departure with his expat father via Kuwait International Airport.

Detour along Ghazali

Traffic department in cooperation with Ministry of Public Works will open a detour along the Ghazali Road at the intersection with Jahra Road. Trucks will not be allowed to pass through this road today (10/1/2017) from 6 am until 4 pm due to the ongoing construction there. Motorists have been urged to drive carefully - and follow the signs.



Security campaign

A surprise security campaign led by Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad was carried out in Salmiya area on Wednesday night. 186 violators and wanted persons were arrested. Relations and Security Information Department said the officers searched some suspicious places - looking for illegals and suspects. Two persons were arrested for drug possession; six detained for carrying liquor; 20 wanted persons, 25 absconders and other residency violators were apprehended; 49 traffic citations were issued.

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

In war-torn Yemen, hungry children turn to begging



Trump slams courts as judges mull travel ban



Justice for Nepal's civil war victims slips away



WASHINGTON: Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala, walks out of the Senate chamber after his colleagues confirmed him as the next US Attorney General at the US Capitol in Washington, DC.—AFP

SESSIONS CONFIRMED AS US ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON: The US Senate confirmed Jeff Sessions as Attorney General Wednesday, despite fierce debate about his civil rights record and Democratic concern over whether he serves as the nation's top law enforcement officer independent from President Donald Trump. Lawmakers green lighted the senator as the 84th US attorney general on a mostly party line vote of 52 to 47, with one Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, voting with the Republican majority. When the tally was announced, many senators broke into extended applause for their colleague.

Trump has harangued Democrats for slow-walking his nominees, blasting their unprecedented obstruction as a "disgrace." He appeared particularly angered by the delay on Sessions, who as attorney general would wield enormous power regarding the administration of justice, including on the issue of voting rights. "Congratulations to our new attorney general," Trump tweeted shortly after the vote. Sessions, widely seen as an inspiration for Trump's anti-immigration policies, is just the sixth of 15 cabinet members to be confirmed, in addition to the cabinet-rank positions of CIA director and US ambas-

sador to the United Nations.

He takes charge of the Justice Department and its 113,000 employees amid a swirling legal debate over Trump's most controversial White House action to date, an executive order temporarily blocking all refugee arrivals and immigration from seven mainly Muslim countries. With Trump using Twitter to bully a judge who rolled back the ban, and an appeals court weighing whether to reinstate it, debate over Sessions grew increasingly acrimonious and personal. On Tuesday night, it turned ugly.

Independent voice

Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell sternly rebuked Democrat Elizabeth Warren for reading a letter written by the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr that criticized Sessions's civil rights record. "She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted," McConnell said of Warren's violation of the chamber's rules of decorum. Warren, a potential 2020 presidential candidate, later said: "I will not be silent about a nominee for AG who has made derogatory and racist

comments that have no place in our justice system."

In 1986, Coretta Scott King wrote a letter to the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee urging senators to reject Sessions's nomination as a federal judge. His appointment ultimately failed. "Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black citizens," King wrote. Senator Sherrod Brown expressed concern about Sessions in light of Trump's recent executive order. "We need an attorney general who will be an independent voice beholden to the Constitution and the American people, not the president," Brown said.

August responsibilities

The genteel Sessions, who like the president is 70, was an early loyal Trump supporter who became a pivotal figure in his campaign and his transition team. Sessions grew up in Alabama, in the segregated South. He was a US prosecutor from 1981 to 1993, before serving as the state's attorney general. He won a seat in the US Senate in 1996. His career was almost derailed when the Senate

panel rejected him for a federal judgeship amid concerns over past comments he made about blacks, and voter rights.

At his confirmation hearing last month, Sessions endured pinpoint attacks by Democrats on his civil rights record, but he insisted that "this caricature of me from 1986 was not correct." Shortly after his confirmation he sought to assuage concerns about how he would run the department. "I fully understand the august responsibilities of that office," he said. Sessions also recognized the heated US political debate since Trump's election victory and urged Americans to come together.

"Our nation does have room for Republicans and Democrats," he said. But Senate Democrat Chris Murphy said he was "scared" about changes Sessions could bring. Sessions's "history of opposing civil rights, anti-gun violence measures and immigration reform makes him uniquely ill-fitted to serve" as attorney general, Murphy said. "I want a chief law enforcement official that will be a champion of the disenfranchised and dispossessed, not a defender of discrimination and nativism."—AFP

SAUDI FREES RIGHTS ACTIVIST

DUBAI: A Saudi rights activist who tweeted a depiction of Christ's birth on Christmas Day has been freed on bail after one month in prison, a watchdog said yesterday. A second activist detained around the same time is still in custody, the Gulf Center for Human Rights said. Their cases are part of what monitors describe as intensified repression in the kingdom. Ahmed Al-Mshikhs was released on February 1 from the police prison in Qatif district, which is dominated by Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority, said the centre.

No charges were laid against Mshikhs but, based on what has happened to other activists, "he could

face trial any time in the future", the rights group said. Mshikhs is co-founder of the Al-Adalah Centre for Human Rights in Saudi Arabia. He had been detained since Jan 5. The activist, whose Twitter account shows him against a backdrop of Nelson Mandela, Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Mahatma Gandhi, tweeted on Dec 25 a Nativity scene showing the birth of Christ.

The practice of religions other than Islam is banned in Saudi Arabia, an absolute Islamic monarchy. The Gulf Center welcomed the release of Mshikhs but said another activist, Essam Koshak, should also be freed. Koshak was arrested on Jan 8 in Mecca, where he has

been interrogated about "what he has published on Twitter," it said. Koshak had tweeted Western media reports about Saudi Arabia, and retweeted comments from other activists, including a banned rights association.

Both Koshak and Mshikhs were targeted because of their human rights work and their exercise of the right to freedom of expression, the Gulf Center said. New York-based Human Rights Watch on Monday said the cases of Koshak and Mshikhs are among the "stepped up arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of peaceful dissident writers and human rights advocates in 2017." —AFP

TURKEY DETAINS 4 IS SUSPECTS, SEIZES 24 SUICIDE ATTACK BELTS

ANKARA: Police detained four Islamic State suspects who were allegedly planning to carry out a "sensational" attack in Turkey and seized 24 suicide attack belts, officials said yesterday. The latest detentions came as CIA chief Mike Pompeo arrived in Turkey to discuss the fight against the extremist group in Syria and Iraq, making his first overseas trip since taking office. The suspects were put under custody in an anti-terror operation in Gaziantep, near the border with Syria, according to Gaziantep provincial governor's office.

Police found the suicide belts - made with 150 kilograms of explosives and fortified with metal pieces - as well as two automatic rifles, 14 kilograms of TNT and other materials during the operation, it said. There were no details on the suspects' nationalities, who were allegedly taking orders from high-level IS members in Syria. One suspect was wanted for membership in a terror organization, according to the governor's office. Last year, Turkey suffered a series of deadly attacks carried out by IS or Kurdish militants and has stepped up anti-terrorism operations across the country.

Some 750 people with alleged IS links were detained in a major police sweep in 29 Turkish provinces last week. A Turkish official said Pompeo was to meet with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, as well as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim in Ankara. The talks will include plans for a possible operation to retake the Islamic State group stronghold of Raqqa, said the security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations. —AP



SANAA: A Yemeni child peddler sells clothing in Sanaa's Suq Al-Melh (Salt Market). —AFP

IN WAR-TORN YEMEN, HUNGRY CHILDREN TURN TO BEGGING

YEMEN FACES CATASTROPHE WITH NO FOOD, MONEY

SANAA: After Mustafa's father was killed in Yemen's conflict between the government and Shiite Huthi rebels, the 15-year-old turned to begging to survive. He is just one of scores of Yemeni children who plead for donations at the rebel-held capital's road junctions every day to feed themselves and their siblings. Some have lost one or both parents in the war that escalated in 2015, while others seek to help parents whose public salaries have dried up in the conflict. After Mustafa's father died two years ago in the northern town of Haradh, the teenager moved to the capital with his mother and three brothers.

"I tried to find a job but I couldn't," says Mustafa. "We've been begging in the streets of Sanaa since we stopped finding anything to eat," he says, adding he makes no more than \$5 a day. Nearby, eight-year-old Abeer runs from one car to the next asking for money, her younger brother Abdulrahman in tow. "We don't have anything to eat so we came to find some money or food," she says, as she quickly tucks away a banknote in her handbag. Thin and pale-faced, child beggars gather outside mosques and restaurants waiting for donations.

At street intersections, young boys equipped with rags and plastic bottles filled with soap water strive to make a living by wiping windshields. Others sit beside their mothers selling boxes of tissues. Yemen's conflict has taken a heavy humanitarian toll since it worsened in March 2015 with the military intervention of a Saudi-led coalition in support of the government. More than 7,400 people have been killed in the war since that date, the UN says, including around 1,400 children.

Nothing to eat

Another three million Yemenis have been displaced by the conflict and millions are in need of food aid. In Sanaa, some Yemenis have been unpaid since President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi decided in Sept to move the central bank out of the city and into his government's temporary capital of Aden. The move has left the rebels, who have set up their own administration in Sanaa, unable to pay the salaries of public sector employees. "The number of child beggars has surged, mainly after salaries stopped for government employees in the capital," says Ahmed al-Qurashi, head of Seyaj, a Yemeni organization for

the protection of children.

On the pavements of the capital, scores of children sit waiting for cars to stop at traffic lights. "We have nothing to eat or drink," eight-year-old Raghad tells people as she begs for help. United Nations aid chief Stephen O'Brien last month warned Yemen could face famine this year if no immediate action was taken. In an impoverished country of 27 million people already suffering from widespread food insecurity before the war, hunger has escalated with millions in need of food aid.

Nearly 2.2 million Yemeni children are acutely malnourished, according to UNICEF, the UN children's agency. "Malnutrition hit us suddenly and has risen even since," says Ahmed Yusuf, a pediatrician who works in the capital. "Neither the government, nor non-governmental organizations are able to provide a solution to deal with this catastrophe," he says. "The children have been left to face their fate alone." Desperate to help their malnourished children, some parents have resorted to selling their belongings to treat them, Yusuf says. But in some cases, the doctor says, "the child dies while the father is still holding the prescription". —AFP

FIERCE FIGHTING 20 KM FROM IS BASTION IN SYRIA

BIR FAWAZ, Syria: Fierce fighting took place on Wednesday between jihadist militants and US-backed Syrian rebels just 20 kilometers from the Islamic State's self-proclaimed capital of Raqa, an AFP reporter saw. On Saturday, the rebels—a coalition of Arab and Kurdish fighters known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) — announced a new phase in a bid to capture Raqa, and mounted an attack from north and northeast. An AFP reporter at Bir Fawaz, 20 km north of Raqa, heard machine-gun fire all day Wednesday as SDF attacked IS positions in the neighboring village of Maayzila.

The village also came under repeated attack by at least three anti-IS coalition warplanes, and heavy smoke could be seen billowing from there. "There has been heavy fighting since the morning. Many IS fighters are holed up inside Maayzila," the local SDF commander, Ararat Kojer, said. Twelve villages have fallen to the rebels in the latest phase of the offensive, which was launched on Nov 6. "Progress is slow because IS are putting up a ferocious resistance and placed mines around the approaches to many villages," Rami Abdel Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which is monitoring the conflict, said.

The SDF, which has been lobbying for weapons to help them carry out the offensive, has recently received armored SUVs from the United States. A US-led coalition has been carrying out air strikes on IS in Syria and neighboring Iraq since 2014. The SDF's offensive is being supported by 500 US troops, including demining teams, military trainers and members of the special forces. —AFP

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IRAQI SOLDIERS NEAR FALLUJAH

HABBANIYAH, Iraq: A suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into an army checkpoint near the Iraqi city of Fallujah yesterday, killing two soldiers, officers said. "A suicide bomber blew up his car at an army checkpoint between Fallujah and Amriyat al-Fallujah," an army major said, adding that two soldiers were also wounded in the attack. Fallujah, which Iraqi forces retook from the Islamic State group last year, lies about 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, and Amriyat al-Fallujah is a town further south. A police officer confirmed the casualty toll of the latest attack near Fallujah, where jihadists continue to routinely target the security forces. The civilian population has started returning to Fallujah and its surroundings but the city remains plagued by insecurity and a lack of funds to restore basic services.—AFP

QATAR APPROVES DRAFT LAW FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

DOHA: Qatar has approved a draft law which would provide legal protection for tens of thousands of female domestic workers for the first time, according to state media. The law is expected to specify how many hours staff such as nannies, drivers and gardeners should work per week, how many days holiday they receive annually and how they are paid, reported the Qatar News Agency (QNA). Legislation has been agreed by the cabinet, said QNA in a statement posted on Wednesday. "The law applies to sponsors and domestic helpers, specifies their rights and duties and regulates the relationship between them," it added.

In a 2014 report, Amnesty International claimed there were some 84,000 women migrant domestic workers in Qatar, mostly from south and Southeast Asia. It alleged that many "face severe exploitation, including forced labor and physical and sexual violence". While the World Cup 2022 host-battered by international criticism of its human rights' record has announced several key reforms governing the rights of laborers who help build stadiums and infrastructure for football's biggest tournament, domestic staff has not yet been protected by legislation.

Initial response to the draft law was positive. Campaign group Migrant Rights said on social media that the reform was "very promising news". It also called on Qatar to include domestic staff in the Wage Protection System, a measure introduced in 2015 to ensure the country's vast migrant labour workforce receive their salaries on time. Amnesty's deputy director of global issues, James Lynch, said it would be waiting to see the details of the proposed law. "The Qatari government has been promising a law on domestic workers for years. Good that it's back on the table - the content will be key," he tweeted.—AFP

US SAYS IT KILLED VETERAN QAEDA LEADER IN SYRIA

WASHINGTON: The US military said Wednesday that it had killed eleven Al-Qaeda operatives, including a veteran leader and suicide bombing pioneer, in a bombing raid in Syria. The Pentagon said Abu Hani Al-Masri, the Qaeda veteran, was one of those killed in the precision airstrikes near Idlib carried out on Feb 3 and 4. Al-Masri was an early official in Al-Qaeda, overseeing the group's training camps in Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s as he worked with Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden and current leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri.

There "he recruited, indoctrinated, trained and equipped thousands of terrorists who subsequently spread throughout the region and the world," the Pentagon said in a statement. They said he also helped found Egyptian Islamic Jihad "he first Sunni group to use suicide bombers in their terror attacks." "These strikes disrupt Al-Qaeda's ability to plot and direct external attacks targeting the US and our interests worldwide," said Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis. The US has mostly focused its attacks in Syria on the Islamic State group. But in recent months, US forces have also launched several attacks against its Al-Qaeda rivals. Idlib province is largely occupied by the former Syrian branch of Al-Qaeda, Fateh al-Sham, which has been allied to several Syrian rebel groups fighting the government.—AFP



KENYA: In this file photo, newly arrived Somali refugees wait outside a UNHCR processing center at the Ifo refugee camp outside Dadaab, eastern Kenya, 100 kilometers from the Somali border.—AP

KENYA COURT BLOCKS CLOSING OF WORLD'S BIGGEST REFUGEE CAMP

INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER ABUSES POWER

NAIROBI: Kenyan court ruled yesterday that the government must not close the world's largest refugee camp and send more than 200,000 people back to war-torn Somalia, a decision that eases pressure on Somalis who feared the camp would close by the end of May. Kenya's internal security minister abused his power by ordering the closure of Dadaab camp, Judge John Mativo said, adding that the minister and other officials had "acted in excess and in abuse of their power, in violation of the rule of law and in contravention of their oaths of office." Rights groups Amnesty International, Kituo cha Sheria and the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights had challenged the government's order to close the camp.

The judge called the order discriminatory, saying it goes against the Kenyan constitution as well as international treaties that protect refugees against being returned to a conflict zone. President Uhuru Kenyatta's government has not proved Somalia is safe for the refugees to return, the judge said, also calling the orders to shut down the government's refugee department "null and void." Somalia remains under threat of attacks from homegrown extremist group al-Shabab. Some Kenyan officials have argued that the sprawling refugee camp near the border with Somalia has been used as a recruiting ground for al-Shabab and a base for launching attacks inside Kenya.

But Kenyan officials have not provided conclusive proof of that. President Donald Trump's temporary ban on travel from seven majority Muslim countries, including Somalia, had put added pressure on the Dadaab refugees. Last week-

end, about 140 of the Somali refugees who had been on the brink of resettling in the United States were sent back to Dadaab instead. Said Abuka, a community leader in Nairobi and a refugee for 22 years, said the court ruling would help the Somali refugees. Newborn babies could not be registered as refugees because of the shutdown of Kenya's refugee department, he said.

"After months of anxiety because of the camp closure deadline hanging over their heads, increasingly restricted asylum options and the recent US adminis-

tration suspension of refugee resettlement, the court's judgment offers Somali refugees a hope that they may still have a choice other than returning to insecure and drought-ridden Somalia," said Laetitia Bader, Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch. Al-Shabab has carried out several attacks on Kenya, which sent troops to Somalia in 2011 to fight the militants. The attacks include the September 2013 attack on Westgate mall that killed 67 people and the 2015 attack on Garissa University that killed 148 people, mostly students.—AP

IRAN COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCES OF SIX JUVENILE OFFENDERS

TEHRAN: Iran has commuted death sentences against six juvenile offenders following UN criticism it was executing people who had committed crimes as children at "an unprecedented rate", a report said yesterday. Prosecutors asked the judiciary to reconsider 10 cases, the Shahrivand newspaper quoted Tehran chief prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi as saying. "Six requests were accepted and their death sentences overturned," he said. International conventions outlaw the death penalty for offences committed by minors but Iranian law allows executions of those convicted of such offences once they reach 18.

However, it also allows for

death sentences to be commuted to compensation to victims' families if it is determined that the juvenile offenders did not understand the full gravity of their actions. Shahrivand did not specify what the judiciary decided in the other four cases referred to it. Last week, UN human rights experts appealed to Iran to cancel the looming execution of Hamid Ahmadi who was 17 when he was sentenced to death in 2009 for the fatal stabbing of a young man during a fight. They said that last month they intervened to halt the execution of another juvenile offender, and that they had learnt too late that two others were hanged on Jan 15 and 18.—AFP

FRENCH POLICE SAY NO PROOF MAN WAS RAPED

PARIS: An initial French police investigation has found insufficient evidence to support allegations that a 22-year-old black man was anally raped with a police truncheon, a police source said yesterday. The outcome of the internal police inquiry emerged after violence flared in the northern suburbs of Paris and

elsewhere in France following the incident involving the man identified only as Theo. The youth worker required surgery for severe anal injuries after he was allegedly assaulted with a truncheon and also suffered head trauma in a case that has revived the contentious issue of policing in France's deprived suburbs.

The police's own investigation into last yesterday's incident in the gritty suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois has concluded that the injuries were not inflicted intentionally. A video of the scene shows a policeman "applying a truncheon blow horizontally across the buttocks with a truncheon" and Theo's

trousers "slipped down on their own", a police source said. Investigators said they had taken into account "the questioning of the victim and the (police officers), eyewitness accounts and CCTV recordings" and had concluded that "there are insufficient elements to show that this was a rape".—AFP

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SEVERAL ARRESTED AS DEPORTATION FEAR PROMPTS PHOENIX PROTEST

PHOENIX: Police made several arrests as protesters blocked enforcement vans from leaving a US immigration office in Phoenix late Wednesday, fearing that a mother of two was headed for deportation. The protest surged at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility after Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos was taken into custody during a routine check-in with the agency, according to media reports. The activists said it was an attempt by US President Donald Trump's administration to deport immigrants living in the country illegally who had previously not been a priority for deportation under the Obama administration.

Fearing the 36-year-old woman's return to Mexico, dozens of immigration activists blocked the gates surrounding the office near central Phoenix in what the Arizona Republic said was an effort to stop several vans and a bus from leaving. The protesters said Garcia de Rayos was in one of the vehicles, which were used to transport people in ICE custody to detention centers, or to Arizona's border with Mexico for deportation. A Republic photo identified a woman looking through one of the vehicle windows covered by security screening as Garcia de Rayos.

Police, meanwhile, took positions around the building and confronted some of the demonstrators, many who chanted "Justice!" Police posted on Twitter that they arrested about seven protesters, but added that the demonstration was mainly peaceful. "Besides the few people engaged in criminal acts, most people out here are peaceful and exercising their rights properly," police said. "Everyone remains safe so far. Hoping for continued cooperation and no more criminal conduct." By 1 am yesterday, less than two dozen protesters stood in the dark outside the building talking quietly, with just a handful of police looking on.

The protesters said they initially succeeded in stopping the vehicles from leaving, but said they later left the grounds by another exit. They didn't know if Garcia de Rayos had still been aboard. Her arrest came just days after the Trump administration broadened regulations under which some people will be deported. "We're living in a new era now, an era of war on immigrants," Rayos' lawyer, Ray A. Ybarra Maldonado, told the New York Times after leaving the immigration building. Puente Arizona, an immigrant advocacy group, said Garcia de Rayos came to the US as a 14-year-old and now has two children. She was arrested on Wednesday while reporting to ICE, an annual requirement.

Her status with the agency wasn't immediately clear late Wednesday. The Republic carried a statement from ICE officials, which said only that she was detained because of her prior conviction. Phoenix station KTAR reported that she was arrested in 2008 during a workplace raid and was later convicted of identity theft for possessing false papers. Despite her conviction, she was allowed to live in Arizona



PHOENIX: Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos is locked in a van that is stopped by protesters outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Phoenix.—AP



WASHINGTON: In this photo, President Donald Trump speaks to the Major County Sheriffs' Association and Major Cities Chiefs Association, in Washington.—AP

TRUMP SLAMS COURTS AS JUDGES MULL TRAVEL BAN

TRUMP SAYS COURTS SEEM TO BE SO POLITICAL

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump renewed his attack on the courts Wednesday, describing them as "so political" as a panel of judges weigh his executive order barring refugees and visitors from seven mainly Muslim countries. The contentious ban has been frozen by the courts and has embroiled Trump in an arm wrestle with the judicial branch, less than three weeks into his presidency. Speaking to police chiefs and sheriffs, Trump condemned as "disgraceful" a hearing Tuesday in which three federal appeals judges heard arguments appeared skeptical about the government's case to reinstate the ban. "Courts seem to be so political," he said.

Trump's comments have sparked a firestorm in a country where such personal and vitriolic attacks by a president on another, independent branch of government are rare. The uproar extended to Trump's own Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. He described Trump's attack on the Seattle judge who froze the ban as "disheartening" and "demoralizing," according to spokesman Ron Bonjean. Trump's ban was suspended nationwide on Friday, after two US states sought to have it overturned on grounds of religious discrimination and because it had caused "irreparable injury."

New attorney general

The agency tasked with defending the ban in court amid the legal standoff got its new chief, after the US Senate overrode fierce opposition to confirm Jeff Sessions as attorney general. His nomination process saw fierce debate

about his civil rights record and Democratic concern over whether he serves as the top US law enforcement officer independent from US President Donald Trump. In the hearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, a Justice Department lawyer argued that the president had clear authority to order the ban on national security grounds.

"This is a traditional national security judgment that is assigned to the political branches and the president," August Flentje said. Critics of the ban claim it violates the US Constitution by discriminating against people on the basis of their religion. "Has the government pointed to any evidence connecting these countries with terrorism?" asked Judge Michelle Friedland, who was appointed by Barack Obama. Flentje said the government had not had an opportunity to present such evidence, given the speed at which the case had moved.

The court must decide whether to maintain the lower court's suspension, modify it or lift it. The ruling by the judges—two were appointed by Democratic presidents and a third by a Republican—is expected before the end of the week. The case is likely to eventually wind up on appeal in the US Supreme Court, which currently is short-handed and evenly divided between liberal and conservative justices. A tie there would leave in place the appeals court decision. Should Trump's nominee to fill the vacant seat be confirmed by the Senate, he could break the tie.

Horrible, dangerous and wrong

Trump vented his frustration in

tweets, referring to the ban's suspension as "the horrible, dangerous and wrong decision." He went further in a rambling speech to the law enforcement chiefs, which at points drew polite applause. "It's really incredible to me that we have a court case that's going on so long," he said. Trump then read out the text of a law interspersed with his commentary that confers on the president authority to suspend entry to any alien or class of alien deemed detrimental to the interests of the United States.

His decree summarily denied entry to all refugees for 120 days, and travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days. Refugees from Syria were blocked indefinitely. Top administration officials have argued it is needed to keep out Islamic State and Al-Qaeda fighters migrating from Middle East hotspots, insisting time is needed to implement stricter vetting procedures. Travel analysis firm Forward Keys says travel bookings to the United States fell 6.5 percent the week after the ban, compared to last year, with a sharp drop in numbers from the targeted countries.

The sudden rollout of the restrictions, and their blanket nature, sparked protests and international condemnation. Polls now show eroding public support for the move in the United States, amid jubilant scenes at airports of returning immigrants. Shifting the blame to his security advisers, Trump said he had proposed giving a one-month notice, but his law enforcement experts told him "people will pour in before the toughness." —AFP

TOP US DIPLOMAT MEETS COUNTERPARTS FROM MEXICO, CANADA

WASHINGTON: Washington's new top diplomat, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, met his Canadian and Mexican opposite numbers on Wednesday amid concerns over US President Donald Trump's trade policy. Canada, Mexico and the United States are members of the NAFTA free trade bloc, which Trump has branded a "catastrophe" for American jobs and has threatened to renegotiate. The new US leader has also insisted that Mexico will in some way pay for the anti-immigration wall he plans to

build on America's southern frontier—perhaps through an import tariff.

The continental neighbors were so close that in recent years summits between them were dubbed the "Tres Amigos"—and maintaining strong ties will be a key task for Tillerson. But Mexico, in particular, has been offended by talk of paying for the wall, and Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland made it clear that Ottawa does not favor tariffs either.

"Canada would respond appropriately,"

she warned, at a news conference after her meeting in the State Department. "We do not know what the position of the United States will be when it comes to the notion of tariffs." Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray has previously echoed the view of his president, Enrique Pena Nieto, that Mexico will never pay for the wall, and described this as "non-negotiable."

His visit was not announced on the US secretary's public schedule and the pair did not allow reporters into their meeting, but

he spoke briefly to Spanish-speaking reporters as he left. "It was a good first meeting," he said. "We agreed that we will have frequent meetings and that the next meeting will be in Mexico. So Secretary Tillerson will be traveling in the coming weeks to Mexico," he added. The State Department said it has no travel plans to announce and US officials were not able to give their own account of how the meetings with the Canadian and Mexican officials had gone. — AFP

9/11 MASTERMIND TELLS OBAMA ATTACKS WERE AMERICA'S FAULT

WASHINGTON: The self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept 11 attacks wrote to former US president Barack Obama to tell him 9/11 was a direct result of American foreign policy and the deaths of innocent people it has caused. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's 18-page letter was addressed to "the head of the snake, Barack Obama," leader of "the country of oppression and tyranny." Defense attorney David Nevin provided a copy of the letter, which has not yet been posted on the US military's website for Guantanamo proceedings. He said that Mohammed began writing it in 2014.

The letter is dated Jan 8, 2015, but reached the White House only two years later in the last days of Obama's presidency, according to news reports, after a military judge ordered the Guantanamo prison camp where Mohammed is held to deliver it. "It was not we who started the war against you in 9/11; it was you and your dictators in our land," he wrote. He says God was on the side of the hijackers on that fateful day when airplanes were guided into the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

"Allah aided us in conducting 9/11, destroying the capitalist economy, catching you with your pants down, and exposing all the hypocrisy of your long-held claim to democracy and freedom," Mohammed wrote. Listing many grievances over America's "brutal and savage massacres" from Vietnam to the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mohammed focused his rage on the plight of Palestinians and US support for Israel and the "occupier Jews." "Your hands are still wet with the blood of our brothers and sisters and children who were killed in Gaza," he wrote in the opening paragraph.

The truth about death

Along with the letter, Mohammed sent a 51-page manuscript entitled "Shall I Die when the Crusaders Carry out the Death Sentence? The Truth about Death." It is illustrated with an image of a noose. Mohammed, who faces a potential death sentence for allegedly masterminding the plane hijackings that killed almost 3,000 people, says he is not afraid of dying. "I speak about death happily!" he wrote. Mohammed was waterboarded 183 times in March 2003 and held at a secret CIA prison site overseas.

In the letter, he explained that "if your court sentences me to life in prison, I will be very happy to be alone in my cell to worship Allah the rest of my life and repent to Him all my sins and misdeeds." "And if your court sentences me to death, I will be even happier to meet Allah and the prophets and see my best friends whom you killed unjustly all around the world and to see Sheikh Osama Bin Laden," he added, referring to the late Al-Qaeda leader killed in a US raid in 2011 in Pakistan. —AFP

S AFRICAN TROOPS DEPLOYED FOR STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

MILITARY DEPLOYED TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

CAPE TOWN: South African President Jacob Zuma prepared to deliver his annual state of the nation address yesterday after deploying more than 440 soldiers to prevent a repeat of violent clashes outside parliament. Zuma, 74, has faced growing criticism since his last address over a series of damaging corruption scandals, worsening unemployment levels and slowing economic growth. In Dec, he beat back an attempt by at least four ministers to oust him from power, following local elections that delivered the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party's worst-ever results.

The president said the military deployment was to maintain "law and order" outside parliament in Cape Town, but the move was condemned by the main opposition Democratic Alliance party. "The DA will not stand by and allow for the 'people's parliament' to be turned into a security-state show of force, meant to intimidate opposition both inside and outside of the ANC," it said in a statement. Parliamentary Speaker Baleka Mbete defended the ring of steel. "The arrangements that we see are firstly normal for any country that takes itself seriously," she told the eNCA news channel.

"The security forces must do their job. We are a state—not a banana republic. We ought to show the authority of the state when the need arises." Hours before the speech, police delivered huge coils of barbed wire to the area around parliament, as singing ANC supporters were bused in from around the country for a street rally. The state of the nation address has become a flashpoint in recent years. In 2016, lawmakers from the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) — dressed in their uniform of red workers' overalls and hard hats—noisily interrupted Zuma's speech before eventually being ordered out of the chamber. Outside on the streets of Cape Town, police fired stun grenades to disperse angry protesters. The 2015 address also degenerated into chaos. The EFF, led by firebrand Julius Malema, has not said whether it will try to shout Zuma down this year. "They can even bring the whole army," EFF spokesman Mbuyiseni Ndlozi told the Daily Maverick website. "They can't stop the EFF. We will hold the executive accountable."

Zuma heads to exit

Zuma is set to step down as leader of the ANC in December, before the general election in 2019 that will mark the end of his two-term reign as national president. South Africa, the continent's most industrialized economy, expanded by about 0.4 percent last year. Inflation hit 6.8 percent in



JOHANNESBURG: This file photo in Johannesburg shows South African President Jacob Zuma looking on as he visits an area affected by the recent floods. — AFP

December and unemployment has risen to a 13-year high of 27 percent.

"The party is unsure of itself, they appear overly paranoid," Daniel Silke, an independent political analyst, said. "Deploying the military shows the increasing frustration within ANC after the last two years of disruptions."

Zuma, a traditionalist leader who came to power in 2009, is widely seen as being at loggerheads with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, a reformist respected among international investors. South Africa's highest court last year found the president guilty of violating the constitution after he refused to repay taxpayers' money used to refurbish his private rural house. He is also fighting a court order that could reinstate almost 800 corruption

charges against him over a multi-billion dollar arms deal in the 1990s.

A separate probe by the country's top watchdog uncovered evidence of possible criminal activity in his relationship with the Guptas, a business family accused of wielding undue political influence. Increasing numbers of anti-apartheid veterans, ANC activists, trade unions, civil groups and business leaders have called for Zuma to resign. "You must know that as a nation we no longer have confidence in your leadership," Siphosile Mlambo-Ngcobo, leader of the Save SA action group, said on the eve of Zuma's speech, which is scheduled to start at 1700 GMT. However Zuma retains strong loyalty among many rank-and-file ANC party members and its lawmakers. — AFP

IS LINKS TO PHILIPPINE MILITANTS VERY STRONG

MANILA: The Philippines is certain of "very strong" links between Islamic State and home-grown militants and is concerned about regional repercussions from tension between China and the new US administration, Manila's defense minister said yesterday. Intelligence from various sources had shown Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines had been communicating with Islamic State, and funds were being transferred via mechanisms commonly used by Filipino workers in the Middle East, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told Reuters.

"Before, what we suspected was the ISIS

group would come here but now we are certain that the connections are very strong between home-grown terrorists here and ISIS in the Middle East," he said in an interview, referring to Islamic State. "Also there's quite an amount of money being sent here from the Middle East." He said communications via social media, telephone and text messages had been intercepted and funds were being transferred that were difficult to detect due to the large numbers of Filipinos who regularly remit income from places like Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states. — Reuters

BANGLADESH ORDERS WORK TO BEGIN AT PROPOSED ROHINGYA ISLAND

DHAKA: Bangladesh has ordered construction to start at a desolate island where it wants to relocate tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees, an official said yesterday, despite warnings the site is uninhabitable. The move comes as Human Rights Watch described as "ridiculous" claims by Bangladesh that shifting the Rohingya to a barren island prone to monsoonal flooding would improve their living conditions. Bangladesh is seeking international support for its plan to relocate the Rohingya to Thengar Char in the Bay of Bengal, an idea that caused outcry when first mooted in 2015.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina deployed an aide to the remote island Wednesday, who ordered construction begin on a jetty, helipad and visitor facilities, the government official overseeing administration of Thengar Char said. "He asked that those structures were built promptly, so visitors could have easier access to the island," said Rezaul Karim, the official who accompanied the prime minister's aide to Thengar Char, said. "He asked that construction be completed within the next 15 days."

Karim could not provide a timeline for when the proposed relocation would begin. The government estimates 400,000 Rohingya refugees are living in Bangladesh, including nearly 70,000 who have arrived since October fleeing violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state. Most of those who fled to Bangladesh live in squalid conditions in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar district, which borders Rakhine state and is home to the country's biggest tourist resort. Last month, Bangladesh established a committee comprised of state officials in coastal districts to oversee the plan, and ordered authorities to help identify and relocate undocumented Myanmar nationals to the island.

Dhaka has urged the international community to back the proposal, describing it as "temporary" and claiming the Rohingya would have better access to humanitarian assistance. The proposal has been slammed by rights groups, who have urged Bangladesh to drop its plan to populate the undeveloped 6,000-acre (2,430-hectare) island with refugees. "The Bangladesh government is making the ridiculous claim that relocating Rohingya refugees to an island with absolutely no facilities that is deluged at high tide and submerged during the monsoon season will improve their living conditions," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, in a statement late Wednesday. "This proposal is both cruel and unworkable and should be abandoned."—AFP



DHAKA: In this photograph, the Thengar Char island, a proposed place for relocating Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar camps is seen.—AFP



KATHMANDU: In this photograph, Nepalese war victim Pabitra Sunakhari gestures as she speaks during an interview in Birendranagar, Surkhet District, 520 kms west of Kathmandu.—AFP

JUSTICE FOR NEPAL'S CIVIL WAR VICTIMS SLIPS AWAY

THOUSANDS KILLED DURING DECADE LONG CIVIL-WAR

BIRENDRANAGAR, Nepal: Shanti Dhakal's husband disappeared without a trace nearly two decades ago at the height of Nepal's brutal Maoist insurgency, presumed murdered by police for having links to the rebels. Dhakal was among 60,000 victims who registered a complaint with two commissions set up in 2015 with a two-year mandate to investigate the murders, rapes and forced disappearances perpetrated by both sides. Yesterday that mandate will expire before a single case has been investigated, leaving her no closer to learning the fate of her husband.

"They didn't give us his clothes or the watch and rings he wore. If they had given us even his shoes, I could have said, 'My husband is dead'," Dhakal said at the school in the midwestern town of Birendranagar, where she teaches. "There was no proof; I haven't even performed the last rites." More than 17,000 people were killed, 1,300 disappeared and thousands displaced during the decade-long civil war between Maoists and government forces that ended in 2006.

The commissions have been hamstrung by a lack of funds and government inertia, activists say, suggesting that authorities have been reluctant to pursue perpetrators as many still fill Nepal's military and political ranks. Surya Gurung, who heads one of the commissions, said repeated assurances from the government that adequate support would be provided had not translated into concrete action. "We are not satisfied with the way the government has worked with us these past two years," Gurung said. "They are a bit scared of this commission. They don't know what this commission can do, will they be implicated."

Broken promises

Calls to give the commissions teeth by granting them legal powers to prosecute war crimes have fallen on deaf ears, activists say. The United Nations has refused to support the commissions until the government ensures they are brought in line with international law. Legislation criminalizing torture has not been adopted, and the government has dithered in

revoking a provision granting amnesty to alleged perpetrators, despite the Supreme Court shooting it down.

Rights groups have been scathing, warning that failure to bolster the commissions' legal clout will "squander the hope that wartime victims have placed in this process", Amnesty International's Biraj Patnaik said in a statement. The peace deal struck between Maoist and government forces to end the war paved the way for two commissions—one investigating the broader crimes committed during the insurgency and a second to scrutinize the disappearances.

They were meant to help heal the deep divides left by the brutal war, but the impoverished Himalayan country has since shuffled through nine governments as political infighting has overshadowed reconciliation. Despite the political roadblocks, however, Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said the commissions had "succeeded in accumulating a body of evidence of wartime atrocities that can lead to justice, accountability and reparations for survivors". —AFP

ABDUCTED PAKISTANI BLOGGER BREAKS SILENCE

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani activist abducted last month has broken his silence on his weeks-long disappearance, but is refusing to point fingers in a country where criticizing extremism or the security establishment can make you a target. Ahmad Waqass Goraya was among five activists who vanished in Pakistan in Jan. Human Rights Watch, opposition lawmakers and Pakistani activists have said their near simultaneous abductions pointed to government involvement in a country with a history of enforced disappearances. Goraya was freed at the end of January along with at least three others and

swiftly fled back to the Netherlands, where he has lived for the last decade.

"I felt I would never come back, I would never see my son and family," the 34-year-old IT worker said during a phone interview in which he frequently became agitated. Goraya, who like the other activists criticised religious extremism and the military establishment, refused to say anything about his captors or describe what happened during his ordeal, which began after he was abducted on January 4 shortly after leaving his family home in Lahore. But he angrily rejected accusations that

he was a traitor for daring to be vocal about alleged abuses of power in Pakistan, insisting he was a true patriot.

"Nothing was against Pakistan, nothing was against Islam, I was critical of policies because I want to see a better Pakistan," he said, adding in a later message: "We want a Pakistan with rule of law". Goraya also said he fears that a virulent ultra right-wing campaign to paint him as a blasphemer while he was missing has followed him to Europe. The charge, which engulfed Pakistani social media and was repeated by mainstream television hosts, is an incendiary one that can

carry the death penalty in the conservative Muslim country. Even unproven allegations have caused mob lynching and violence. At least 65 people including lawyers, judges and activists have been murdered by vigilantes over blasphemy allegations since 1990, according to the Center for Research and Security Studies. Goraya said allegations of blasphemy had surfaced on social media sites frequented by the Pakistani community in the Netherlands, prompting him to seek police advice. "I'm looking over my shoulder—I have been warned by people it is a crazy world."—AFP

EXILED MALDIVES LEADER TO STAND FOR ELECTION

COLOMBO: The exiled former leader of the Maldives announced yesterday he would return to run for election as president of the troubled Indian Ocean nation, despite facing jail after a controversial conviction on terror-related charges. Mohamed Nasheed became the Maldives' first democratically elected president in 2008, but was narrowly defeated in 2013 elections by President Abdullah Yameen. Nasheed was later jailed on terrorism charges he says were politically motivated. He has lived in exile for the past year after Maldives authorities gave him leave to travel to London for medical treatment.

But yesterday he announced he would contest the 2018 presidential elections, following talks this week in Colombo with his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). "We have decided that the MDP will produce a candidate, I am hopeful to be that candidate," the 49-year-old told reporters in Colombo after talks with party leaders living in exile in the Sri Lankan capital. Nasheed is almost certain to be arrested on return to the Indian Ocean archipelago, whose reputation as an up market honeymoon destination has been battered by years of political unrest.

He would be able to contest party primaries from outside the country, but would need to return to Male for the election. The Maldives constitution bars Nasheed from being a candidate because of a 2015 criminal conviction. But the former leader expects the restriction to be lifted in response to international pressure. A UN panel has ruled that Nasheed's imprisonment was illegal and ordered the regime to pay him compensation. The Maldives government has accused Nasheed-whose legal team includes high-profile human rights lawyer Amal Clooney-of only securing asylum to avoid serving jail time.

Crackdown

Nasheed said he was still a Maldivian national despite having his passport revoked last year by Yameen's regime and being issued a British travel document. "I am not a British citizen. I am a refugee," Nasheed said. A crackdown on political dissent in the nation of 340,000 has dented its popular image as an idyllic island paradise in recent years. Almost all key opposition leaders and a number of ruling party dissidents have either been jailed or fled into exile since Yameen took office in a controversial run-off election against Nasheed.

At the country's first multi-party elections in 2008, Nasheed beat long-time president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who had ruled the island for three straight decades. Gayoom is the half brother of the current incumbent, and widely regarded as the power behind the ruling Yameen regime. Nasheed had sought an alliance with his old foe Gayoom in August to challenge the regime, but was unsuccessful. "We didn't have the necessary political alignment for such a force to ensure change," Nasheed said. "The MDP is never very comfortable with transfers of power through any other means. We would always step back when we think the transfer of power is going to happen through means other than the ballot."—AFP



COLOMBO: Maldives' former president Mohamed Nasheed leaves after addressing a press conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. — AP



YANGON: Malaysian volunteers accompanying a ship carrying aid for Rohingya Muslims, arrive in Yangon's Thilawa port yesterday while Myanmar port personnel look on. — AFP

ANTI-ROHINGYA PROTESTS GREET MALAYSIA AID SHIP IN YANGON

MYANMAR DENIES CITIZENSHIP TO ROHINGYA

YANGON: A Malaysian ship carrying aid for thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled a bloody army crackdown arrived in Yangon yesterday, where it was met by nationalist protesters. Health workers and activists crowded onto the deck of the Nautical Aliya as it docked at Thilawa port near Myanmar's commercial capital carrying food, medical aid and clothing. Myanmar's social welfare minister was among a delegation meeting the ship, which has been at the centre of a rare diplomatic spat with fellow ASEAN member Malaysia.

Outside the docking area, dozens of Buddhist monks and demonstrators waited waving national flags and signs reading: "No Rohingya." "We want to let them know that we have no Rohingya here," a Buddhist monk named Thuseitta, from the Yangon chapter of the Patriotic Myanmar Monks Union, said at the docks. Myanmar denies citizenship to the million-strong Rohingya, despite many of them living on its soil for generations.

Buddhist nationalist groups are especially strong in their vitriol, rejecting them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Hundreds of Rohingya are thought to have been killed in a brutal campaign launched by security forces in October, which the United Nations says may amount to ethnic cleansing. Tens of thousands have fled to neighboring Bangladesh, bringing harrowing tales of murder and rape. Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingya has sparked criticism from Muslim-majority Malaysia, in a rare spat between Southeast Asian neighbors. Myanmar initially refused to allow the ship into its waters and has barred it from sailing to Rakhine's state capital Sittwe.

Policy of terror

Part of the aid will instead be unloaded in Yangon and transported

overland to the north of Rakhine state, site of the military crackdown. The rest will be taken to Teknaf port in southern Bangladesh, where almost 70,000 Rohingya have fled since October to escape the violence. The government has also demanded that the aid be distributed to both Rohingya and Buddhist ethnic Rakhines. The delivery comes days after a blistering report from the UN accused Myanmar's security forces of carrying out a campaign of rape, torture and mass killings against the Rohingya.

Based on interviews with hundreds of escapees in Bangladesh, investigators said the military's "calculated policy of terror" very likely amounted to ethnic cleansing. For months Myanmar has dis-

missed similar testimony gathered by foreign media and rights groups as "fake news" and curtailed access to the region. The UN's top official on preventing genocide, Adama Dieng, said this week that a government commission tasked with investigating allegations of abuse was "not a credible option".

Critics have rejected the state-appointed body, which is led by retired general and Vice President Myint Swe and includes no Muslims, as toothless and biased. In a meeting on Wednesday Myint Swe admitted that "among the facts and accusations included in the (UN) report, there may be something special to be investigated," state media reported. —AFP

BLACKLISTED S KOREA ARTISTS SUE PRESIDENT, OFFICIALS

SEOUL: Hundreds of South Korean artists filed a lawsuit against impeached President Park Geun-Hye and two officials yesterday over a state "blacklist" of creative who had criticized the authorities. Park's former chief of staff and the ex-culture minister were charged this week for compiling and enforcing the list of nearly 10,000 artists in music, literature, film, dance, fine arts and theatre. The list of "left-wing" artists was aimed at starving them of government subsidies or private funding, according to prosecutors probing a wider scandal around Park.

In the legal action, 461 artists sought one million won (\$872) each for breach of their basic rights in privacy and freedom of expression and belief, said lawyers representing them.

"The artists were forced to censor themselves to avoid being labeled as

'leftists' and treated unfairly in state support, or becoming targets of state surveillance," the Lawyers for a Democratic Society said in a statement. "We would like to show that it is wrong for authorities to try to conquer and tame culture and the arts by abusing its power through the blacklist," it said.

The defendants include Park, the two indicted officials, and several state bodies in charge of distributing government subsidies to artists. Many artists on the list had satirized or criticized in their works Park or her late dictator father, Park Chung-Hee, who ruled with an iron fist from 1961 to 1979. —AFP

CHINA POLICE RESCUE 32 VIETNAMESE BRIDES

BEIJING: Chinese police have rescued 32 Vietnamese women who were sold as brides to Chinese farmers, authorities said yesterday, in an operation aimed at curbing the practice in the impoverished countryside. Authorities arrested 75 suspects who were allegedly part of a ring that lured women to southwest China's Yunnan province with promises of tourism and work, Yunnan Public Security Department said in a statement posted on its official social media account.

The victims were kept in large numbers in "captive families" in Yunnan—close to the Vietnamese border—in remote, mountainous areas before being sold to people in six provinces in central and east China, state broadcaster CCTV said. When one victim tried to escape, "two men caught me and beat me with a steel pipe," she told reporters. "They threatened me when I refused to be their bride." Bride trafficking is a serious problem in China, where women are sold to men, mostly

in rural areas, who cannot find wives at home because of the country's huge gender imbalance. The problem is particularly serious in impoverished areas, where farmers see "buying" a bride from abroad as cheaper than paying a dowry for a Chinese bride. For decades, the country's strict one-child policy led many traditional Chinese families—who prefer sons to daughters—to have sex-selective abortions, skewing the country's gender ratio. Police began investigating the case in September

2015 after discovering a woman, who did not speak Chinese, had been sold as a bride from Vietnam for 80,000 yuan (\$11,600), the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The 32 rescued women are being transferred back to Vietnam, CCTV said. Chinese police "rescued and repatriated" 1,281 abducted foreign women in 2012 alone, most of them from Southeast Asia, the state-run China Daily reported. Human traffickers could face the death penalty in China.—AFP



JAKARTA: In this handout photograph released by the Indonesian Military (TNI), Indonesian Military Chief Gatot Nurmantyo and Chief of Australian Army Angus Campbell pose for a photo at the military headquarters in Jakarta.—AFP

INDONESIA ACCEPTS AUSTRALIAN APOLOGY OVER MILITARY ROW

JAKARTA: Indonesia said it had accepted an Australian apology after teaching materials deemed offensive to Jakarta led to a partial suspension of ties, as the neighbors sought to end their latest row. The dispute erupted last month when the Indonesian armed forces announced it was putting military cooperation with Australia on hold after the materials were found at an Australian army base where Indonesian forces were training. After initially announcing a full freeze, Indonesia later insisted the suspension was only partial and applied to joint language training.

The materials, which were spotted by a visiting Indonesian officer, contained comments deemed offensive on subjects including the Papua region's independence movement and Indonesia's state ideology known as Pancasila. It was just the latest row between the neighbors, whose relationship has been beset in recent years by disputes over Jakarta's execution of Australian drug smugglers and Canberra's hardline policy of turning migrant boats back to Indonesia. In a bid to resolve the row, Australian Army Chief Angus Campbell visited Jakarta on Wednesday to meet with Indonesia's military chief Gatot Nurmantyo.

Campbell offered an apology, said that Australia was suspending the Indonesian language education program to make improvements, and insisted all personnel involved in the incident had been punished, according to a statement from the Indonesian military. "Nurmantyo accepted the apology and noted that in an era of global competition, unity and friendship are a necessity," said the statement released late Wednesday after the talks. The partial military suspension will stay in place for now. Nurmantyo will report to Indonesian President Joko Widodo on whether he believes full ties should be restored, the statement added. Earlier Wednesday, Indonesian Security Minister Wiranto played down the row, insisting their relations were "very strong" and noting Widodo planned to visit Australia later this month.—AFP

JAPAN'S ABE HEADS FOR TRUMP SUMMIT

JAPAN-US STRENGTHEN TIES WITH JOBS PACKAGE

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe headed to Washington yesterday with a massive investment package for Donald Trump, possibly designed to inoculate his country against presidential criticism. Abe will dangle proposals linked to the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the US, ranging from high-speed rail projects to private cash from Japanese companies. Their White House summit today will be followed by a game of golf at Trump's palatial vacation estate in Florida, as the two men look to forge a personal relationship commensurate with their countries' national ties.

"I want to hold a summit that can send a message saying the Japan-US alliance will strengthen further with President Trump," Abe told reporters at the airport before departure. "We will develop the two countries' economies even more based on free and fair rules," Abe added, stressing he wants to "confirm that" with Trump at the meeting. Boosting employment in the United States has been a key pillar of Trump's economic nationalism and his pledge to "Make America Great Again", a promise that often comes at the expense of other countries.

Japan has not been spared Trump's trademark assaults in which he has claimed the US has been the patsy of predatory foreign economies, which he says are "killing us". Trump has singled out Toyota over a plan for a Mexican factory, said US automakers face discrimination in Japan and accused Tokyo of devaluing the yen for trade advantage. Abe, deeply aware of Japan's dependence on the US for both national security and as a key trade partner, rushed to meet Trump in New York shortly after his November election.

On that occasion he presented the property tycoon with a \$4,500 golf club, but for this week's formal get-together the stakes are higher and the gift much bigger. Reports in the Japanese press suggest the "Japan-US Growth and Employment Initiative" could help to create 700,000 jobs through Japanese investment in US



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, speaks to reporters before leaving for the United States at Haneda international airport in Tokyo yesterday.—AP

infrastructure and aims to create new markets worth \$450 billion over the next decade.

Unpredictable

It was not clear exactly what those new markets would be. Newspapers have also said Japan's massive Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) — the world's largest with \$1.2 trillion in assets—is expected to participate, putting up cash for US infrastructure and other projects. The organization, which is legally independent from the Japanese government, has denied the reports. Electronics maker Sharp reportedly said Wednesday ahead of Abe's visit that it is considering building a new plant to produce LCD panels in the US. Abe has so far been coy on the details of what he is taking with him, but is forthright about wanting to support Trump's economic plans.

"I want to talk to (Trump) substantially about how Japan can cooperate on infrastructure programs the president is aiming for," he said in parliament. It remains unclear, though, how detailed a package Abe can offer given Trump himself has yet to make much headway on his own infrastructure and pro-growth plans. And while Abe is taking along his foreign and finance ministers, no business executives are going, officials said.

Takashi Kawakami, professor of international politics at Takushoku University in Tokyo, said Abe is going to have to walk a fine line in trying to please the US president while standing up for his own industries. "Trump is unpredictable and may make tough requests in exchange for favorable treatment, like in a business deal," he said. "Abe has to insist on what he has to insist on, including trade and foreign exchange issues."—AFP

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Friday Times

Lifestyle



A hot air balloon in the likeness of Star Wars film character Yoda takes flight during the annual International Hot Air Balloon Festival at the former Clark US Air Force base in Pampanga province, north of Manila yesterday. Some 29 balloon enthusiasts from around the globe are participating in the event which runs February 9 to 12. — AF

Berlin film fest opens with jazz biopic and Trump 'resistance'



Travis Tritt, from left, Randy Travis, Mary Travis and Ricky Traywick say goodnight at the '1 Night. 1 Place. 1 Time.: A Heroes and Friends Tribute to Randy Travis' at Bridgestone Arena.

MUSIC COMMUNITY HONORS RANDY TRAVIS IN SONG

A near fatal stroke couldn't take away the signature baritone of country star Randy Travis, and dozens of his friends, from Garth Brooks to Kenny Rogers, used their voices and his songs to honor the legend. Travis watched from the side of the stage Wednesday in Nashville, Tennessee, as country stars from multiple eras sang his classics, from "Forever and Ever, Amen" to "Three Wooden Crosses." Performers included Wynonna, Alabama, Chris Young, Travis Tritt and Jeff Foxworthy. By the end, he had joined in the celebration by singing "Amazing Grace" and leading others in singing "May the Circle Be Unbroken."

Travis, whose multiplatinum debut album "Storms of Life" in 1986 made him a star, suffered a stroke in 2013 that initially took away his ability to speak or read. But he's been steadily recovering his voice through rehabilitation, said

his wife Mary Travis. "We sing a lot in the car," said Mary Travis, backstage beside her husband. "We sing a lot at home. Music is his soul. Music is just what he is made of." She said that it's clear that her husband still remembers how to sing and play the guitar, but the stroke caused a condition called aphasia that makes it difficult for him to communicate. "He knows all the words and he can chord every single song with his left hand," Mary Travis said.

Travis, who wore a yellow jacket embroidered with flowers, was all smiles as he watched the performers, who each ended their performances with a hug or a handshake for the singer. The concert was held to raise proceeds for a new foundation set up in his name to help stroke victims. Travis suffered from a viral infection of the heart and was in a coma when the stroke occurred. He spent over five months in the hospital and underwent two brain surgeries, but battled back through years of rehabilitation. During his recovery, many of his fellow singers including the Oak Ridge Boys, Alabama, Josh Turner and Jamey Johnson, would come for visits to sing for him and pray for him, said Mary Travis. Tanya Tucker said every time she visited Travis, she saw how far he had come in his progress.

"Someone told me that I am the only one that really made him laugh, so I would go in there and tell him every dirty joke I could think of," said Tucker, who performed "I Told You So." Many artists talked about how Travis opened the door for a neo-traditionalist wave in country music in the late '80s with his unmistakable voice. "The bottom end of his voice is so wonderful," said Rogers, who sang his classic "The Gambler," for Travis. "Most people sing well in the middle of their range, but he got down in the bottom of his range and would just hold it. I never heard anything like that." "There isn't anybody in country music today that doesn't owe their career to Randy Travis," said Brooks from the stage. "I am one of those guys, man." At the end of a rousing version of "Forever and Ever, Amen," Brooks ran over to Travis to hold the microphone so Travis could sing a soft, but still deep "Amen." — AP



Country singer Randy Travis rides in a wheelchair as he leaves a meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday.— AP photos

With 'love and joy,' Gyllenhaal opens Broadway theater

Broadway welcomed a new theatre Wednesday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Jake Gyllenhaal. The "Brokeback Mountain" and "Nightcrawler" star was on hand with a pair of oversized golden scissors to reopen the Hudson Theatre with "Sunday in the Park with George," the venue's first theatrical production in nearly 50 years. "I can't stress enough how important it is to have joy in this world and that's what this space is and that's what this show is all about," Gyllenhaal said. "It's all about love and joy so I hope people will come and experience that with us." Gyllenhaal helped cut a green ribbon with co-star Annaleigh Ashford, and his name will adorn a plaque commemorating the event. The ornate, refurbished theater wasn't quite ready for its close-up, with garbage cans still in plastic in the lobby and signs still needing to be hung.

Opened in 1903 - a week before the New Amsterdam Theatre - the Hudson becomes both Broadway's oldest theater and its newest. It's the first new Broadway theater in almost 20 years and becomes the 41st such venue. The Hudson sits just off Times Square - east of Broadway on 44th Street. The theater opened in 1903 with a production of "Cousin Kate" starring Ethel Barrymore. It was built by producer Henry B. Harris, who died aboard the Titanic. It was lost to foreclosure in 1933 and sold at auction for \$100,000. The Hudson changed hands many times and was a studio for CBS Radio. It was the home for the first nationwide broadcast of "The Tonight Show" starring Steve Allen and was home for a time to "The Price Is Right."

It later became a house for burlesque and then a movie house in 1968. As a theater, it hosted Andy Warhol's "My Hustler" in 1968, Lillian Hellman's "Toys in the Attic" with Maureen Stapleton and Jason Robards Jr. It ceased being a home for legitimate theater in 1968. Gyllenhaal and Ashford will share the stage that once was used by performers such as Laurence Olivier, Louis Armstrong, Jane Fonda and Barbra Streisand, who made her



Jake Gyllenhaal participates in Broadway's "Sunday in the Park with George" media day and Hudson Theatre grand re-opening ceremony on Wednesday in New York. — AP

first televised performance from the Hudson. "We are outrageously honored to be reopening this special space with this special piece of art," said Ashford. "We feel the ghosts of those that were before us, living and breathing and inspiring us." The revival of "Sunday in the Park with George" starts previews Saturday. The Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine musical imagines what the 19th-century French painter Georges Seurat went through to create his pointillist masterpiece, "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte." — AP



File photo shows Beyonce performing at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Cleveland. — AP

Beyonce faces \$20 million copyright suit from YouTube star's estate

The estate of a late New Orleans YouTube star has filed a \$20 million copyright infringement lawsuit against Beyonce over the use of his voice in her song "Formation." The estate of Anthony Barre, who went by the name Messy Mya on YouTube, claims in the lawsuit filed in New Orleans federal court Monday that Barre's voice is featured in the introduction to "Formation."

The complaint alleges Barre's estate has received no payment or acknowledgment. Barre was fatally shot in 2010. Barre's estate is demanding at least \$20 million in damages, royalties in addition to Beyonce, the suit names several songwriters, the video's director and companies owned by Warner Music Group. Representatives for Beyonce and WMG didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. — AP



(From left to right) Jury members German actress Julia Jentsch, US actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, Chinese director Wang Quan'an, President of the jury, Dutch director Paul Verhoeven, Mexican director Diego Luna, Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson and Tunisian producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati pose for photographers after a press conference of the Berlinale jury at the start of the Berlinale film festival in Berlin yesterday. — AP/AFP photos



(From left to right) Chinese director Wang Quan'an, Mexican director Diego Luna, US actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, German actress Julia Jentsch, President of the jury, Dutch director Paul Verhoeven, Tunisian producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati and Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson pose for photographers during the photocall.

Berlin film fest opens with jazz biopic and Trump 'resistance'

A politically-charged Berlin film festival opened yesterday with a biopic about Nazi persecution of Gypsy-jazz great Django Reinhardt and a vow by Hollywood's Maggie Gyllenhaal that Americans were "ready to resist" Donald Trump.

A total of 18 movies are vying for the festival's coveted Golden Bear, which will be awarded on February 18 by a jury led by director Paul Verhoeven ("RoboCop", "Elle"). "I hope we will see a lot of movies that are different, hopefully controversial," the Dutch filmmaker said at the opening press conference, adding that he was ready for "heated arguments" with the jury.

Living up to the Berlinale's reputation as the most politically minded of the big festivals, his fellow jury members wasted no time in taking aim at the US president who has drawn fierce criticism from the art world, particularly over his disputed travel ban. "I want people to know there are many, many people in my country that are ready to resist," 39-year-old Gyllenhaal told reporters. Mexican director and actor Diego Luna, at the same press conference, used humor to criticize Trump's plan to build a wall on the border with Mexico. "I'm here to investigate how to tear down walls," the star of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" quipped, in a nod to Berlin's decades-long history as a divided city.

Virtuoso guitarist

The festival's kick-off film "Django" marks the directorial debut of Etienne Comar, a screenwriter and producer behind hits such as "Of Gods and Men" and "My King" and co-producer of the award-winning film about radical Islam "Timbuktu". A virtuoso guitarist and composer who shot to global renown with his delicate melodies, Reinhardt was a member of the Sinti minority and was forced to flee German-occupied Paris in 1943.

Festival director Dieter Kosslick called the movie a "poignant tale of survival". "It is also a wonderful story about a man who created his own world ... in which the greatness of his music allowed us to forget the circumstances under which it was born," he said. The film stars Reda Kateb, who appeared with Viggo Mortensen in the Algeria-set war drama "Far From Men". Comar told AFP that Reinhardt's tragic aspect comes from being a "character blinded by his music, who doesn't see the world changing, in which the war sneaks up on him and only then does he finally see what is happening." The 11-day Berlinale, Europe's first major cinema showcase of the year, will screen nearly 400 movies from 70 countries.

Off-screen with Trump

In keeping with its long post-war tradition, the event will mix art-house cinema from European veterans including Poland's Agnieszka Holland ("Europa Europa"), Britain's Sally Potter, Germany's Volker Schlöndorff, previous Golden Bear winner Calin Peter Netzer of Romania and Aki Kaurismäki of Finland with new features from Brazil, South Korea, China and Senegal.

The latest Wolverine installment of the X-Men superhero franchise "Logan" starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Richard E. Grant will have its world premiere. Hollywood actor Stanley Tucci ("The Devil Wears Prada") will unveil his new biopic about Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti, "Final Portrait" starring Australian Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush. Potter ("Orlando"), one of four female directors in competition, pulled together a cast including Patricia Clarkson, Bruno Ganz, Kristin Scott Thomas and Timothy Spall for the comedy "The Party" set at an MP's London soiree. Richard Gere stars with Steve Coogan, Laura Linney, Rebecca Hall and Chloe Sevigny in the thriller

"The Dinner", an adaptation of the Dutch novel by Herman Koch about two families with an awful secret.

As a festival that is traditionally heavy on the politics, stars are expected to use its stage to sound off on global affairs, with Trump likely to be a frequent topic of debate. Organisers said the Berlinale, which is sponsored by the German government, would send a message of "cultural diversity to fight populist over-simplification". "There is nothing that those who owe their power to playing on vague fears

and base instincts are more intimidated by than the powers of art: to move people, break taboos and silence, and awaken a desire for a better world," Culture Minister Monika Grütters said. Last year the Golden Bear went to Italian refugee documentary "Fire at Sea" from a jury led by Meryl Streep. It is nominated for an Academy Award this month. — AFP

Main line-up at Berlin film festival

The 67th Berlinale, Europe's first major film festival of the year, opened yesterday with 24 international productions screening in the main showcase. Eighteen pictures are vying for the Golden Bear top prize at the event which runs from February 9 to 19, with a jury led by Hollywood director Paul Verhoeven ("Basic Instinct", "Elle") selecting the best film.

Twenty-two of the 24 features in the main showcase are world premieres and two are directors' feature debuts. The Berlinale Special sidebar section features other notable films that are given gala screenings.

Here is the complete list including the official English title, director, well-known stars and countries where the films were produced:

Main showcase

"Ana, mon amour", Calin Peter Netzer, winner of the 2013 Golden Bear, Romania/Germany/France
 "Bamui haebyun-eoseo honja" (On the Beach at Night Alone), Hong Sang-soo, South Korea
 "Beuys", Andres Veiel, Germany (documentary on controversial 20th century German artist Joseph Beuys)
 "Colo", Teresa Villaverde, Portugal/France
 "The Dinner", Oren Moverman starring Richard Gere, Steve Coogan, Laura Linney and Rebecca Hall, US
 "Django", Etienne Comar, France (debut feature, opening film, biopic on the life of Gypsy jazz great Django Reinhardt)
 "El bar" (The Bar), Alex de la Iglesia, Spain (out of competition)
 "Felicite", Alain Gomis, France/Senegal/Belgium/Germany/Lebanon
 "Final Portrait", Stanley Tucci starring Armie Hammer, Geoffrey Rush and Clemence Poesy Britain/France (out of competition, biopic on Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti)
 "Hao ji le" (Have a Nice Day), Liu Jian, China (animated feature)
 "Helle Naechte (Bright Nights)", Thomas Arslan, Germany/Norway
 "Joaquim", Marcelo Gomes, Brazil/Portugal
 "Logan", James Mangold starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Richard E. Grant, US (out of competition, latest Wolverine installment of the X-Men superhero series)
 "Mr Long", Sabu, Japan/China/Taiwan/Germany
 "The Party", Sally Potter starring Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, Bruno Ganz and Kristin Scott Thomas, Britain
 "Pokot" (Spoor), Agnieszka Holland, Poland/Germany/Czech

Republic/Sweden/Slovakia

"Return to Montauk", Volker Schlöndorff starring Stellan Skarsgard, France/Germany/Ireland
 "Sage femme" (Midwife), Martin Provost starring Catherine Deneuve, France/Belgium (out of competition)
 "T2 Trainspotting", Danny Boyle starring Ewan McGregor and Robert Carlyle, Britain (out of competition)
 "Testrol es lelekrol" (On Body and Soul), Ildiko Enyedi, Hungary
 "Toivon tuolla puolen" (The Other Side of Hope), Aki Kaurismäki, Finland/Germany
 "Una mujer fantástica" (A Fantastic Woman), Sebastian Lelio, Chile/US/Germany/Spain
 "Viceroy's House", Gurinder Chadha starring Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson and Manish Dayal, India/Britain (out of competition)
 "Wilde Maus" (Wild Mouse), Josef Hader, Austria (debut feature)
 Berlinale Special highlights
 "The bomb", Kevin Ford, Smriti Keshari, Eric Schlosser, US (multimedia installation)
 "Es war einmal in Deutschland..." (Bye Bye Germany), Sam Garbarski, Germany/Luxembourg/Belgium
 "In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts" (In Times of Fading Light), Matti Geschonck, Germany
 "La libertad del diablo" (Devil's Freedom), Everardo Gonzalez, Mexico (documentary)
 "La Reina de Espana" (The Queen of Spain), Fernando Trueba starring Penelope Cruz and Mandy Patinkin, Spain
 "Le jeune Karl Marx" (The Young Karl Marx), Raoul Peck, France/Germany/Belgium
 "The Lost City of Z", James Gray starring Charlie Hunnam, Robert Pattinson and Sienna Miller, US
 "Masaryk" (A Prominent Patient), Julius Sevcik, Czech Republic/Slovakia
 "Maudie", Aisling Walsh starring Sally Hawkins and Ethan Hawke, Canada/Ireland (biopic on Canadian artist Maud Lewis)
 "The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov", Askold Kurov, Estonia/Poland/Czech Republic (documentary)
 "Ultimos dias en La Habana" (Last Days in Havana), Fernando Perez, Cuba/Spain. — AFP



Katarina Golovkova shows a tattoo she had done over the scars from a domestic violence attack she sustained five years earlier in Ufa, Russia.— AP photos



Tattoo artist Yevgeniya Zakhar hugs a woman she gave a tattoo to conceal a scar from a domestic violence attack.

RUSSIAN TATTOO ARTIST TURNS ABUSE SCARS INTO BUTTERFLIES

'They will be talking about their beautiful tattoo, not a scar'

Flowers and butterflies are what a Russian tattoo artist gives to victims of domestic violence to help hide the physical scars from abusive relationships they want to put in the past.

Yevgeniya Zakhar posted an ad on her social media page last year offering to ink abused women for free after she heard about a Brazil tattoo artist already offering the service. Soon, she was flooded with requests - and got so stressed hearing her clients' stories of beatings and burnings that she had to limit the number of women she sees to one day a week. "I didn't expect to be inundated with visits," said Zakhar, 33, who works in Ufa, a city about 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) east of Moscow. "I had to work on two to four clients a day. It's really scary, scary to look at this problem and hear what people are saying."



Tattoo artist Yevgeniya Zakhar works on a tattoo for a victim of domestic violence.

Earlier this week, President Vladimir Putin signed into law a controversial bill decriminalizing some forms of domestic violence in Russia. The measure makes battery on a family member punishable by a fine or a 15-day arrest, if there is no bodily harm. Domestic violence is a long-standing problem in Russia. Police estimate that about 40 percent of all

violent crimes take place within families. In a survey last month by the state-run Russian Public Opinion Research Center, 19 percent of respondents said "it can be acceptable" to hit one's wife, husband or child "in certain circumstances." Supporters of the new law insisted it does not encourage or sanction violence, but instead gives families a chance to reconcile after what the bill's co-author, Olga Batalina, described as an "emotional conflict, without malice, without grave consequences."

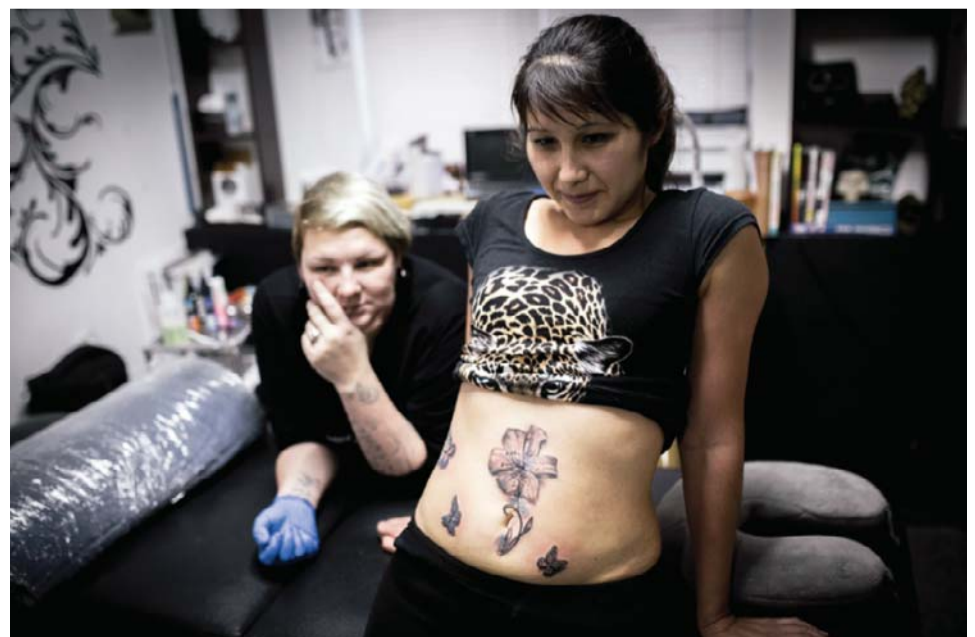
Zakhar's clients usually pick butterflies or floral designs to cover the visible signs of abuse. The clients confide in the artist, sharing the horrors of relationships that went from bad to violent to vicious. Turning the scars into something of their own choosing boosts the women's self-esteem and helps them gain new perspectives on the trauma, Zakhar said. "Girls are willing to talk, often because it will be the last time they speak about the scars," she said. "They don't talk about it later because they will be talking about their beautiful tattoo, not a scar."

Katarina Golovkova underwent eight hours of surgery to save her arm after her boyfriend threw her against a window five years ago. She thought about getting a tattoo to cover the scars, but didn't have the courage to visit a tattoo artist before she spotted Zakhar's ad. "People saw it and asked, 'What is this scar about?'" Golovkova, 29, recalled. "It was a constant reminder. You see this arm every day, it's there. At least now I can freely open it up, and people say, 'How cool!'" Golovkova, who was stalked by her boyfriend for weeks after she finally left him, hadn't heard about Russia's new domestic violence law, but she does not like the idea. "It's wrong. It all starts with one slap," she said. "You forgive them once, and it gets worse. You can't forgive such things. They will happen again."

Zakhar said she has tattooed more than 1,000 women at no cost since she started reaching out to abuse victims last year. She says not one reported receiving help from police. "The girls say, 'What's the point? Why go to the police if they are not helping?'" — AP



Tattoo artist Yevgeniya Zakhar works with a client, a victim of domestic violence.



Lyaysan, right, and tattoo artist Yevgeniya Zakhar look in the mirror at the tattoo Lyaysan had done to conceal a scar from a domestic violence attack.



Model Gigi Hadid and fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger speak onstage during the TommyLand Tommy Hilfiger Spring 2017 Fashion Show in Venice, California. — AP/AFP photos



Bella Hadid (center) and other models walk the runway at the TommyLand Tommy Hilfiger Spring 2017 Fashion Show on the boardwalk in Venice, California.

TOMMY HILFIGER models sport white bandanas for unity

Tommy Hilfiger's decision to unveil his spring collection in Los Angeles instead of New York wasn't the only difference about his show this year. Among the Americana-inspired designs on the boardwalk at Venice Beach on Wednesday, all the models wore one item in common: white bandanas around their wrists, which they highlighted raising their arms together during their final turns. A symbol of unity in a divisive new era of US politics, it was part of an initiative by the Business Of Fashion website, which is calling on the global fashion community to "join the #TiedTogether movement and make a clear statement in support of solidarity, human unity and inclusiveness". "Wear a white bandana as a sign to the world that you believe in the common bonds of humankind—regardless of race, sexuality, gender or religion," the website's publisher Imran Amed wrote Wednesday.

Hilfiger designed the TommyXGigi collection in collaboration with supermodel Gigi Hadid, who opened the show in front of a crowd of more than 3,000 fashionistas. The collection included tee-shirts in striking colors and geometric prints, and skirts and pants that were very short or long and tight. "We were inspired by California—the youthful attitude, the laidback lifestyle, and the spirit of festivals where music and style collide with our own pop culture heritage," Hilfiger said in a statement. "Our take is a greatest hits of Americana with lots of denim, nods to western culture and patches to make things personal." — AFP





US fashion world asks: Where are all the black designers?

As New York Fashion Week opens, a glaring near-absence stands out: why are there so few black models and designers at the pinnacle of the industry? For that matter, is there such a thing as black fashion, and should black designers feel the weight and responsibility of their history and heritage? A symposium held by the Fashion Institute of Technology this week and a major exhibit open until May have launched the debate on a more public scale. The events seek to celebrate dozens of black designers who, the FIT says, are often under-recognized and under-represented.

African American designers account for just one percent of those covered by VogueRunway.com, the main website for following fashion weeks around the world, said Ariele Elia, co-curator of the Black Fashion Designers exhibit at FIT. "Discrimination still occurs in the fashion industry, both with designers and models," Elia told an auditorium filled with academics, students and designers.

'A sad thing'

But many say they are tired of being seen as "black designers" and want to be considered designers-period. Some say they do not even think about race when it comes to thinking up beautiful, innovative clothing for men and women. "It's a sad thing" that there are not more black designers at New York Fashion Week, which opens Thursday, but it is even more surprising that there are so many men and so few women, designer Carly Cushnie, of the Cushnie et Ochs fashion line, told AFP.

"I am not sure what the real reason is for it," said Cushnie,

who hails from London and is of Jamaican heritage. Her partner, Michelle Ochs, grew up in America and has Filipina and German roots. "I think there's been more talk about it in recent years than there ever has been. So I am hopeful that that will change," said Cushnie, 32, who will show her latest collection during NYFW. Cushnie shot to fame when then first lady Michelle Obama wore one of her designs—a forest-green crepe dress—for a Christmas event in 2011.

France's Olivier Rousteing, whose contribution to the exhibit is a gown drawing on the hand-woven raffia used in Cuban chairs, is one of the most famous black designers anywhere in the world today. But he is more the exception than the rule, said Elia. When he was named creative director at Balmain at age 26, Rousteing said, the fashion world was stunned not by his age but rather by the color of his skin. The FIT exhibit looks back at dozens of black designers, such as Obama favorite Tracy Reese, Stephen Burrows and Willi Smith. It highlights in particular Ann Lowe, who is considered America's first black designer at the haute couture level. It was she who designed the dress Jackie Kennedy wore at her wedding in 1953.

Lowe managed to study fashion in New York but she was in the only black student at her school and her classmates refused to sit next to her. She had to charge less for her designs than her white peers did. Lowe died poor and forgotten at the age of 82. But the first first lady to choose a black designer was actually Mary Lincoln, around 1860. Elizabeth Keckly, a slave, was her designer and confidante.

Diverse styles

And just as some black designers opt not even to think about race, others delve into the roots of the American South or African tribes. Some, such as Kerby Jean-Raymond, a New York born designer for the Pyer Moss line, are activists. He has created clothing inspired by Ota Benga, a Congolese man displayed in a cage in the Bronx Zoo in the late 1800s, the Black Lives Matter movement, and blacks killed recently in police shootings. The US designer Patrick Kelly, who died of AIDS at age 35 after being wildly successful in Paris in the 1980s, drew heavily on his southern roots and dealt with race and racism with a touch of humor that raised eyebrows.

For instance, he would give his aristocratic clients brooches in the form of shiny black babies to wear on their lapel. And his logo was a golliwog—a black rag doll that became a symbol of racial stereotyping. "I think there's more of us than the one percent," said Alphonso McClendon, author of the book "Fashion and Jazz" and assistant professor of fashion design at Drexel University in Philadelphia. "I was designing for somebody else for 12 years. We don't get the credit because we design under someone else's name. We have to look at the totality, not only the African American designers that have their own house with their name," he added. McClendon expressed hope that racial diversity in the fashion world will increase via online sales, especially for smaller designers who will not need to rely on contacts and big-name fashion magazine editors in order to succeed. — AFP

The 19th Annual amfAR New York Gala



Paris Hilton attends the 19th Annual amfAR New York Gala. — AP/AFP photos



Adriana Lima



Donatella Versace and Naomi Campbell



Scarlett Johansson



Actress Diane Kruger



Heidi Klum



Model Emily DiDonato



Designer Kenneth Cole, Model Iman and designer Zac Posen



Model Iman



Actress Victoria Justice



Model Amber Valletta



Singer Madison Beer



Model Alessandra Ambrosio



Friday Times MOVIES

The dawn or bust of an action icon: The good, bad and the bloody of John Wick

By Aakash Bakaya

There's a strange buzz in the air amongst action movie fans. This week sees the release of 'John Wick: Chapter 2' in Kuwait and fans are excited but nervous. This is not the newest 'Star Wars' or 'Batman' flick - no matter how good or bad a franchise film does, a new one is round the corner, be it in two or 10 years' time. But for 'John Wick', Keanu Reeves' surprise hit of 2014 - a lot rests on its much awaited sequel. The film and its eponymous character have rejuvenated fans of

the all-out action genre, both old and new, and many are hoping to see the sequel's success bring forth a cinema staple that has long been dormant - the urban action film series.

In the late '70s and throughout the '80s we had 'Death Wish', 'Die Hard', 'Rambo' and countless Hong Kong action films, and this carried on till the early '90s. After the success of Tim Burton's 'Batman', studios started going for fantastical with their action movies. By the mid-'90s, the gritty cop dramas, top-notch buddy comedies and great sci-fi films like 'Terminator' and 'Robocop'

were on their deathbeds and could never recreate the funding or talent of the genre's heydays. The last hurrah came with 'The Matrix', which was a perfect blend of high-octane action and smart sci-fi. Ironically that starred Keanu Reeves too, and now once again he sees himself on the forefront of great action cinema.

2014's 'John Wick' is pure, unadulterated action-movie goodness. It's far from standing in the halls of any of its classic predecessors, but at least it makes an earnest attempt at it - more than its modern peers. For those who haven't seen the film, it revolves around John Wick, an ex-mob hitman who comes out of retirement to take revenge on his old boss' son who happened to murder his dog out of spite. The son clearly didn't know who he was messing with as John Wick aka 'the bogeyman' just happens to be the most feared assassin of the underworld and nothing has ever stood in his way.

The action is stylish and brutal in its clinical detail of John Wick's many killings and Keanu absolutely nails the subdued, professional and charming attitude of his character. It's an enjoyable mix of Bronson and Eastwood, but Reeves movie-star looks gives birth to a nostalgic but wholly original action star.

As the film set up its plot, I thought that to really propel itself above the glut of today's action movies, it needed one standout sequence. And at the very center of it, lies that scene. Taking place in a nightclub called 'The Red Circle', it is an absolutely stellar execution of action cinema. The action starts quietly and steadily ramps up to a breathtaking ride that goes from the club's VIP bathhouse all the way through the dance floor and beyond. Everything from the music to the dark, subtle lighting to Reeve's realistic performance is nailed to perfection. Simply put, it's a great scene and will go down in action movie folklore. Unfortunately, it not the climax and the rest of the movie can't compete. The action afterwards is good in parts, not so great in others and everything begins feeling a bit stale in comparison.

So apart from one noteworthy action scene, does anything else from 'John Wick' really stand out? The answer to that is twofold. Yes, the revenge story is as generic as they come and yes the characters are either props or the most basic plot devices. The action overall is executed well and isn't very CGI heavy but very little of the action has any weight or consequence behind it. And even though Keanu's skills with a gun look authentic, it barely feels more threatening than a toy (which always makes me wonder how Michael Mann achieved what he did with his gunfights in 'Heat').

But! But even with all its flaws (and there are many)





'John Wick' still manages to rejuvenate action cinema more than 'Taken' or the 'Transporter' series ever did. Firstly, Reeves is a great protagonist. I've said this earlier but this point requires repetition - Reeves carries this film on his back. His stoic resolve and quiet demeanor is so ideal for this sort of role, you'd wonder why he rejected so many similar ones after 'The Matrix Trilogy'.

But there's more to 'Wick' than just Reeve's almost super-powered hitman. There's the Continental Hotel which acts as an upfront for underground criminal organizations and as a sort of neutral meeting ground. Each of the characters assorted with the hotel is intriguing,

strange but sadly criminally underused. The criminal underground world itself remains a shadowy, background figure of the film and hopefully the sequel adds to the intrigue. The film keeps its strong cards close to its chest and how much you appreciate that fact might vary.

For me, I love the one-off characters and numerous setups. I love that fact that there's a 'setup' in the first place! So many of today's action flicks are made to be consumed once and forgotten. So when a film like 'John Wick' comes along and puts in the effort to build a world and not spoon-feed explanations to the audience like we're toddlers is a breath of fresh air.

So 'John Wick: Chapter 2' has a lot riding on it. If it succeeds both critically and commercially like its predecessor did, it will show major studios that the audience doesn't mind having original, smart, bombastic action movies in their cinema schedules. The film and the character himself have tremendous potential to be more than just good - for the first time in a long time we have an action movie character on the verge of being iconic.



Friday Times

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Five
Fia



A grand fountain in
upmarket
Frederiksberg

A guide to
Copenhagen's
neighborhoods



Colorful Nyhavn,
Copenhagen's most
famous scene

The image most often associated with Copenhagen is that of the colorful buildings and tall ships lining the sparkling waters of Nyhavn. This beautiful and beloved spot in the aptly named Indre By (inner city) is undoubtedly the most familiar area for visitors to the city. But look a bit further and you'll discover Copenhagen's other eclectic neighborhoods, each with a personality all of its own.

Indre By: the tourist hub

The popular inner city is the heart of Copenhagen, and its most visited neighborhood. Nyhavn is just one of many major sights in this part of the city, which is also home to the family-friendly Tivoli Gardens amusement park, Stroget, the lively pedestrianised shopping street, and the fabled Little Mermaid statue, which sits right on the edge of the city centre.

This historic area is a fantastic place to explore many of the city's cobblestone streets, charming squares, and excellent museums.

At the royal residence of Amalienborg Slot, visitors can watch the Changing of the Guard and try to get a glimpse of the Queen, while Christiansborg Palace offers a look into the workings of Denmark's monarchy and government.

Indre By is also a foodie paradise, home to many of the city's top restaurants, including Michelin-starred AOC and Kokkeriet, the more modest yet fabulous Host and Uformel, as well as the wonderful market Torvehallerne, packed with vendors selling fresh produce. Though it's not the easiest place to go off the beaten path, the abundance of sights, flavors, and experiences in bustling Indre By, combined with its lively atmosphere, makes it a must-see for any visitor.

Vesterbro: The happening hotspot

Once the most destitute area of the city, Vesterbro is still Copenhagen's red-light district, though it's not quite as seedy as similar areas in Amsterdam or Berlin. The neighborhood's vintage shops and summertime street markets give it a local and independent vibe, while the street art here is perhaps the best in the city.



Locals enjoy a street food festival on the banks of the Copenhagen Lakes at Norrebro



Vesterbro is a fantastic spot to browse local street markets

Vesterbro is a neighborhood in transition, with an emerging reputation for good food and family living. Amid the sex shops and erotic dance clubs sit fashionable cafes like Mad & Kaffe, craft breweries including the acclaimed Mikkeller, and family-friendly parks such as the unique Skyebanehave. Kodbyen - The Meatpacking District - is chock full of fantastic restaurants featuring everything from innovative seafood at Kodbyens Fiskebar to down-home barbecue and beers at WarPigs (warpigs.dk).

Norrebro: the melting pot

Vibrant Norrebro sits just across Queen Louise's bridge from Indre By, but has a completely different feel.

Arguably the most diverse area of Copenhagen, the streets of Norrebro are a mishmash of international grocery and clothing shops, lined up alongside secondhand stores and independent coffee shops.

Restaurants here run the gamut from Michelin-starred Rele and Kiin Kiin (kiin.dk), to the noodles and pub food of craft beer meccas Ramen to Biiru (ramentobiiru.dk) and Norrebro Bryghus. International flavors are well represented too, with restaurants such as Ma'ed Ethiopian, and the legendary Kebabistan on Norrebrogade.

Jaegersborggade, once a haunt of bikers and drug dealers, is now home to quirky shops selling everything from liquid nitrogen ice cream to cacti, while Ravnsborggade tempts with antique and vintage shops. Assistens Kirkegaard cemetery is not only the resting place of famous Danes like Hans Christian Andersen and Soren Kirkegaard, but also acts as a leafy green space perfect for quiet strolls. The sense of diversity and community is perhaps strongest at Superkilen, a unique

and colorful park space furnished with sculptural pieces from around the world, representing an international spirit.

Osterbro: the suburb in the city

The least touristic of Copenhagen's major neighborhoods, upmarket Osterbro is a great place to get a glimpse of local life. Mainly residential, Osterbro offers an escape from the visiting crowds while still providing plenty of opportunities for dining, shopping, and enjoying the outdoors. The main street, Osterbrogade, is packed with exclusive boutiques such as Normann Copenhagen, in addition to coffee shops and cafes, including a branch of the fabulous porridge cafe Grod.

The expansive Faelledparken is a green oasis in the shadow of Parken Stadium (parken.dk), the unlikely home of Denmark's

only three-Michelin-starred restaurant, Geranium. Take in the area with a stroll along the easternmost of Copenhagen's chain of lakes, or admire the colorful homes on Brumleby and Olufsvvej.

Christianshavn: The intriguing island

Boats line the picturesque, Amsterdam-inspired canal of this artificial island in the city centre, lending a maritime feel. Locals sit along the water's edge in the summer months, enjoying a picnic or a cold drink, while brave souls can climb the 400 steps up the golden spiral spire of the Church of Our Saviour for sweeping views of Copenhagen. The very modern Copenhagen Opera House is also found here, directly across the harbor from Amalienborg Palace. In contrast is the Free Town of Christiania, a 34-hectare patch

of land home to a commune-style alternative society formed in 1971.

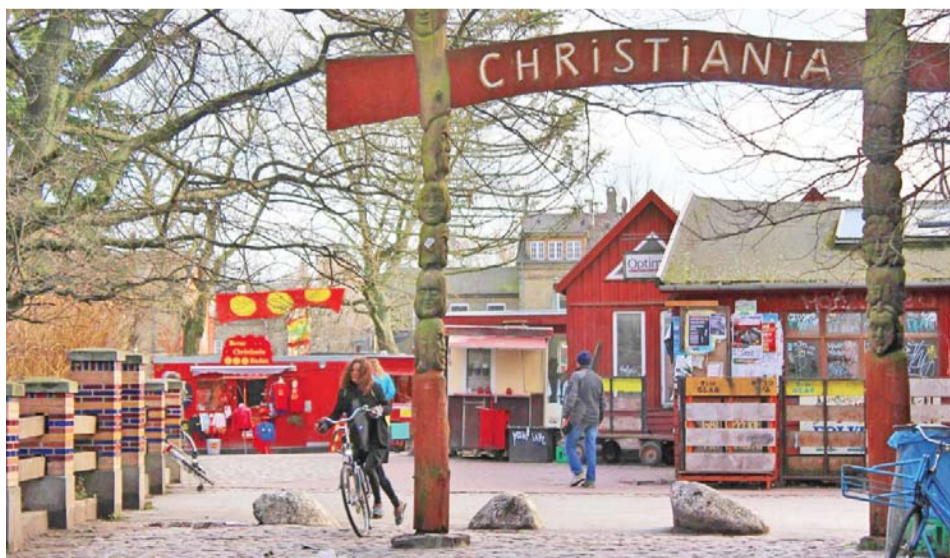
While Christiania's residents have dismantled its notorious Pusher Street hash market, its hand-built homes, artists' workshops and natural beauty remain, and make for a fascinating look at an unconventional way of life. The food scene in Christianshavn is as diverse as its residents: it boasts three Michelin-starred restaurants, including the famed Noma, considered one of the best in the world, while Papiroen (The Paper Island) is the home of Copenhagen Street Food, a warehouse turned foodie haven, offering up international foods from 35 stalls.

Frederiksberg: the posh neighbor

Though surrounded by Copenhagen, Frederiksberg is technically its own municipality; leafy Frederiksberg Alle leads the way from Vesterbro to this smart area. It's a favorite with families and is filled with beautiful apartment buildings and green spaces.

Stylish shops and cafes abound, including Bertels Salon (bertelskager.dk) which boasts the best cheesecake in the city. Frederiksberg is also home to acclaimed restaurants such as the Michelin-starred French restaurant Formel B (formelb.dk), and Mielcke & Hurtigkarl. The latter serves a unique menu of Asian-inspired New Nordic dishes, using local, seasonal ingredients, including herbs and honey from their own garden. But the centerpiece of the area is Frederiksberg Have, an expansive park which encompasses an 18th century palace, a Chinese pavilion, a heron colony, and an elephant-viewing area overlooking the neighboring Copenhagen Zoo. Across from the zoo lies Sondermarken, a green space with the historic Cisternerne below, which are now used for art exhibitions.

— (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Glimpse a unique way of life with visit to the Free Town of Christiania



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Push too hard and you could invite fatigue. There is a possibility for advancement in the work arena-but it may take some stressful conversations to get what you want. Get your facts straight so that you can speak on an intellectual level with facts to back you. Listen to the rumors at work but make no comments. Your instincts are sharp and you are capable of making a positive difference in the workplace. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. To build better working relationships, attend a few business socials or create an opportunity to be with co-workers away from the office. Everything works together to reveal you at your greatest elegance in social situations this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are the ideal contender to take charge of a project today. Your charming ways will pay off in many different avenues of your life. Today you will be able to use that charm of yours to obtain help, if help is needed. Efforts that include research or confirmation before the completion and presentation of a project give you a leading edge. Increased effectiveness in your career may also be the result of the inflow of creative ideas. Consider becoming involved in some team sports in order to support your interest in good health. This is a great way to enjoy interacting with a variety of people. Wait one more day before purchasing anything expensive. Some serious conversations between yourself and a loved one will bring about a new understanding.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have your thumb in several different investments at once. Good news will come to you about these investments soon; for now you must allow progress to happen. You will be pleased at the results of your planning. Dive into the happenings around the workplace today. Your compassion is usually very strong and you could be very helpful to a business associate at this time. You crave organization and practicality and are in demand wherever you turn. Health goals take on greater importance for you and you encourage others to become interested in healthy alternatives to heavy-duty drugs. A trip to a local spa can be enjoyed with a friend after the workday is over. You come out a winner in whatever you decide to do this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have been successful in your budgeting and you will soon have some real insight into new investments or at least stable ways in which you can increase your income. Ending old debts is a determination that has been successful. You will be helpful to friends and family that want to follow your example with regard to solving the debt problem. At work today, you may have to ask lots of questions before you will be able to understand a new technique. Lighten up-everyone else has a lot of questions as well! Taking care of business is important to you and you will be successful with whatever business is at hand; you are determined to rise above any delays or puzzlements. A healing is happening in your life and you will take notice.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Energies are in your favor for requesting a loan, working out a new budget or investing successfully. If you have set the pace or drawn the plans, then it is now time to walk away and let the next steps evolve. Taking care of business is a major theme at the present time. You will be able to organize your facts, issues and reports for the next meeting or project before the end of the day. You could be most persuasive with others; you know just what to say to gain clarity. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas. Promises made now will not be kept, so keep your tongue in check and likewise examine any offers with caution. Your evening is full of opportunities for romance, if that is what you want.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Communication skills and the way you respond to authority figures at work may have higher-ups referring problems to you more often. You can weed through the unessential and get to the real problem more often than most. You have good practical job-related thoughts and ideas. Taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. Health and work goals take on a greater importance. You may be sought after for your advice and counsel regarding business as well as personal issues. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened. This evening would be the perfect time to try out your creative abilities.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will soon understand how to proceed with plans that you have put aside recently. You also have opportunities to guide others and bring a focus into the areas where you want more understanding. This is a very good day for job-related events. You may shine in your particular job or find that practical insights come with ease. Representing or speaking for your company or communicating about your skills will come into play. Perhaps you are speaking in a school-young people are interested in your abilities and have many questions for you. A special friend may want to have lunch with you. There are energies to deepen the friendship. Emotional security, a sense of belonging and nurturing are felt throughout this day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Telephone calls start early this morning and your friends may have already included you in a multitude of plans. Someone is just waiting for you to make up your mind. All of this should go rather smoothly as your common sense comes into play and is found to be valuable. You may find this positive energy flows over to you all day. Today you will be able to tackle tasks that require real discipline or organization. You find yourself in a very practical mood and working with, instead of against, yourself. You may have some serious or contemplative moments. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You have all the energy you could want and it should be easy to move forward with your plans. The path is open.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your sense of security is generally taken from your morals as well as from your friends and social involvement. There is a need for change but you may be confusing the need for change with the need for a vacation. Remember a little time out is a very important thing! Health and work goals take on greater importance for you. Don't forget those first of the year dental or medical appointments. Preventative medicine is less expensive than an uncalculated visit. A diet may be considered at this time and understanding the type of diet and the amount you want to loose are important. You can set the time to begin and you will be in charge of a most pleasing outcome. Just think how you will be able to be an active, energized person and look good in your clothes.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Mental discipline is the secret to your success. It is wisdom, not knowledge, that counts most. Balance the high stress of trying to keep ahead of possible mistakes with the more easily worked matters. Stay away from the professions that create on-the-edge-of-your-seat type of input so that your body and psychological outlook are not pushed beyond-beyond. Sometimes you regard others as much more evolved than you. Giving everyone permission to make mistakes, including your own mistakes, may be a big lesson now. Taking care of business is a major theme. You like having things organized and knowing the plans or schedule of the day helps you achieve to the best of your abilities. Your system of values deepens, providing you with good choices.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You enjoy getting special attention and this morning you may also enjoy the attention that comes with being in a winning group. Some type of acknowledgement by your city, community or professional association brings you and your co-workers the opportunity to gather in a most positive way. This is certainly a day that will afford everyone the encouragement and praise that is deserved. You are at the top of the list when it comes to favorite-people-to-be-around and a gathering after work will include your own special day of celebration. In the near future, there will be an opening up of opportunities to travel, meet new people and obtain recognition. It may be time to make new goals soon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Exercise wisely to relieve stress and anxiety. There are feelings of generosity and showmanship as well as a realization of just where you are in the scheme of life. Previous plans for personal achievement can be put into motion today-results will come soon! This is another great day for making yourself known and accomplishing a great deal in the work arena. Romance and other things that tug at the heartstrings come your way as a new stage begins. Be watchful-hasty words are the greatest danger since they can't be taken back and an apology may not be enough to heal a rift. Easy does it! A child or lover may come to mean everything. This is a creative period for you, a time to take a chance, a time to be appreciated and admired.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



00:20 Misfit Garage
01:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
02:00 Legend Of Croc Gold
02:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
03:40 Fast N' Loud
04:30 Auction Hunters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Blowing Up History
06:50 Mega Shippers
07:40 Impossible Engineering
08:30 Legend Of Croc Gold
09:20 Everest Rescue
10:10 The Island With Bear Grylls
11:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
11:50 Storage Hunters UK
12:15 Storage Hunters UK
12:40 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Misfit Garage
15:10 Street Outlaws
16:00 Fast N' Loud (Season 4 Specials)
16:50 Fast N' Loud
17:40 Fast N' Loud
18:30 Fast N' Loud
19:20 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Misfit Garage
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon



00:00 The Killing Season
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
03:00 Homicide Hunter
04:00 The Killing Season
05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
06:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 Evil Up Close
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
15:00 Evil Up Close
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 It Takes A Killer
18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
19:00 The First 48
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Evil Up Close
23:00 The First 48



00:30 Science Of The Movies
01:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Science Of The Movies
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:00 Ultimate Survival
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Dirty Jobs
14:30 Mythbusters
15:20 Science Of The Movies
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
17:00 Man v Expert
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Man v Expert
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Jessie
07:50 Rolling To The Ronks
08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
11:15 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Shake It Up
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 Welcome To The Ronks
13:15 Gravity Falls
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Jessie
15:00 Bunk'd
15:25 Kirby Buckets
15:50 Rolling To The Ronks
16:15 Sunny Bunnies

16:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:45 Elena Of Avalor
17:10 Stuck In The Middle
17:35 Disney's Aladdin
19:05 The 7D
19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:25 The Next Step
19:50 Austin & Ally
20:15 Star Darlings
20:20 Shake It Up
20:45 Backstage
21:10 Liv And Maddie
21:35 Cracked
21:40 The Next Step
22:05 Best Friends Whenever
22:30 Jessie
22:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
23:00 Kirby Buckets
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopdidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Zou
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou

06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
08:05 PJ Masks
08:15 Goldie & Bear
08:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
08:45 Miles From Tomorrow
08:55 The Lion Guard
09:20 Doc McStuffins
09:35 Goldie & Bear
09:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
10:00 PJ Masks
10:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
10:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:35 The Lion Guard
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Doc McStuffins
11:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:15 Gummi Bears
13:40 Sofia The First
14:10 Little Mermaid
14:35 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 The Lion Guard
15:55 Unbungalievable
16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:55 The Lion Guard
17:20 Goldie & Bear
17:50 PJ Masks
18:15 Sofia The First
18:40 Doc McStuffins
19:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Little Mermaid
20:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:00 Unbungalievable



06:00 Danger Mouse
06:25 Gravity Falls
06:50 Atomic Puppet
07:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 Counterfeit Cat
07:40 Supa Strikas
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
09:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
09:50 Danger Mouse
10:20 Supa Strikas
10:45 Supa Strikas
11:10 Counterfeit Cat
11:35 Pair Of Kings
12:00 Pair Of Kings
12:30 Future-Worm!
12:55 Lab Rats
13:20 Lab Rats
13:45 Atomic Puppet
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
14:40 Supa Strikas
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:55 Danger Mouse
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Future-Worm!
17:15 Gravity Falls
17:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Supa Strikas
19:00 Atomic Puppet
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Counterfeit Cat
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Pickle And Peanut
21:33 Disney Xd F.C
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
22:35 Boyster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

17:00 Tonight At The London Palladium
17:50 Code Of A Killer
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
21:00 Don't Tell The Bride
22:00 Tonight At The London Palladium



00:10 Chocolate Covered
00:35 Glamour Puds
01:00 Tom's Istanbul Delight
01:25 A Is For Apple
01:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:40 Confucius Was A Foodie
03:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
03:55 Sara's Australia Unveiled
04:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:10 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
05:35 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
06:00 The Wine Show
06:50 Tom's Istanbul Delight
07:15 A Is For Apple
07:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:30 Confucius Was A Foodie
09:20 Sara's Australia Unveiled
09:45 Sara's Australia Unveiled
10:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:00 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
11:25 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
11:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
12:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
12:40 Tom's Istanbul Delight
13:05 A Is For Apple
13:35 A Is For Apple
14:00 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled
15:50 Sara's Australia Unveiled
16:20 Tom's Istanbul Delight
16:45 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
17:15 The Wine Show
18:10 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
19:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
20:25 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
20:50 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
21:15 The Wine Show
22:05 Patisserie With Michel Roux Jr
22:55 Tom's Istanbul Delight
23:20 A Is For Apple



00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 E! News
02:50 Just Jillian
05:30 New Money
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News
15:15 Hollywood & Football
16:15 Hollywood & Football
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
23:00 E! News
23:15 Famously Single



00:20 Cobra Mafia
01:10 Grizzly Empire
02:00 Cat Fight
02:50 Urban Jungle
03:45 Swamp Men
04:40 Natural Born Monsters
05:35 Cat Fight
06:30 Urban Jungle
07:25 Swamp Men
08:20 Natural Born Monsters
09:15 World's Deadliest
10:10 Wildebeeste: Born To Run
11:05 Wild Indonesia
12:00 Pond Stars
12:55 Fatal Attraction
13:50 Urban Jungle
14:45 Swamp Men
15:40 Natural Born Monsters
16:35 World's Deadliest
17:30 Wild Canada
18:25 Wild Indonesia
19:20 Swamp Men
20:10 Natural Born Monsters
21:00 World's Deadliest
21:50 Wild Canada
22:40 Wild Indonesia
23:30 Pond Stars



00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Couples Come Dine With Me
03:25 Don't Tell The Bride
04:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Code Of A Killer
06:10 The Chase
07:05 Couples Come Dine With Me
08:00 Don't Tell The Bride
09:00 The Jonathan Ross Show
10:00 Code Of A Killer
10:55 The Chase
11:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 The Chase
15:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
16:00 Don't Tell The Bride



00:10 Drain The Ocean: WWII
01:00 Nazi Temple Of Doom
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
02:55 Ultimate Airport Dubai
03:50 Drain The Ocean: WWII
04:45 The Numbers Game
05:10 The Numbers Game
05:40 Car SOS
06:35 Classified: CIA Confidential
07:30 Dirty Rotten Survival
08:25 Battleground Brothers
09:20 The Numbers Game
09:45 The Numbers Game
10:15 Locked Up Abroad
11:10 The Border



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- 12:05 Trekking The Great Wall
- 13:00 Battleground Brothers
- 14:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 15:00 Classified: Terror/Counter Terror
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 Gender Revolution
- 19:00 Classified: Terror/Counter Terror
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 Gender Revolution
- 22:30 Classified: Terror/Counter Terror
- 23:20 Car SOS



- 00:16 Team Umizoomi
- 00:37 Louie
- 00:44 Louie
- 00:50 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:55 Olive The Ostrich
- 01:00 Max & Ruby
- 01:22 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:32 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:42 The Day Henry Met
- 01:47 The Day Henry Met
- 01:53 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:39 Zack & Quack
- 03:01 Team Umizoomi
- 03:23 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:28 Olive The Ostrich
- 03:32 Paw Patrol
- 03:55 Little Charmers
- 04:07 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 04:19 Dora The Explorer
- 04:41 Max & Ruby
- 05:06 Bubble Guppies
- 05:30 Shimmer And Shine
- 05:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 05:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 06:19 Zack & Quack
- 06:29 The Day Henry Met
- 06:34 The Day Henry Met
- 06:40 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 07:02 Paw Patrol
- 07:15 Paw Patrol
- 07:37 Dora The Explorer
- 08:00 Zack & Quack
- 08:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 09:10 Paw Patrol
- 09:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 09:45 Shimmer And Shine
- 09:58 Dora The Explorer
- 10:21 Paw Patrol
- 10:45 Little Charmers
- 10:57 Bubble Guppies
- 11:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 11:40 Zack & Quack
- 11:52 Team Umizoomi
- 12:15 Team Umizoomi
- 12:38 Louie
- 12:45 Louie
- 12:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 13:03 Max & Ruby
- 13:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 13:46 The Day Henry Met
- 13:51 The Day Henry Met
- 13:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:41 Zack & Quack
- 15:03 Team Umizoomi
- 15:25 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:30 Olive The Ostrich
- 15:35 Paw Patrol
- 15:58 Little Charmers
- 16:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 16:22 The Day Henry Met
- 16:44 Max & Ruby
- 17:07 Bubble Guppies
- 17:31 Shimmer And Shine
- 17:43 Shimmer And Shine
- 17:54 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 18:17 Zack & Quack
- 18:29 The Day Henry Met
- 18:34 The Day Henry Met
- 18:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:00 Paw Patrol
- 19:13 Paw Patrol
- 19:37 Dora The Explorer
- 20:00 Zack & Quack
- 20:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 20:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 21:10 Paw Patrol
- 21:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 21:58 Dora The Explorer
- 22:21 Paw Patrol
- 22:45 Little Charmers
- 22:57 Bubble Guppies
- 23:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies



MUTANT WORLD ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 00:15 Everly
- 02:00 Escape
- 03:45 Blown Away
- 06:00 Mutant World
- 08:00 Last Knights
- 10:00 Escape
- 11:45 Blown Away
- 14:00 Echo Effect
- 16:00 Tracers
- 18:00 Reign Of Assassins
- 20:00 S.W.A.T.
- 22:00 Wild Card



- 01:00 Nancy Drew
- 03:00 Big Baby
- 05:00 D3: The Mighty Ducks
- 07:00 Bark Ranger
- 09:00 The Unbeatables
- 11:00 D3: The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 Charlotte's Web
- 15:00 Brave
- 17:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 19:00 Gulliver's Travels
- 21:00 Peter Pan
- 23:00 Brave



- 00:45 Tiger House
- 02:30 The Longest Ride
- 05:00 Spare Parts
- 07:00 The Lady In The Van
- 09:00 The Walk
- 11:15 Insurgent
- 13:15 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 15:00 Me And Earl And The Dying Girl
- 16:45 Kindergarten Cop 2
- 18:30 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- 21:00 Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip
- 22:45 London Has Fallen



- 00:00 All The Wrong Reasons
- 02:00 Spanglish
- 04:15 Love, Rosie
- 06:15 Big Ass Spider!
- 08:00 Liberal Arts
- 10:00 Love, Rosie
- 12:00 Twins
- 14:00 Shanghai Noon
- 16:00 Superfast

- 18:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 20:00 The Mexican
- 22:15 Dance Flick



- 01:30 Waking Life
- 03:15 Wuthering Heights
- 05:00 Seabiscuit
- 07:30 Love & Mercy
- 09:30 Ronaldo
- 11:00 Selma
- 13:15 The Rainmaker
- 15:30 The Help
- 18:00 The Man Who Wasn't There
- 20:00 Erin Brockovich
- 22:15 Primal Fear



- 01:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 02:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 04:15 Egon And Donci
- 06:00 Gladiators Of Rome
- 07:45 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 09:15 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 11:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 12:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 14:15 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
- 16:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
- 18:00 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
- 19:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 21:30 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
- 23:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase



- 00:40 Mythbusters
- 01:30 How Do They Do It?
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 02:20 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 02:45 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 03:10 Alien Encounters
- 04:00 Da Vinci's Machines
- 04:48 Mythbusters
- 05:36 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Food Factory
- 06:24 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 06:49 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 07:12 Alien Encounters
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 09:14 Mythbusters
- 10:02 Alien Encounters
- 10:50 How Do They Do It?
- 11:14 Food Factory
- 11:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 12:03 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 12:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 13:14 Mythbusters
- 14:02 How Do They Do It?
- 14:26 Food Factory
- 14:50 Alien Encounters
- 15:38 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 16:03 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
- 16:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 17:14 Mythbusters
- 18:02 Alien Encounters
- 18:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 19:40 Mythbusters
- 20:30 Mythbusters
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 Alien Encounters
- 23:00 Mythbusters
- 23:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 00:20 Oprah's Master Class
- 01:10 Single Dad Seeking...
- 02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 02:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 02:50 Love, Lust Or Run
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Belief
- 04:20 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Little People, Big World
- 06:25 Little People, Big World
- 06:50 Little People, Big World
- 07:15 Little People, Big World
- 07:40 Little People, Big World
- 08:05 Little People, Big World
- 08:30 Little People, Big World
- 09:20 First Heartbeat
- 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 11:50 Love At First Swipe
- 12:15 Love, Lust Or Run
- 12:40 Love, Lust Or Run
- 13:05 Love, Lust Or Run
- 13:30 Love, Lust Or Run
- 13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 14:45 Oprah's Master Class
- 15:35 Cake Boss
- 16:00 Cake Boss
- 16:25 Cake Boss
- 16:50 Cake Boss
- 17:15 Cake Boss
- 17:40 Billion Dollar Hotel
- 18:30 How The Rich Live Longer
- 19:20 Little People, Big World
- 20:10 First Heartbeat
- 21:00 Little People, Big World
- 21:50 Sister Wives
- 22:15 Sister Wives
- 22:40 Too Ugly For Love?
- 23:30 Fat And Trapped In My House



- 00:00 The Universe
- 01:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 02:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 03:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 03:50 Ancient Aliens
- 04:40 How 2 Win
- 05:30 The Universe
- 06:20 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 07:10 The Universe
- 08:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 09:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 10:00 Ancient Aliens
- 11:00 How 2 Win
- 12:00 The Universe
- 13:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 14:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 15:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 16:00 Ancient Aliens
- 17:00 How 2 Win
- 18:00 The Universe

- 19:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 20:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 21:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
- 22:00 Ancient Aliens



- 00:20 Time Team
- 01:10 15 Septembers Later
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 American Pickers
- 04:05 Pawn Stars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Mountain Men
- 06:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:50 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
- 07:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 08:30 Shark Wranglers
- 09:20 Mountain Men
- 10:10 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 10:35 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 11:00 American Pickers
- 11:50 Counting Cars
- 12:15 Car Hunters
- 12:40 Pawn Stars
- 13:05 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 13:30 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour
- 18:30 Shipping Wars
- 18:55 Shipping Wars
- 19:20 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 20:10 Ice Road Truckers
- 21:00 American Pickers
- 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 22:40 Forged In Fire
- 23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island



- 00:00 Patricia Heaton Parties
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:00 The Kitchen
- 07:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:00 Siba's Table
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Siba's Table
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 19:00 Man Finds Food
- 20:00 Follow Donal... To Europe
- 21:00 Girl Eat World
- 21:30 Girl Eat World
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Man Finds Food



THE RAINMAKER ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD

WORD SEARCH

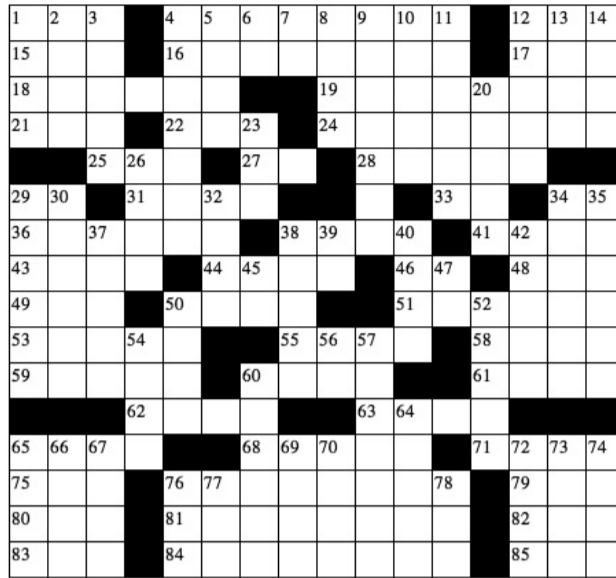
Meryl Streep Movies

Find and circle all of the Meryl Streep movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 40 letters spell an additional Meryl Streep movie.

L D E A T H B E C O M E S H E R E E
M A C R Y I N T H E D A R K T O N F
S P S R E T T A M K R A D R Y A J I
S B L A S T A I M A M M A M C U O L
K T M E N N N S H E D E V I L N B R
R S I A N H I U C K H E R I E E E U
A T I L L T G S H E A F A T F C V O
M S M L L R Y U H R A E R O I M O Y
E H A R K O O T L F E U R O I A L G
R E R D E W F F O T F E H S D N N N
V A V G A O O T S T A C D E O H I I
S R I N C P U O H N S G E E F A G D
K T N I P O T I D E O W N U H T N N
R B S N R N N A I O N I F I O T I E
A U R F I G F H T O U I L R C A L F
M R O V M T P T R I U B G N A N L E
E N O E E O T I E E O V T H E N A D
R T M R S N O I T I D N E R T S F D

- A CRY IN THE DARK
- ADAPTATION
- BEFORE AND AFTER
- DANCING AT LUGHNASA
- DARK MATTER
- DEATH BECOMES HER
- DEFENDING YOUR LIFE
- DOUBT
- EVENING
- FALLING IN LOVE
- HEARTBURN
- IRONWEED
- JULIA
- KRAMER VS. KRAMER
- LIONS FOR LAMBS
- MAMMA MIA
- MANHATTAN
- MARVIN'S ROOM
- MUSIC OF THE HEART
- ONE TRUE THING
- OUT OF AFRICA
- PLENTY
- PRIME
- RENDITION
- SHE-DEVIL
- SILKWOOD
- SOPHIE'S CHOICE
- STILL OF THE NIGHT
- THE DEER HUNTER

CROSSWORD 1517



ACROSS

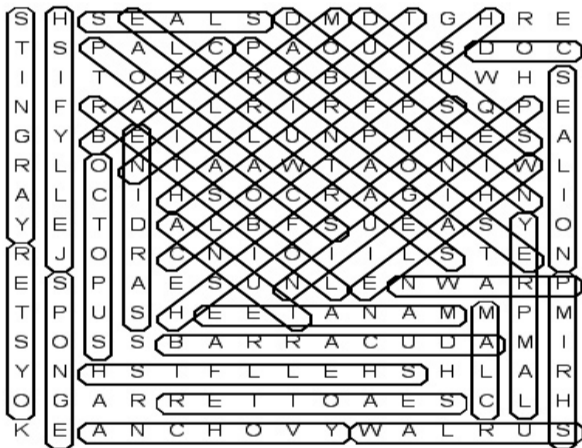
- (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
- A milkshake with egg in it.
- A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
- A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
- A state in north central United States.
- Disabled in the feet or legs.
- A city in southern California (southeast of Los Angeles).
- An alcoholic beverage made from fermented mare's milk.
- Raise in a relief.
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- Flowing in drops.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- (literary) Spirited horse for state or war.
- The compass point that is one point east of due south.
- Type genus of the Ranidae.
- (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
- A network of intersecting blood vessels or intersecting nerves or intersecting lymph vessels.
- Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
- Having a gradual increase in width.
- Any organic compound containing the group -CONH2.
- Designated paved area beside a main road where cars can stop temporarily.
- Being nine more than forty.
- The central area of a church.
- Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- The eleventh month of the civil year.
- A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
- A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
- Attach a yoke or harness to, as of a draft animal.
- Close-fitting pants of heavy denim for casual wear (usually in the plural).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
- Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
- A European river.
- Framework for holding objects.
- A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Of southern Europe.
- A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- Being or occurring in fact or actuality.
- Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
- Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
- Offering fun and gaiety.
- A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
- A state in north central United States.
- Disabled in the feet or legs.
- A city in southern California (southeast of Los Angeles).
- An alcoholic beverage made from fermented mare's milk.
- Raise in a relief.
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
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Yesterday's Solution

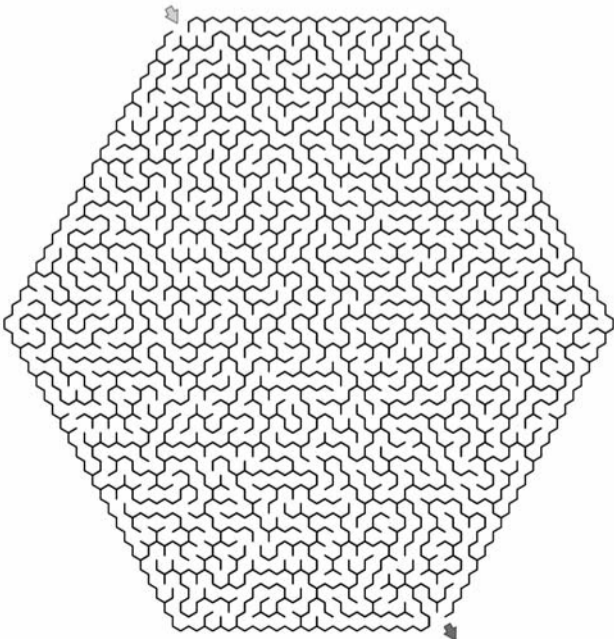
Marine Life



- ANCHOVY
- BARRACUDA
- CLAM
- CLOWNFISH
- COD
- CRAB
- DOLPHIN
- HALIBUT
- JELLYFISH
- LAMPREY
- LOBSTER
- MANATEE
- MARLIN
- OCTOPUS
- OYSTER
- PENGUIN
- PORPOISE
- PRAWN
- SARDINE
- SCALLOP
- SEA LION
- SEA OTTER
- SEA TURTLE
- SEALS
- SHELLFISH
- SHRIMP
- SPONGE
- SQUID
- STARFISH
- STINGRAY
- TUNA
- WALRUS
- WHALE

The hidden message is: GREAT WHITE SHARK

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily Sudoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

US JUDGE BLOCKS ANTHEM-CIGNA HEALTH INSURANCE MERGER

SACRAMENTO, California: A federal judge on Wednesday rejected Anthem Inc.'s bid to buy rival health insurer Cigna Corp., saying the merger would likely lead to higher costs, less competition and diminished innovation. US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said the merger would significantly reduce competition in the already concentrated insurance market, particularly for large national employers. Cigna and Anthem are two of just four insurers selling to companies with 5,000 employees spread across multiple states, and they compete aggressively for business, the judge wrote.

Berman Jackson was unconvinced by Anthem's argument that the merged company could save money for customers by combining the two insurers' different approaches to cost saving. Anthem has negotiated lower payments to doctors and hospitals, while Cigna has higher upfront expenses for wellness in the hopes of reducing future health expenses. "Eliminating this competition from the marketplace would diminish the opportunity for the firms' ideas to be tested and refined, when this is just the sort of innovation the antitrust rules are supposed to foster," she wrote.

Anthem officials are reviewing the decision, spokeswoman Jill Belcher said. She declined to comment. Last month, another federal judge rejected Aetna's roughly \$34-billion bid to buy rival Humana, citing in part concerns about competition in hundreds of Medicare advantage markets. Washington, DC-based US District Judge John Bates said in an opinion



PHILADELPHIA: In this file photo, a pedestrian walks past the headquarters of the health insurer Corp. in Philadelphia.—AP

filed Jan 23 that federal regulation would probably be "insufficient to prevent the merged firm from raising prices or reducing benefits." He added that neither new competitors nor an Aetna plan to sell some of the combined company's business to another insurer, Molina Healthcare Inc., would be enough to ease competitive concerns.

Pharmaceutical companies

An Aetna spokesman has said the company is strongly considering an appeal. The Justice Department had sued last summer to block both deals, and the cases went to trial late last year. The two deals would have consolidated the nation's five largest insurers into three, a list that includes United Health

Group Inc., currently the largest. The insurers have argued that by getting bigger they will be able to negotiate better prices with pharmaceutical companies, hospitals and doctor groups that also are growing. They also expect to cut expenses and add more customers, which helps them spread out the cost of investing in technology to manage and improve care.

Industry experts have said any consumer impact from these deals would take years to materialize and could lead to savings in some areas, along with higher costs elsewhere. The American Medical Association cheered the ruling, saying the merger would have created a health care behemoth too big to regulate and with too much control over consumers' lives.—AP

INDIAN DOCTOR PULLS LIVE COCKROACH FROM WOMAN'S SKULL

NEW DELHI: It's the stuff of nightmares—a cockroach crawls up your nose in the middle of the night, burrows in and drives you mad with scratching behind your eyes. But for one Indian woman, this horror story proved all too real. The 42-year-old had a painful crawling sensation behind her eyes when she woke up, so rushed to a local clinic where her nose was flushed and she was sent home. But the sensation didn't subside, and it wasn't until a specialist explored her nasal passages with an endoscope that she learned the awful truth.

"I saw some tiny legs moving inside," M.N. Shankar, an ear, nose and throat specialist at Chennai's Stanley Medical College Hospital, told AFP on Wednesday. "I looked further in and almost five centimeters from the tip of the nose I saw something unusual. 'I realized I was actually looking at the bottom of a cockroach.'" The invasive critter had burrowed deep inside her nose, almost to the base of the skull, and was still alive after roughly 12 hours, Shankar added. Using an instrument akin to a vacuum cleaner, Shankar managed to extract the cockroach from her skull intact—still alive and kicking. It was the first time Shankar had seen anything like it in his three decades of medical practice. The woman was doing "absolutely fine" following the 45-minute procedure, he said, but was "embarrassed she had a cockroach up her nose". "It was an out of the world kind of thing for her," he said.—AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (09/02/2017 TO 15/02/2017)

SHARQIA-1			
RINGS	12:45 PM	SPLIT	10:30 PM
RAEES- HINDI	3:15 PM	SPLIT	12:45 AM
KAABIL- HINDI	6:00 PM		
AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	8:45 PM	MARINA-2	
AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	10:45 PM	RINGS	1:00 PM
SPLIT	12:45 AM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	1:00 PM
		SAT+MON	
		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	3:15 PM
SHARQIA-2		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	5:30 PM
SPLIT	12:15 PM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	7:45 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	2:45 PM	RINGS	10:00 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	5:00 PM	RINGS	12:15 AM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	7:15 PM		
KUNG-FU YOGA	9:30 PM	MARINA-3	
SPLIT	11:45 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:00 PM
		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:30 PM
SHARQIA-3		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	5:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:15 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:30 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:45 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	10:00 PM
RINGS	5:15 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:30 AM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:30 PM		
RINGS	10:00 PM	AVENUES-1	
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:05 AM	DANGAL -Hindi	12:45 PM
		AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM
MUHALAB-1		AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	4:00 PM
RINGS	11:45 AM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	6:00 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	2:00 PM	AL MOKHAYAM	(Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	4:15 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	10:00 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	6:30 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM
RINGS	8:45 PM		
RINGS	10:45 PM	AVENUES-2	
RINGS	12:45 AM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE -3D -4DX	1:00 PM
		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE -3D -4DX	3:15 PM
MUHALAB-2		THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE -3D -4DX	5:30 PM
SPLIT	1:30 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2 -2D -4DX	7:45 PM
RAEES- HINDI	3:45 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2 -2D -4DX	10:15 PM
KAABIL- HINDI	6:45 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2 -2D -4DX	12:45 AM
SPLIT	9:45 PM		
SPLIT	12:15 AM	AVENUES-3	
		SPLIT	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-3		SPLIT	1:45 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:00 PM	SINGAM III -Tamil	4:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:30 PM	SINGAM III -Tamil	7:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	5:00 PM	SINGAM III -Tamil	10:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:30 PM	SPLIT	1:00 AM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	10:00 PM		
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:30 AM	360°-1	
		RINGS	12:15 PM
FANAR-1		RINGS	2:30 PM
SPLIT	12:00 PM	RINGS	4:45 PM
SPLIT	2:30 PM	RINGS	7:00 PM
AL MOKHAYAM	(Kuwaiti Film) 5:00 PM	RINGS	9:15 PM
KUNG-FU YOGA	7:00 PM	RINGS	11:30 PM
SPLIT	9:15 PM		
SPLIT	11:45 PM	360°2	
FANAR-2		KAABIL- HINDI	1:15 PM
RINGS	11:30 AM	KAABIL- HINDI	1:30 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	1:30 PM	FRI	
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	3:45 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	4:30 PM
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	6:00 PM	KAABIL- HINDI	7:45 PM
RINGS	8:15 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	11:00 PM
RINGS	10:30 PM		
RINGS	12:45 AM	360°3	
FANAR-3		RINGS	1:00 PM
KAABIL- HINDI	12:30 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	3:15 PM
AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	1:30 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	3:30 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	7:15 PM
KAABIL- HINDI	6:45 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	9:15 PM
JOLLY LLB 2 -Hindi	9:30 PM	AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	11:15 PM
AL MOKHAYAM (Kuwaiti Film)	12:15 AM	RINGS	1:15 AM
FANAR-4			
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.1	
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:00 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	11:30 AM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	4:30 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	2:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:00 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	4:30 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	9:30 PM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	7:00 PM
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:05 AM	JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	9:30 PM
		JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2	12:05 AM
FANAR-5			
THE SPACE BETWEEN US	11:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE SPACE BETWEEN US	2:00 PM	RINGS	12:45 PM
HEARTBEATS	4:15 PM	RINGS	3:00 PM
THE SPACE BETWEEN US	6:30 PM	RINGS	5:30 PM
RAEES- HINDI	8:45 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	7:45 PM
HEARTBEATS	11:30 PM	RINGS	10:00 PM
		RINGS	12:15 AM
MARINA-1			
RINGS	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3	
SPLIT	1:30 PM	KUNG-FU YOGA	12:00 PM
RINGS	3:45 PM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	2:15 PM
RINGS	6:00 PM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE-3D	4:30 PM
KUNG-FU YOGA	8:15 PM	THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE	6:45 PM
		KUNG-FU YOGA	9:00 PM

LOST

I, Nita Kishore Bhatkar, holder of Indian Passport No. Z1171971 have lost my Bachelors in Business Administration degree certificate issued by the Madurai Kamraj University. If you find it please contact 66095560. **8-2-2017**

It is notified for information that my Original Grade Sheet cum Certificate of Performance Certificate for the Secondary School Examination 2013-15 (CBSE 10th) of the year 2015 and Roll No. 8106889 issued by CBSE has been actually lost in Kuwait. Jenny Sara George, C/o George K Thomas, New Khaitan, Kuwait. Tel. 99587315. **(C 5264)**

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for a decent couple or working ladies in a CAC flat at Jabriya block 10, near Jabriya Indian School. Please call 99300513. **(C 5267) 8-2-2017**

Sharing accommodation for Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available already, Contact 66826412 or 97512782

CHANGE OF NAME

I **Shikha** Rana Sham D/o Shamlal Rana holder of Indian Passport No. M6712765 & Civil ID No. 290062302045 has changed my name to Sabah Shahazad Khan hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Sabah Shahazad Khan. **(C 5269) 9-2-2017**

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017



Japan firm drops Mexico plant plan over Trump warnings

S AFRICA GOVT, MINING INDUSTRY TENSIONS DOMINATE 'INDABA'

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WOLFSBURG: This file photo taken on October 21, 2015 shows employees of German car maker Volkswagen checking cars at a assembly line of the VW plant. —AFP

GERMANY'S 2016 TRADE SURPLUS SETS RECORD EXPERTS WARN IMBALANCE MAY FUEL US TENSIONS

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's latest record trade surplus announced yesterday may be a point of pride for some, but experts warn the imbalance is doing more harm than good as grumbling grows in the Trump White House. The country exported 253 billion euros (\$270 billion) more than it imported in 2016, the federal statistics office Destatis said. Exports added 1.2 percent to top 1.2 trillion euros, while imports climbed 0.6 percent to 955 billion euros.

Germany's trade surplus has repeatedly broken records in the years since the 2008-09 financial crisis. The new high is likely to feed criticisms from the US and elsewhere that Germany exports too many of its machine tools, chemicals, and cars, while failing to reinvest the proceeds.

US President Donald Trump's top trade advisor Peter Navarro accused Berlin last month of exploiting a "grossly undervalued"

euro to boost its exports. Germany's trade surplus is around half that of the \$510 billion China booked in 2016, but well ahead of Japan's \$36 billion or Brazil's \$48 billion. Meanwhile, the US recorded a \$502-billion trade deficit last year-importing more than it exported-and France a deficit of \$51 billion. Elected on promises to bring jobs and manufacturing back onto American soil after decades of offshoring, Trump and his team are hunting for export sinners to target.

"When you walk down Fifth Avenue, everyone has a Mercedes-Benz in front of his house," the president complained in an interview with German tabloid Bild shortly before his inauguration. "You've been very unfair with the USA," he went on, "it's a one-way street." In a sharp retort, German vice-chancellor Sigmar Gabriel responded: "The US needs to build better cars." Trump is far from the first foreign leader to bemoan

German surpluses, as the Obama administration, the International Monetary Fund, and European neighbors like France have all criticized the imbalance.

'Big gap in investment'

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble agreed in an interview last weekend that "the exchange rate is too low" between the euro and the dollar, but noted that it was the European Central Bank that decided monetary policy for the entire single currency area. Long a critic of the ECB's loose monetary policy, which has been blamed for cheapening the euro against the dollar, Schaeuble's comments were aimed as much at Frankfurt as at Washington.

"I told ECB boss Mario Draghi that he would push up the German trade surplus when he started loose monetary policy," Schaeuble said. But some experts argue that

the source of the problem is closer to home. "The problem is the weak growth in imports resulting from a big gap in investment," said Marcel Fratzscher, president of economic think-tank DIW Berlin.

Strong economic performance has produced a well-worn cleft in Germany's governing left-right coalition, with Social Democrats calling for more infrastructure investment while Schaeuble and Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives resist running up new debts. Draghi also calls regularly for countries like Germany that have "fiscal space" to use it for investment and growth-friendly spending. Lacking investment "causes high economic costs for Germany, because it reduces productivity and incomes" as well as heightening international friction, Fratzscher argued. "The record surplus will further inflame the conflict with the USA and within the EU," he predicted. — AFP

TRUMP VS NORDSTROM: ATTACK RAISING NEW ETHICAL CONCERNS

NEW YORK: US president Donald Trump just can't seem to separate the presidency from his family's businesses. Whereas other presidents took pains to avoid even the appearance of using their office for private gain, Trump is pushing the limits. He met with Indian business partners before his inauguration, and decided to hold on to his company, while expanding his hotel brand.

On Wednesday, he added to a string of presidential firsts, and drew fire from ethics lawyers, with a Twitter attack on Nordstrom. The Seattle-based retailer earned Trump's ire by dropping his daughter Ivanka's clothing and accessory line. The implication, intended or not: Hurt my daughter's business and the Oval Office will come after you. "My daughter Ivanka has been treated so unfairly by @Nordstrom," the president tweeted. "She is a great person - always pushing me to do the right thing! Terrible!" Posted first on his personal account, it was re-tweeted more than 6,000 times in less than an hour. It was also re-tweeted by the official @POTUS account.

This time it's different

Though Trump has tweeted about companies such as Boeing, Carrier and General Motors, ethics experts say this time was different: It involved a business run by his daughter, which raises conflict-of-interest concerns. Trump's tweet follows revelations that First Lady Melania Trump expected to develop "multi-million dollar business relationships" tied to her presence in the White House, according to a suit she filed on Monday.

Ethics experts have criticized Trump's plan to separate himself from his sprawling real estate business by handing managerial control to his two adult sons. The experts want him to sell his company. Most modern presidents have sold their financial holdings and put the cash raised in a blind trust whose investments remained unknown to them. Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert, said the Nordstrom tweet is problematic because other retailers may think twice now about dropping the Ivanka Trump brand for fear of getting criticized publicly by the president. She said it was especially disturbing that Trump retweeted his message on the official White House account. "The implicit threat was that he will use whatever authority he has to retaliate against Nordstrom, or anyone who crosses his interest," said Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

Clark defended the president's right to use his personal Twitter account to express his views, however. She noted that government workers recently set up alt-EPA accounts to criticize the president's policies. "A government employee, even a president, is allowed to tweet in his personal capacity."

'Shot across the bow'

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump was responding to an "attack on his daughter" when he posted the tweet and that "he has every right to stand up for his family and applaud their business activities, their success." One of the president's fiercest ethics critics, Norman Eisen, described the tweet differently - a "bullying" tactic beneath the dignity of the president's office.

"This is a shot across the bow to everybody who is doing business with Trump or his family," said Eisen, who was President Barack Obama's chief ethics counselor. "It's warning them: Don't withdraw their business." Eisen joined with other legal scholars and lawyers to sue the president last month for allegedly violating a clause in the Constitution that prohibits government officials from accepting gifts or payments from foreign governments.

Though other legal scholars disagree, Eisen said such payments include foreign diplomats staying at Trump's new Washington DC hotel and holding events there and at the other Trump venues. Trump and his top aides have repeatedly said that Americans do not care about what Eisen and other ethics critics say. "Prior to the election it was well known that I have interests in properties all over the world," Trump wrote on Twitter Nov 21.

Two surveys released in January show that's not entirely the case. A Quinnipiac University poll found that about 60 percent of registered voters were at least somewhat concerned that the president would "veto a law that would be good for the country because it would hurt his business interests."—AP



PARAISO: In this Jan 18, 2017 photo, a Neo-Panamax cargo ship travels through the Culebra Cut, crossing the Panama Canal waters. — AP

7 MONTHS IN, EXPANDED PANAMA CANAL STILL FACING CHALLENGES

SHIPS STILL SCRAPING WALLS, PREMATURELY WEARING OUT DEFENSES

COCOLI: Loaded with more than 6,000 cargo containers, the ship Ever Living prepared for the final leg of its journey through the newly expanded Panama Canal when things hit a snag: The last of the massive steel lock doors failed to open all the way. The pilots controlling the ship and the captains of the tugboats tethered to huge vessel opted to continue guiding it through the narrowed passageway, passing nerve-wrackingly close to the side of the locks to avoid running into the stuck door. "These are things that shouldn't happen," tugboat captain Mauricio Perez said. "Sometimes the only thing we can do is pray."

A little over seven months after authorities launched a much-ballyhooed, \$5.25 billion canal expansion to accommodate many of the world's largest cargo vessels, they have yet to fully work out a significant kink: With little margin for error, ships are still scraping the walls and prematurely wearing out defenses designed to protect both the vessels and the locks themselves.

The Associated Press traveled on a recent voyage by a tugboat guiding the Ever Living through the canal's Cocoli locks toward the Pacific Ocean. Along the way there were multiple places where the black rubber cushion defenses were visibly worn down, hanging into the water or missing entirely. In one spot a pile of dislodged bumpers sat on the side of the locks, apparently waiting to be hauled away.

Insufficient training

Even before the canal opened in late June, tugboat pilots had expressed concern about what they said was insufficient training for maneuvers that are now required - and that are a radical departure from the previous system. In the old locks, which are still in use, ships get tethered to powerful locomotives on both sides that keep them centered in the canal. In the new locks, that responsibility

falls to the tugs, one tied to the bow and another to the stern.

Especially at first, pilots on the bridge of the cargo ships and tug operators would sometimes deliberately nudge up against the barriers as a way to properly align the vessels. That has lessened somewhat, but the battered bumpers are evidence that not all passages are smooth. "The fears and dangers remain, although the boats are going through," Perez said. "Throughout the entire maneuver, there are critical moments."

The Panama Canal Authority attributed the malfunction of the lock door during the AP's transit to a failure in a water-level sensor caused by vegetation and debris accumulated from neighboring Gatun Lake. It said the problem has been fixed.

According to the authority, between June and January there were only 15 incidents that resulted in damage to locks or ships, or about 2 percent of the 700 total transits through the new waterway. Officials say the first seven months have been a learning process but they are optimistic. Manuel Benitez, deputy administrator of the canal, said it has been "pretty positive the way our people have been able to navigate that (learning) curve." And the incidents reported "have not been of a magnitude that could affect the operation of the locks," he said. "The ships have not run aground; they continue their routes."

Multimillion-dollar vessels

Still, shipping companies have multimillion-dollar vessels at stake, and any delay due to an accident can cost them money. In perhaps the most serious incident involving the new waterway, a Chinese vessel struck a lock wall a few weeks after the June inauguration, gashing its hull and delaying its itinerary. The Canal Authority declined to say how much money is being spent on repairing the new bumpers or whether such

repairs have been forced ahead of schedule. Captains who navigate the canal told AP the defenses were anticipated to last at least a couple of years before wearing out. Pilots have argued they should be replaced with a system of floating bumpers like those used in some European locks. Authorities say they intend to continue to operate with the current system of defenses, though they don't rule out changes as part of future upgrades. "Thanks to the expertise of our practices, these incidents are happening less and less," Benitez said.

Some experts say it's still early to make a final judgment on the locks' safety. "It seems there is a consensus between authorities and captains to pay more attention (to) the issue of the defenses," said Paul Bingham, vice president of the Boston-based Economic Development Research Group. "I do not know if it is a design flaw or evidence of how the walls of the locks may need to be better protected," he said via email. "It is possible that the operations of the tugs in controlling the vessels inside the lock chambers need to be improved as well."

There have been notable improvements in operations. Average transit times have dropped to 2 1/2 to 3 hours, according to the tugboat pilots, compared with 4 hours when the locks first opened. With experience, captains have become more comfortable taking ships straight down the center of the locks, especially when weather conditions are favorable. But it's still a delicate operation. As the 1,098-foot-long Ever Living maneuvered into the 1,400-foot lock chamber, sailors and dock workers tied the ship off right up against the walls to keep it in place while it awaited passage to the next level. The tight space left precious little room for the tugs ahead of and behind the vessel, and tug captains still fear their boats could be crushed against the walls if things get out of control during a squall or high winds. —AP

SRI LANKAN RICE FARMERS VOW TO FIGHT CHINESE INVESTORS

BERAGAMA: These days, Vimalabudhi Thero, head monk at the Beragama village Buddhist temple, is consumed more by worldly concerns than matters of the soul. With news that Chinese investors are eyeing the fertile plains he calls home, villagers worry this could end generations of family farming in their verdant corner of southern Sri Lanka.

"My biggest fear is that I will be left with a temple and a bunch of Chinese donating alms to me," the monk said from the veranda of his living quarters, surveying the vast paddy fields stretching before him. His whitewashed temple is now a protest command centre, used by villagers to mobilise against change.

They fear that local farmland will be swallowed by a proposed 15,000-acre investment zone set up by the government to attract Chinese investment. And that fear means Beragama is now in the throes of heated public protests. Less than half an hour's drive from the nation's second biggest airport and port, its access to this key infrastructure and stable water supply has made the area a magnet for outside development.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe and the Chinese envoy to Sri Lanka Yi Xianliang, announced on January 7 that work would begin to create the zone, which Chinese officials predict could bring as much as LKR750 billion (\$5 billion) in investment funds to the region. The money, however, does not impress Vimalabudhi Thero. "It is not that we are against investments, we want investments in this region, but we don't want to lose our ancestral lands."

History repeats

Beragama - which lies about 250 km from the capital Colombo was itself born out of another government development plan, one launched nearly 80 years ago, when people were moved in to settle an area that was little more than jungle.

At the tail end of British rule, the then-government began shifting people into fertile areas to establish agriculture. The settlements attracted even more people after Sri Lanka's declaration of independence in 1948, village elders said. Since then, families have lived and worked productively in the area, growing mostly rice in vast paddies. "These are our ancestral lands, they are fertile. In the dry zone, this land with water supply is vital, that is why these lands have been eyed," said Dushan Pathirana, a third generation resident. "We don't want to go and live 70 km from here. Our lives are here, we can not be uprooted like that."

No decisions...yet

Government officials in the district told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that no decision had yet been made on which land might be acquired or which people moved. S H Karunarathne, the District Secretary for the local Hambantota region said land mapping was the only work underway. "We have been directed to survey the land area, that is it. We have no instructions on acquisitions."

The villagers, however, are not taking any risks and have mobilised to stop the map makers. "The surveyors come without any announcement, like a flying squad - that doubles the fear," Vimalabudhi Thero said. The monk said he had attended a meeting with the Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe, and had been promised that any villager who lost land would be properly compensated. According to government officials, new investment is urgently needed to ease the nation's debt repayments. Sri Lanka's foreign debt is estimated by its Central Bank to be about \$64 billion, with around \$8 billion owed to China.

Disquiet at the top

There is also opposition to the project from the country's own politicians, even those who back foreign investment. The former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who lost power to incumbent President Maithripala Sirisena in January 2015, led the plan to attract Chinese investment to the region.

This included construction of the new port and airport in Hambantota, which according to the current government is underperforming. During a meeting on January 10, just three days after the investment zone was announced, Rajapaksa told the Chinese ambassador that he believes agricultural land should not be handed out on long, 99-year leases.

Rajapaksa told the Chinese diplomat that the government should first use the 4,800 acres available for investment near the port, before looking for land elsewhere. "The disruption caused to the people of the area will be immense if 15,000 acres of land were to be acquired for this purpose. The government should fill the free port with investments first before opening more zones," he said in a statement. He also revealed in a twitter Q&A that the Chinese themselves are concerned about how the project will be implemented - but did not elaborate further. — Reuters



CAPE TOWN, WESTERN CAPE: Participants attend the first day of the Mining Indaba 2017 conference on February 6, 2017, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. — AP

S AFRICA GOVT, MINING INDUSTRY TENSIONS DOMINATE 'INDABA'

CAPE TOWN: South Africa has advertised it is "open for business" at the world's largest annual mining conference, but industry players worry regulatory confusion could prevent the country from cashing in on the bull years that may lie ahead.

After mineral resources minister Mosebenzi Zwane told the Mining Indaba in Cape Town that rising commodity prices marked the start of "a new spring", Neal Froneman, chief executive of the Sibanye mining company, said that "the investment appetite is very negative." Analysts and miners have decried a regulatory environment that they say has hit investment and forced industry and government to slug it out in court.

Sibanye is taking the government to court for about 26 million rand after one of its platinum mines was completely shut down following a fatal accident in September. Last year a court also said safety officers acted disproportionately when operations at an AngloGold Ashanti gold mine were suspended over violations in a single section of the mine. "When you end up closing an entire mine when you've got a localized problem, the economic damage of that is significant," said Chamber of Mines CEO Roger Baxter. But Zwane has insisted he will not compromise on safety standards and slammed mining companies for "threatening" his department with court action.

Minister chides industry

There were 73 deaths in South African mines last year, down slightly from 77 in 2015. "Courts should not be used as a tool to stifle debate and threaten government into taking positions," Zwane told journalists at the conference. "We'll take positions. We are here to govern. And we'll do exactly that." Speaking to AFP on the sidelines of the conference, his deputy was more diplomatic.

"We've got to be fair and reasonable," said Godfrey Oliphant. "If there's any citizen who feels that they were unreasonably stopped, they've got the right and recourse to come to the department or to take court action." Turning to the courts was the "last resort" for Sibanye, Froneman told AFP.

"You can engage so much and for so long. You can even make proposals as to a protocol for how these things must

work. When you receive no response, you are actually only left with no alternative but to take the issue regarding the damages you as a company are experiencing to court." It was not a knee-jerk reaction to one stoppage, but a series that had caused Sibanye "unnecessary damage and we're not going to tolerate it anymore".

Also looming is a rejig of the country's mining charter, the guiding document meant to transform the industry and address long-standing racial inequality in the sector by boosting black ownership. Industry representatives at the Indaba repeatedly said they had not been adequately consulted in the drafting of the charter. Not so, said Oliphant. "Consultation has been extensive," he stressed. This week a Johannesburg law firm took the issue to court, arguing the proposed charter be declared invalid.

Mining means jobs

Tension between the government and the mining industry - a key jobs provider - was palpable at the Indaba. The Chamber of Mines is not the only stakeholder in South Africa that is affected by the mining charter," Zwane said. "The majority of the 60 stakeholders that we have consulted with are very happy."

Meanwhile, amendments to key mining legislation have been stuck in parliament for four years. "This industry absolutely requires regulatory certainty," said Baxter. "Four years down the road is just too long. The industry cannot wait this long for these bits of legislation." The minister announced the latest version of charter will be published next month, while the long-awaited legislation should be passed come June.

Until it is, analysts say the uncertain regulatory situation could mean South Africa fails to benefit as markets pick up. "It's all stick and no carrot," said mining analyst Peter Leon. He said the government needed to start incentivizing the industry if it wanted to attract investors. "We need to move away from this obsession around regulation to one which is a more enabling environment." Mining contributes about eight percent to South Africa's GDP and accounts for some 400,000 direct jobs. The country has an unemployment rate of about 27 percent, a 13-year high. — AFP

HYUNDAI HEAVY SWINGS BACK

SEOUL: The world's biggest shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries made its first annual profit for three years in 2016, it said yesterday, after cutting thousands of jobs in an industry wide slump. Net income came to 682 billion won (\$595 million) last year, a turnaround from a loss of 1.36 trillion won in 2015, the South Korean company said in a regulatory filing.

"Cost reduction and increased productivity contributed to the turnaround, even when the global market remains sluggish", a company spokesman told AFP. But sales dropped 15 percent on-year to

39.32 trillion won. The company underwent a severe corporate restructuring last year which saw some 2,500 workers laid off, its board members' salaries cut as much as 50 percent and assets sold for cash.

It also gained from equity ties with Hyundai Oilbank Co, its refining unit, as its efforts to streamline its business portfolio also paid off. Hyundai Heavy shares rose 1.38 percent to close at 146,500 won. The firm's last full-year profit came in 2013. Hyundai Heavy said in November it will split its non-shipbuilding businesses into separate companies to

improve management efficiency.

It will spin off the non-core equipment and construction sectors from its mainstream activities including shipbuilding, offshore and industrial plants. South Korea's so-called "Big Three" shipbuilders Hyundai, Daewoo and Samsung Heavy Industries were once hailed as a major driver of the country's export-reliant economy-Asia's fourth-largest-before being forced since last year to shed thousands of jobs and assets to stay afloat. The trio racked up collective losses of 8.5 trillion won (\$7.2 billion) in 2015. — AFP



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm. — AP

BANKS LIFT EUROPE STOCKS AS BOND MARKET PRESSURE EASES

ALL EYES ON MERKEL/DRAGHI MEETING

LONDON: Stocks rose and yields fell on some of the euro zone's battered low-rated bonds yesterday as investors put aside the political risks that have dominated markets this week. In a difficult start to the year, investors are pondering the impact of a new US president, an unpredictable European electoral calendar and a potential winding-down of the central bank stimulus that has lifted risky assets across the globe. Rising oil prices and banking stocks pushed shares higher in Europe on a busy day of corporate earnings, while Asian stocks hit their highest in more than 18 months.

"The stabilization of the oil price after its recent wobbles, together with solid earnings, for example, Soc Gen today, is driving the positive sentiment," said Andy Sullivan, portfolio manager with GL Asset Management UK in London. The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.5 percent. French lender Societe Generale reported lower fourth-quarter net income that nonetheless beat analysts' forecasts and its shares added almost 3 percent. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 0.3 percent to their highest since July 2015, with Hong Kong, Taiwan and China among the region's best-performing markets. Japanese shares, however, fell 0.5 percent, a day before Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets US President Donald Trump.

Political risk

French 10-year government bond yields fell below 1 percent for the first time in two weeks and yields on Spanish and Italian debt fell even more sharply. Concern over the impact of elections this year in countries including France and Germany saw investors sell bonds of lower-rated euro zone countries earlier this week. However, yields, which move inversely to prices, started falling late on Wednesday and fell further yesterday.

"We're in an environment where political risk is pretty much at the forefront and we're not going to get any decisive news

on that for a number of days," said Orlando Green, European fixed income strategist at Credit Agricole. "If the market has moved in your direction, you have to ask, will it stay there? There is an element of people closing out of their positions and pausing for thought."

French yields dipped 4 bps to 0.97 percent. The premium investors demand to hold French rather than German debt hit its highest in four years on Wednesday, three months before the final round of a presidential election expected to include far-right, anti-euro candidate Marine Le Pen. A poll yesterday showed Le Pen winning the first round while two others said would lose the run-off.

Yields on German 10-year bonds, seen as among the world's safest assets, edged down 0.6 bps to 0.30 percent, meaning the French/German yield spread narrowed to 67 bps. Apart from political risks, bond investors are pondering the impact of the European Central Bank eventually winding down its bond-buying stimulus scheme, which has driven down borrowing costs in the bloc for the past two years. ECB President Mario Draghi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, bidding for re-election later this year, meet yesterday. A number of German officials have called on the ECB to unwind its monetary stimulus.

Euro dips

The euro fell 0.2 percent to \$1.0682 after hitting a two-week low of \$1.0640. The yen fell 0.4 percent to 112.35 per dollar, having earlier traded as strongly as 111.70. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, was fractionally higher on the day. The dollar fell on Wednesday as US Treasury yields fell to their lowest since mid-January. Investors are re-assessing how many interest rate rises the Federal Reserve will deliver and looking for clarity over whether Trump will make good on his campaign pledges for tax cuts and infrastructure spending. — Reuters

COCA-COLA PROFIT FALLS 55 PERCENT

ATLANTA: Coca-Cola's profit fell 55 percent in the most recent quarter, as the world's biggest beverage maker continues to restructure its business. The company, which Fanta, Sprite and Smartwater, is in the process of selling off its bottling businesses to independent companies that will bottle its sodas and other drinks. Instead of bottling, Coca-Cola is focusing on marketing its brands and selling syrups and concentrates to the bottlers. The change means less revenue for Coca-Cola, but fewer costs.

Coca-Cola earned \$550 million, or 13 cents per share, for the three months ending Dec 31. A year ago the Atlanta-based company earned \$1.24 billion, or 28 cents per share. Earnings, adjusted for one-time costs and asset impairment costs, came to 37 cents per share. That's a penny better than what analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research anticipated.

Total revenue dropped to \$9.41 billion from \$10 billion, dragged down partly by a strong dollar, acquisitions and divestitures. Still, this managed to beat the \$9.1 billion in revenue that analysts surveyed by Zacks were calling for. Global sales volume dipped 1 percent, with a 4 percent drop in Latin America and 1 percent increases in both North America and Europe.

Shares of Coca-Cola Co. slipped nearly 2 percent to \$41.23 in premarket trading yesterday. Coca-Cola's No 2 executive, James Quincey, is preparing to succeed CEO Muhtar Kent in May. Quincey is expected to oversee a critical period of transformation for Coke, which has also been cutting costs to please shareholders. Rival PepsiCo Inc will report its results next week. — AP

NEW ZEALAND INTEREST RATES AT RECORD LOW

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's central bank left its base rate at a record low of 1.75 percent yesterday and indicated it would stay there "for a considerable period", barring any global shocks. The South Pacific nation's inflation rate hit the Reserve Bank's 1.0-3.0 percent target for the first time in two years during the final quarter of 2016 and governor Graeme Wheeler said the economic outlook was positive.

While he had concerns about increased geo-political uncertainty and the stubbornly high New Zealand dollar, Wheeler saw no need for an imminent rate move. "Longer-term inflation expectations remain well-anchored at around two percent," he said. "Monetary policy will remain accommodative for a considerable period. "Numerous uncertainties remain, particularly in respect of the international outlook, and policy may need to adjust accordingly."

The bank's hands-off approach was widely anticipated and NAB economist David de Garis said Wheeler's dovish tone had reduced expectations of a rate rise any time soon. "This morning's RBNZ OCR (official cash rate) track has it steady not only through this year and next and not hiking until 2019," he said in a note to clients. — AFP

VIJAY MALLYA SACKED FROM UNITED BREWERIES BOARD

MUMBAI: India's United Breweries has fired indebted beer baron Vijay Mallya from his non-executive chairman role following an order from the country's market regulator, it said in a stock exchange filing late Wednesday. The UB Group said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred Mallya from holding key managerial roles in any listed company.

Mallya, who made Kingfisher beer a global brand, was known for his flamboyant lifestyle and styled himself as the "King of Good Times". He owes banks at least \$1 billion, fleeing to Britain last

March as pressure grew from banks to pay back the loans. Mallya has repeatedly failed to appear before investigators at the Enforcement Directorate, a financial crimes agency, who suspect him of misusing funds loaned by a state bank.

A UB representative did not immediately respond to an AFP email seeking comment. The company's decision follows Karnataka high court issuing a 'winding-up' order on United Breweries Holdings Ltd (UBHL), the firm through which Mallya controlled his once-sprawling business empire, directing an official liquidator to take over

all assets. In January, an Indian court ordered a consortium of banks to start the process of recovering roughly \$1 billion in loans from Mallya, who refuses to return home from exile. Mallya, who remains a part-owner of the Force India Formula One team, has come to personify India's problems with bad debts that are piling up on the balance sheets of banks. The previous central bank governor, Raghuram Rajan, had made cleaning up the banking sector's mountain of soured loans—defined as in default or close to it—a priority of his tenure. — AFP

INTEL CEO JOINS TRUMP TO TOUT US CHIP FACTORY

WASHINGTON: US tech giant Intel unveiled plans Wednesday for a \$7 billion chip factory in Arizona, in an announcement at the White House with US President Donald Trump. While Trump appeared to take credit for the plan, Intel called the investment an "update" of a 2011 plan to invest \$5 billion for the same facility in the southeastern US state.

An Intel spokesman said the initial plan had not been completed due to lack of demand, and that Wednesday's move represented a "new" investment of \$7 billion. It marked the latest in a string of such announcements since Trump began pressing companies to create more American jobs and reverse the trend of offshore manufacturing.

"Intel is very proud of the fact that the majority of our manufacturing is here in the US and the majority of our research and development is here in the US, while over 80 percent of what we sell is sold outside of the US," chief executive Brian Krzanich said at a White House event with Trump. The company said the Arizona plant would produce "the most advanced 7-nanometer semiconductor chips on the planet" and directly lead to 3,000 "high-tech, high-wage jobs" at Intel.

With the indirect impact, the company said an estimated 10,000 jobs would result from the factory. Trump said Krzanich "called a few weeks ago and said, we want to do a very big announcement having to do with our country, but also having to do mostly with Arizona, and the jobs and the great technology that will be produced."

He called the investment a "great thing for Arizona," and added, "it's a lot of jobs." Krzanich acknowledged that "we've been working on this factory for several years" but "held off actually doing this investment until now." Asked if the decision came in response to the new president's actions, he said, "It's really in support of the tax and regulatory policies that we see the administration pushing forward that really make it advantageous to do manufacturing in the US."

The announcement came in spite of a deepening rift between the new Trump administration and the tech sector over a White House order barring entry to refugees and nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries. Intel joined a group of over 120 tech and other firms backing a court challenge to the travel ban—which is currently suspended. Tech companies have fiercely opposed the move, saying it would hurt the effort to hire and retain skilled employees from around the world and potentially break up families. The sector relies heavily on foreign-born scientists and engineers. — AFP



BRANDON, Florida: In this Jan 12, 2015, file photo, Toyota Corollas sit on a dealership lot. —AP

JAPAN FIRM DROPS MEXICO PLANT PLAN OVER TRUMP WARNINGS

ECONOMISTS WARNED MORE FIRMS COULD FOLLOW SUIT

TOKYO: A top Japanese company said yesterday it had dropped Mexico as a possible location for a new auto parts factory after Donald Trump rapped Toyota over a plant in the country—and economists warned more firms could follow suit. The decision by Nikkei 225-listed Nisshinbo Holdings marked the first time a Japanese company has publicly abandoned a Mexican facility in response to the new US president's protectionist outbursts, the Nikkei business daily said yesterday.

The announcement comes as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heads to Washington for meetings with Trump aimed at cementing ties and underscoring Japan's commitment to investing in the US. Mexico was among the locations being considered for Nisshinbo's vehicle brake parts plant, reportedly worth up to 10 billion yen (\$89 million).

The firm is a leading maker of friction-reducing brake parts with about a 15 percent share of the global market. Nisshinbo, which also makes a range of other products including electronics and textiles, already has a US plant and

is looking for a new facility to service the North American market. Nisshinbo's shares sank more than four percent to close at 1,040 yen (\$9) yesterday.

Company spokesman Kiyohiro Kida said Mexico had been at the top of the list for possible sites. "Mexico was the strongest candidate but we have taken a step back," he told AFP, confirming the decision was a response to Trump's trade policies. His comments came a day after Nisshinbo's executive managing officer Takayoshi Okugawa told an earnings briefing that the country was off the list. "Regarding Mexico, we've dropped it," he said. "We have to pick a site other than Mexico."

'Similar moves'

The US is the most likely alternative for the plant, the Nikkei said, as Trump moves to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

More Japanese companies could follow Nisshinbo's example and avoid Mexico, said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute in Tokyo. "It's likely that we could see

similar moves" by other firms, he told AFP. Trump's policies "could affect both companies which already have plants (in Mexico) and those planning to invest there," he added.

The tycoon has assailed Japan for allegedly devaluing the yen to boost exports, grouping it with other countries he says are taking "advantage" of the United States. Trump has targeted Toyota with strong criticism of its ongoing project to build a new factory in Mexico, threatening it with painful tariffs if its goes ahead. The Japanese auto giant has stuck to its Mexico plans, but said last month it intends to invest \$600 million and create 400 jobs at one of its US plants.

Ford last month abruptly cancelled plans to build a new factory in Mexico. But Japan Inc's possible move away from Mexico would have "little impact" on the economy given its relatively small presence in the nation, said Takashi Shiono, an economist at Credit Suisse in Tokyo. Mexico has only about a 0.5 percent share of Japan's outstanding foreign direct investment, according to official data. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump speaks following a meeting with Intel CEO Brian Krzanich in the Oval Office of the White House. — AP



ST PAUL: Chicago Blackhawks' Ryan Hartman (38) controls the puck against Minnesota Wild's Jared Spurgeon (46) in the second period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday. — AP

NHL

TOEWS' GOAL IN OT LIFTS BLACKHAWKS OVER WILD

ST PAUL: Sure, no game is a must-win this time of year. Still, the Chicago Blackhawks couldn't afford to slip much further behind the Minnesota Wild. Jonathan Toews scored a power-play goal 3:09 into overtime to lift the Blackhawks over the Western Conference-leading Wild 4-3 on Wednesday night. The Blackhawks closed within five points of Minnesota for the conference lead. The Wild also have two games in hand, and the Blackhawks admitted feeling a sense of urgency heading

into the game. "There was some added meaning to it, for our team anyways," said Toews, who also had two assists. Ryan Suter was called for holding midway through the overtime, and with the man advantage, Toews slipped a rebound between the skates of goalie Darcy Kuemper. "It was a huge win," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "We had to win the game to keep us within striking distance."

Corey Crawford stopped 35 of 38 shots as the Blackhawks snapped an eight-game regular-season losing streak against Minnesota. He came up huge in the overtime, stonewalling Mikael Granlund alone in the slot and stopping Suter on a breakaway. "We had the opportunities, but when they needed a save, they got it," Minnesota coach Bruce Boudreau said. "Usually when you don't score on your great opportunities, bad things happen."

The Wild salvaged a point when Erik Haula scored with 3:03 left in the third period to tie it at 3. Defenseman Marco Scandella carried the puck from behind his own blue line deep into the Chicago zone, then flipped a backhanded pass across the goalmouth, where Haula was waiting to tip it past Crawford.

"It was kind of a playoff game environment, a little bit," Haula said. Nino Niederreiter had two assists for the Wild, and Kuemper made 28 saves. Minnesota closed a four-game Canadian road trip on Tuesday night at Winnipeg, while the Blackhawks had been resting since a Feb. 4 game at Dallas. Perhaps feeling the effect of that late-night flight, the Wild looked sluggish early as Chicago raced to a 2-0 lead.

EASY TRAP-IN

Ryan Hartman started the scoring at 10:54 of the first period when Vinnie Hinostroza carried the puck deep into the Minnesota zone and centered to the slot, where Hartman one-timed it past Kuemper.

Chicago doubled its lead 1:09 into the second period as Toews found Nick Schmaltz alone in front of the net for an easy tap-in. Minnesota got one back 37 seconds later when Jared Spurgeon finished a rush with a wrist shot over Crawford's left shoulder.

That goal energized the Wild, who outshot the Blackhawks 19-10 in the second period and dominated the next 15 minutes of play. Zach Parise tied it at 7:15 of the second on a disputed goal. Charlie Coyle threw the puck toward the net, and Parise, with his back to the goal, tipped it between his legs. Crawford made the save, but Parise spun around and chipped the rebound over the goalie. — AP

CONNOLLY REDISCOVERS GAME, REVITALIZES CAREER WITH CAPITALS

ARLINGTON: Hockey is easy again for Brett Connolly. Once a blue chip prospect, it looked awfully difficult for Connolly during his first four NHL seasons. He couldn't produce like he did in junior ranks or the minors, was traded and hit bottom when the Boston Bruins decided not to extend a qualifying offer last summer. That move allowed him to become a free agent.

The Washington Capitals expressed interest in Connolly right away and signed him to a bargain-base-ment \$850,000, one-year deal on the first day of free agency. That looks like a steal now with Connolly on the verge of tying his career high in goals and on pace to shatter his career high in points.

"This game is all about confidence," Connolly said Wednesday. "When you're confident, you're a completely different player and when you don't you're not a good player. It's just a matter of finding that."

It's safe to say Connolly found it. Linemates Lars Eller, another newcomer, and Andre Burakovsky have been Connolly's compass on his journey to being a productive NHL player this season. After being healthy-scratched 14 times in the first half of the season, the 24-year-old has become a mainstay in Washington's lineup and has six points in his past four games.

Shaking off the frustration that mounted during unsuccessful stints with the Tampa Bay Lightning and Bruins, along with the signer's remorse that came with sitting so much early this season, Connolly finally looks like the player who was the sixth overall pick in 2010 and considered a future star.

"There's a lot of pressure on guys when they go top five, six overall," said teammate and friend Tom Wilson, who works out with Connolly during the summer in Toronto and was also a first-round pick. "They come into the NHL, they're expected to produce. He has some tough times early on in his career, a little adversity, moved a couple times and it's awesome to see him kind of come in here and find his stride."

TOO MUCH TOO EARLY

Connolly has 11 goals and five assists in 40 games, so he's not overshadowing Alex Ovechkin or Nicklas Backstrom, but the Campbell River, British Columbia, native is part of the league-leading Capitals' elite scoring depth. He fit into an established core right away, didn't complain about not playing and is being rewarded for the patience that was lacking earlier in his career.

Scoring too much in his first NHL camp for the Lightning to send him back to the Western Hockey League, Connolly concedes now he might not have been ready for that pressure at age 19. He did fine in the American Hockey 8League but never found his scoring touch in Tampa, and Capitals coach Barry Trotz believes Connolly was given "too much too early" and was unfairly labeled a bust before he was given a chance.

"He's a very good hockey player," Trotz said. "In the right situation and also the right timeframe - his timeframe, not everybody else's timeframe - he can be a real good hockey player. I think that's what you're seeing in the maturity of a Brett Connolly, the confidence that he's starting to gain with us and he's been a real good contributor for us." That recaptured confidence came from playing and the instant chemistry that developed between Connolly, Eller and Burakovsky. Connolly said he has never felt more comfortable with any linemates and sensed something click right away playing with skilled linemates.

But he also made the arrangement work. Connolly is a "big winger with good skating ability, just has a good hockey sense," Eller said. "He's got a good sense and he can pass, he can shoot. He holds onto the puck well. He's got good poise. He's got really good poise."

That poise on the ice was always there, but the patience needed to endure criticism and not give up on hockey came over time for Connolly, who is proving to be one of the best values in the league.

"I'm definitely getting an opportunity now and taking advantage of it," Connolly said. "It's just a matter of sticking with it. It can be hard sometimes. You've got to have thick skin to play this game. I'm happy I stuck with it. To be doing as well as I am now, I want to keep going." — AP

NHL result/standings

Chicago 4 Minnesota 3 (OT).

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Minnesota	35	12	6	179	125	76
Chicago	33	17	5	156	144	71
Nashville	26	19	8	146	137	60
St. Louis	27	22	5	155	162	59
Winnipeg	25	27	4	163	176	54
Dallas	21	23	10	148	172	52
Colorado	15	33	2	103	168	32

Pacific Division

San Jose	33	17	4	148	126	70
Anaheim	28	17	10	142	139	66
Edmonton	29	18	8	156	141	66
Calgary	28	25	3	149	159	59
Los Angeles	27	23	4	132	133	58
Vancouver	23	24	6	125	154	52
Arizona	17	28	6	116	161	40

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal	30	17	8	158	138	68
Ottawa	27	18	6	137	141	60
Toronto	25	17	10	163	156	60
Boston	26	23	6	143	149	58
Florida	23	19	10	124	143	56
Buffalo	22	21	10	131	149	54
Detroit	22	21	10	134	155	54
Tampa Bay	24	24	6	149	157	54

Metropolitan Division

Washington	37	11	6	180	114	80
Columbus	34	13	5	173	129	73
Pittsburgh	33	13	6	186	150	72
NY Rangers	34	18	1	181	140	69
Philadelphia	26	21	7	144	164	59
NY Islanders	23	18	10	153	153	56
New Jersey	23	21	10	127	153	56
Carolina	24	21	7	138	151	55

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

GOLF

I'LL NEVER 'FEEL GREAT' AGAIN: WOODS

DUBAI: Tiger Woods has admitted the combined toll of multiple operations on his battered body means he doesn't think he "will ever feel great" again.

But the former world number one said he hoped to be able to compete for titles and majors in the future, in an interview for Dubai magazine Vision. "I feel good, but not great," said Woods, 41. "Granted, I don't think I'll ever feel great because it's three back surgeries, four knee operations." The 14-time major-winner returned from a 16-month injury lay-off in December and has slumped to 674 in the world rankings. "I am always going to be a little bit sore, it's just the way it is. But as long as I can function and function at a good enough level then I'm fine with that," he said.

Woods made an ill-fated attempt to play in the

European Tour's Dubai Desert Classic last week, pulling out with back spasms after a birdie-free first-round 77 left him 13 shots off the lead.

Woods had missed the cut a week earlier at his first US PGA tour event of the year at Torrey Pines.

He is entered for next week's tournament at Riviera as he tries to recover form and fitness before a tilt at the season's first major, the Masters in Augusta in early April.

"The whole plan was to get my body, mind and spirit ready for that first full week in April," said the 14-time major winner. "You know, I've done it (won at Augusta) four times and I'd love to do it a fifth." Woods said he would carry on as long as he felt capable of winning, after a painful rehabilitation.

"There were a lot of times I didn't think I was

going to make it back. It was tough, it was more than brutal," he said. Woods, who has not won since 2013 and whose last major victory came in 2008, said golf was becoming a different game with the power of the "kids" dominating the world rankings, such as Jason Day, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy.

"This is the changing of the guard. All these guys can move it," he said. "It wasn't important to hit the ball hard, it was more important to hit the ball flush, but now these kids tee it up and just go after it." But he still believes he can win again. "My generation is getting older, but if I'm teeing up the goal's to win it," said Woods.

"That doesn't change if I'm injured, coming off an injury, playing well or I'm playing poorly. If I'm in the event, it's to win the event." —AFP



MELBOURNE: Bolt All Stars Captain Usain Bolt of Jamaica speaks with Australian athlete Michelle Jenneke during the Nitro Athletics meet in Melbourne yesterday. —AFP

ATHLETICS

BOLT'S NITRO SHOW RUNS INTO CONTROVERSY

MELBOURNE: Usain Bolt led his All-Stars to victory in the second Nitro team athletics event yesterday but it was mired in controversy with Australia docked points.

Needing only to take the baton around the track in the mixed 4x100m relay, Australia blew their chance to top the night in the finale of the new concept at Melbourne's Lakeside Stadium.

Jack Hale and Fabrice Lapierre botched the handover from second to third leg and Australia were disqualified.

After some initial confusion, Australia was given a score of -10, rather than the 40 points teams receive for finishing sixth.

As a result, the Bolt All-Stars—who won the race with Bolt running the third leg—finished with 930 points to Australia's 895. Bolt, the world's fastest man, told reporters he was initially under the impression Australia had received 40 points for finishing last, regardless of their indiscretion, and vowed to protest.

But meet officials reviewed the decision and ruled that a disqualification was appropriate.

"I don't know what happened," the world record holder at 100m and 200m said. "I've got to talk to the organisers and figure it out, but I'm sure we won the night."

In a bid to sell the concept globally, Bolt is fronting the All-Stars—including athletes from Jamaica, the US and Kenya—against teams representing Australia, England, New Zealand, Japan and China in the inaugural three-night event.

The All-Stars won last Saturday and after a slow start yesterday came through again. "I don't like the fact that we're leaving it that late," the Jamaican sprinter said. The 30-year-old eight-time Olympic gold medallist suggested he might compete in more than one event in the final of the series this Saturday.

"I think a few of the guys will have to double up on Saturday. I'll probably have to double up." But Bolt said he was feeling good about his own form, despite never having run competitively before at this time of year. —AFP

WINTER OLYMPICS

YUNA KIM REVEALS OLYMPIC TORCH IN COUNTDOWN TO 2018

GANGNEUNG: The one-year countdown to the Pyeongchang Games began yesterday with Yuna Kim revealing the Olympic torch and organizers opening online ticket reservations.

South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn and an International Olympic Committee delegation led by Gunilla Lindberg, who heads the IOC's coordination commission for the games, also attended the ceremony in Gangneung, which will host the ice sports events next year.

"I am convinced that the Pyeongchang Olympics will be a success," Hwang said in a speech at the ceremony. "I believe in the great strength of our people who have successfully hosted international events like the 1988 Olympics and 2002 World Cup."

Kim, a figure skating gold medalist who is perhaps the country's most popular sports personality even in retirement, carried the white-and-gold Olympic torch onto a stage built over ice as a group of pop singers sang "We Are the Champions," highlighting an event that also included a video message from IOC President Thomas Bach.

"It is my great pleasure to invite the national Olympic committees of the world and their athletes to participate in the Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018," Bach said in the message.

Hwang has served as the country's acting head of state since December when President Park Geun-hye's powers were suspended after lawmakers voted to impeach her over a corruption scandal. He told organizers in a meeting earlier in the day that government is ready to invest "every reliable resource" to build buzz for the games and ensure the safety of athletes and spectators.

With preparations entering the last phases, the participation of North Korea and Russia have emerged as major issues ahead of next year's games.

Relations between the two Koreas have worsened since North Korea con-

ducted two nuclear tests and a string of rocket launches last year as it continues to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Russian athletes have been caught up in a scandal following allegations of state-sponsored doping around the time of the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Lee Hee-beom, Pyeongchang's organizing head, expressed hopes to see athletes from both countries at the games.

"Every country and every athlete who loves peace has a right and obligation to participate in the Olympics," Lee said. "North Korea is no exception. We are making preparations for the possibility that North Korea participates in the games."

The Pyeongchang Games will mark the second time the Olympics have been staged in South Korea, which also hosted the 1988 Games in Seoul.

This time, organizers have had to overcome delays, local conflicts regarding venue constructions and difficulties attracting domestic sponsorships

before putting preparations on track.

Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the 12 competition venues in Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, including six new facilities that organizers say are about 96 percent complete on average.

The athletes and media villages, an international broadcasting center, and a pentagonal stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies are expected to be finished by September.

The political turmoil surrounding President Park has been a massive distraction that slowed organizers' efforts to stoke lukewarm public interest, and also rattled the country's ministry of culture and sports, which oversees the Olympic preparations.

Lee said that the recent political situation "to a degree" negatively affected preparations for the games, but said such impact could be overcome with more help from government organizations and the business community. —AP



GANGNEUNG: Figure skating Olympics gold medalist Yuna Kim who is an honorary ambassador for the 2018 Winter Olympics poses for a photo during a ticket sales launch event for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics at Gangneung Hockey Center in Gangneung, South Korea, yesterday. Kim was unveiling the Olympic torch and online ticket reservations were opened to mark the one-year countdown to the Winter Games in Pyeongchang. — AP



Sebastien Ogier looking to exceed expectations

Sebastien Ogier believes a podium at this week's Rally Sweden to follow up last month's Rallye Monte-Carlo victory would exceed his pre-season expectations. The four-time world champion was a shock winner in the French Alps after hardly any testing in M-Sport's new Ford Fiesta World Rally Car. However, he warned against reading too much into that suc-

cess heading into the season's only pure winter encounter.

"We had a dream start to the season at Rallye Monte-Carlo, but we can't let that distract us. There is still a lot of work to do and Rally Sweden is a truly unique event," he said. "If we can secure another podium result it would be a fantastic start and surpass all of our expectations this early



SEBASTIEN OGIER READY FOR SWEDEN RALLY

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in the year. I see no reason why we can't be quietly confident of that, but at the same time it will require a lot of hard work behind the scenes."

Ogier's fourth consecutive Monte-Carlo win put the Frenchman in a familiar position at the head of the FIA World Rally Championship after the first of 13 rounds. But he believes the tricky Monte conditions, where guile and clever driving counted for more than pure pace, means it cannot be used as a reliable form guide for the new-era 2017 World Rally Cars. "We've not yet seen everyone's true potential and I'm expecting a very exciting and very close-fought Rally Sweden," he said.

The Frenchman added two more days

of snow and ice testing last week to the limited time he has enjoyed in the Fiesta after only signing for the British M-Sport squad in December. "We had a really good test. Conditions were very good, very cold with icy roads and I hope we will have the same on the rally. It was my third and fourth days in the car on snow after two days in December, so I feel much more prepared now than I was before Monte-Carlo," he told WRC Live. "The feeling was very good but it's hard to judge the performance as everything is new. Sweden is one of the highlights of the season, the speeds on snow and ice are incredible. That means you have to be very precise with little margin for error," he added.



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CRICKET

KOHLI, VIJAY TONS PUT INDIA IN CONTROL OVER BANGLADESH

HYDERABAD: Virat Kohli scored his 16th test century and Murali Vijay his 15th as India reached 356-3 at stumps yesterday on the first day of the one-off cricket test against Bangladesh.

Skipper Kohli was unbeaten on 111 runs, while Ajinkya Rahane was not out 45 after India won the toss. After the tea break, Kohli and Vijay (108) added 28 runs to their third-wicket partnership, putting on 54 runs in total.

Vijay brought up his century off 149 balls, including 11 fours and a six. At the other end, Kohli was in cruise mode as he notched up his half-century off 70 balls. But Vijay was out soon out, bowled round his legs by Taijul Islam (1-50) in the 64th over. Like other batsmen before him, Rahane was comfortable at the crease as the Bangladesh attack posed little threat on a first-day pitch.

Kohli and Rahane put on 50 off 97

balls, and later brought up the 100-run stand off 138 balls. Vijay shared a 178-run second-wicket partnership with Cheteshwar Pujara after Bangladesh snared a wicket in the first over of their first test on Indian soil.

Opener Lokesh Rahul (2) was bowled after getting an inside edge off Taskin Ahmed. Vijay had a reprieve when Mehedi Hasan missed a run-out chance at the non-striker's end in the 19th over and the second-wicket pair lifted the total to 180 in the 51st over before Pujara was caught behind off Hasan (1-70).

Pujara faced 177 balls for his 83, including nine boundaries. He broke Chandu Bordes's long-standing record of most first-class runs (1,604) in an Indian season. "We both think in the same way, and in the middle we are each other's company," Vijay said of his

partnership with Pujara. "And Virat (Kohli) has been in fantastic touch and taken his game to a different level. I thought 340 would be a good score at the end, but he made the extra 10-20 runs possible."

Ahmed said his teammates lamented the state of the pitch. "It was a good wicket to bat on," Ahmed said. "In the first hour of play, there was some movement. But afterwards it was easy for the batsmen."

India surprisingly went in with three pacemen and with two spinners in the bowling attack, recalling Bhuvneshwar Kumar for the injured Amit Mishra.

Also, Karun Nair made way for Rahane. Nair became only the second Indian batsman to score a triple century in test cricket when he posted 303 in Chennai against England, but was left out for the Hyderabad match. —AP

SCOREBOARD

HYDERABAD, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the one-off Test between India and Bangladesh in Hyderabad yesterday:

India	
L. Rahul b T. Ahmed	2
M. Vijay b T. Islam	108
C. Pujara c M. Rahim b M. Hasan	83
V. Kohli not out	111
A. Rahane not out	45
Extras (lb 5, nb 2)	7
Total (3 wickets; 90 overs)	356
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Rahul), 2-180 (Pujara), 3-234 (Vijay)	
Bowling: T. Ahmed 16-2-58-1, K.I. Rabbi 17-1-91-0, S. Sarkar 1-0-4-0, M. Hasan 20-0-93-1, Shakib Al Hasan 13-3-45-0, T. Islam 20-4-50-1	
Still to bat: W. Saha, R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, B. Kumar, U. Yadav, I. Sharma	
Bangladesh: T. Iqbal, S. Sarkar, M. Haque, Mahmudullah, Shakib Al Hasan, M. Rahim (capt), S. Rahman, M. Hasan, T. Islam, T. Ahmed, K.I. Rabbi.	

BASKETBALL

CLIPPERS BEAT KNICKS, CHARLES OAKLEY EJECTED

NEW YORK: Blake Griffin scored a season-high 32 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat New York 119-115 on Wednesday after former Knicks star Charles Oakley was ejected from Madison Square Garden in the first quarter. DeAndre Jordan added 28 points and 15 rebounds for the Clippers, who rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to end a three-game losing streak. Carmelo Anthony had 28 points and Kristaps Porzingis 27 on a night there was plenty of fight from the Knicks - especially Oakley. The rugged power forward was removed after an altercation with arena security near the seat of Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan. Anthony played well the day after Phil Jackson took another dig at him on Twitter by referencing an article that was critical of the forward. Coach Jeff Hornacek acknowledged it may have been a distraction but one he expected the Knicks to play through, and they had a chance to tie before Anthony missed a 3-pointer down 118-115. Griffin then put it away with a free throw with 5.9 seconds left.

HEAT 106, BUCKS 88

Hassan Whiteside had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and the Miami Heat extended their winning streak to 12 games with a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks. A lackluster night for the Bucks got worse with 6:34 left in the third quarter when Jabari Parker, part of the team's young core, left the game with a sprained left knee. Parker hurt the same knee two seasons ago. James Johnson added 20 points for the Heat. All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 22 points and eight rebounds, while Parker finished with 14 points.

CAVALIERS 132, PACERS 117

Kyle Korver scored a season-high 29 points and LeBron James gave the Cleveland Cavaliers a second-half energy boost, lifting the defending champs over the Indiana Pacers. Cleveland has won the first three games on its four-game road trip and six of its last seven overall. James had 25 points, six rebounds and nine assists and Korver hit 8 of 9 3-pointers. Kyrie Irving had 29 points. C.J. Miles scored 23 points to lead the Pacers, who ended a season-best seven-game winning streak. Jeff Teague had 22 points and 14 assists.

KINGS 108, CELTICS 92

Darren Collison scored 25 points and the Sacramento Kings, playing without suspended All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins, snapped the Boston Celtics' seven-game winning streak. The Kings played an inspired second half, outscoring the Celtics 59-43. Ben McLemore finished with 17 points, Matt Barnes had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Willie Cauley-Stein also had 14 points. Anthony Tolliver finished with 11. Isaiah Thomas had 26 points and seven assists for the Celtics in the opener of their four-game road trip. Amir Johnson had 14 points and Al Horford and Marcus Smart each had 10. Boston shot 5 of 15 and was outscored Cousins was serving an automatic one-game suspension without pay after he picked up two more technical fouls Monday against Chicago, giving him an NBA-worst 16.

WARRIORS 123, BULLS 92

Kevin Durant responded from his worst game since joining the Warriors with 22 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and three steals, and Golden State beat the Chicago Bulls for a 138th straight regular-season game without consecutive defeats. Klay Thompson scored 28 points with six 3-pointers playing on his 27th birthday, Stephen Curry added 13 points and six rebounds and the Warriors had all five starters score in double figures for the fourth time. Golden State hasn't lost consecutive regular-season games since April 5 and 7, 2015, at San Antonio and New Orleans, during its championship season. This was the Warriors' eighth win following a loss this season and 17th in a row overall since those dates in '15. Robin Lopez had 17 points, 10 rebounds and four assists for the undermanned Bulls.

SPURS 111, 76ERS 103

Kawhi Leonard scored 32 points, Tony Parker added 18 and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Philadelphia 76ers. Jahlil Okafor had 20 points and eight rebounds, and Dario Saric also scored 20 for Philadelphia, which has lost five straight games. The Sixers were again without star center Joel Embiid. The rookie missed his sixth straight game because of a left knee contusion. Philadelphia is 13-18 with Embiid, 5-16 without him.

WIZARDS 114, NETS 110, OT

Bradley Beale scored 31 points, John Wall added 23 points and 12 assists, and Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Washington Wizards sent the Brooklyn Nets to their 11th straight loss. Jason Smith scored 15 points and Marcin Gortat added 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Wizards, who won for the eighth time in their last nine games. Bojan Bogdanovic led the Nets with 21 points. Brook Lopez, who finished with 20 points, fouled out with 1:20 left in regulation as Brooklyn dropped its 13th in a row at home.

HAWKS 117, NUGGETS 106

Dennis Schroder had 24 points and 10 assists and the Atlanta Hawks held off a late rally by Denver to beat the Nuggets. The Hawks never trailed and scored a season-high 72 points in the first half. The Nuggets cut Atlanta's lead to 109-105 on a basket by Gary Harris with less than three minutes remaining. Following a turnover by Atlanta's Kent Bazemore, Denver couldn't take advantage of the chance to pull closer. A three-point play by Paul Millsap, who had 23 points, pushed the lead back to seven points with 1:47 remaining. Schroder made two free throws for a 114-105 lead. Wilson Chandler led Denver with 24 points.

PISTONS 121, LAKERS 102

Andre Drummond had 24 points and 17 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons handed the Los Angeles Lakers one more loss at The Palace. It was the final scheduled appearance at The Palace for the Lakers, since the Pistons are set to move downtown next season. Some of Detroit's best memories in Auburn Hills came at



SACRAMENTO: Sacramento Kings center Willie Cauley-Stein, left, goes to the basket against Boston Celtics center Al Horford during the second half of an NBA basketball game, yesterday, in Sacramento, Calif. The Kings won 108-92. —AP

the expense of Los Angeles. The Lakers went 0-5 in NBA Finals games at this arena as Detroit took titles at their expense in 1989 and 2004. The Pistons led 56-50 at halftime and broke the game open in the third quarter. Detroit went on an 11-0 run to take an 82-61 lead. Jon Leuer scored 20 points for the Pistons, who have won four of five. Tobias Harris added 19 points. Julius Randle and Lou Williams scored 17 points apiece for the Lakers.

GRIZZLIES 110, SUNS 91

Mike Conley scored 23 points, Marc Gasol added 19 and the Memphis Grizzlies took advantage of the Phoenix Suns' poor shooting. Memphis held Phoenix to 33 percent shooting while six Grizzlies reached double figures. Memphis won its third straight and sixth in its last seven. Troy Daniels had 14 points for the Grizzlies, and JaMychal Green finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Devin Booker led the Suns with 20 points and Eric Bledsoe and Brandon Knight each finished with 16 for Phoenix, which lost its eighth in the last nine. Booker fouled Daniels as he made a 3-pointer with 1:10 left, and the pair exchanged words. It escalated into a skirmish between players on both teams. Six players received technical fouls and three players were ejected, including Daniels. —AP

JUVE EXTEND SERIE A LEAD, 9-MAN MILAN WIN

ROME: Champions Juventus extended their lead at the top of Serie A to seven points with a 2-0 win at Crotone as nine-man AC Milan stunned Bologna 1-0 on Wednesday.

Having seen their lead cut by Roma's 4-0 success over Fiorentina on Tuesday, second-half goals from Mario Mandzukic and Gonzalo Higuain kept Massimiliano Allegri's team on course for a sixth straight scudetto.

"We could have done better in the first half, especially in the speed of our passing, but overall we were organised, giving away little or nothing and approaching the game with lucidity and organisation," said Allegri.

"Roma and Napoli (third at nine points) are play-

ing well, but we're thinking about keeping our concentration on what we have to do. "Also tonight, for example, we didn't concede a goal and that's something positive."

The defeat leaves Crotone languishing in 19th place and nine points from safety. The Calabrians did not disgrace themselves and proved stubborn opposition for an hour. But they ran out of steam as Croatian Mandzukic converted a rebound following a header from Kwadwo Asamoah on 60 minutes.

With 16 minutes left, Higuain calmly slotted home when faced with only goalkeeper Alex Cordaz to beat. That took his season's tally to 16 league goals, just one shy of Serie A's top scorer Edin Dzeko, who bagged a brace for Roma on Tuesday.

"We knew it wouldn't be easy. We expected Crotone to get behind the ball, making it difficult to get forward and find the man between the lines," said Juve centre-back Leonardo Bonucci.

"In the first half our tempo was low, but as Allegri said, we did well to remain patient, like we did against Inter and as we will have to in the next few games."

Later on Wednesday, Milan ended a three-match losing streak in sensational fashion as Mario Pasalic tapped home from close range a cross from Gerard Deulofeu. But victory had seemed improbable after the dismissals of centre-back Gabriel Paletta in the first half and Slovak midfielder Juraj Kucka just before the hour mark. — AFP

RELIEF FOR CLAUDIO RANIERI AS NNDIDI ROCKET DOWNS DERBY

LEICESTER: Wilfred Ndidi put a smile back on Claudio Ranieri's face as the Leicester midfielder's first goal for the troubled champions inspired a 3-1 win over Derby in Wednesday's FA Cup fourth round replay.

Ranieri has found himself under fire after Leicester slumped to within one point of the Premier League relegation zone less than a year after their fairytale title triumph.

Amid claims Ranieri has lost the support of his squad, the Leicester boss was given a vote of confidence by the club's Thai owners on Tuesday. But Ranieri was in danger of an embarrassing Cup exit when second tier Derby forced extra-time at the King Power Stadium thanks to an Abdoul Camara equaliser after Andy King's opener.

Ndidi was Ranieri's saviour as the Nigeria international, who joined from Belgian club Genk in January, came off the bench to score with a superb long-range effort before Demarai Gray's solo strike clinched Leicester's first win in six matches.

Next up for Leicester in the Cup is a fifth round trip to third tier Millwall on February 18, but Ranieri knows ensuring top-flight survival is all that matters this season.

Having labelled Sunday's trip to fellow strugglers Swansea as a "big battle" it was no surprise Ranieri made 10 changes from last weekend's 3-0 defeat against Manchester United.

And with Derby boss Steve McClaren making eight changes for the promotion chasers, what could have been a blood and thunder cup tie was more akin to a reserve fixture for long periods. Ranieri's approval rating with Leicester's supporters remains high and they sung his name loudly in the opening stages.

CATALYST

However, his makeshift line-up laboured to reward the fans' good faith in a turgid first half.

On the brink of half-time, Jacob Butterfield almost put Derby ahead when his fierce low strike was turned away by Leicester goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler. Having struggled in the first half, Ranieri's side finally pieced together an incisive attack to take the lead in the 46th minute. Gray was the catalyst, cleverly working space for a cross to the far post, where Marc Albrighton nodded back across goal to King and the long-serving Leicester midfielder headed home from close-range. But when Derby's Camara smacked a free-kick straight at Zieler moments later, it foreshadowed more frustration for Leicester. In the 61st minute, Albrighton gave away a free-kick 25 yards out and this time Camara struck gold as the Guinea winger's shot took a wicked deflection off Ben Chilwell and flashed past the wrong-footed Zieler for his first ever Derby goal.

Late in normal time, Derby keeper Jonathan Mitchell somehow avoided a red card from referee Mike Jones despite stopping Ahmed Musa's raid by racing out of the area and blocking with his hand.

Derby had a lucky escape when Max Lowe chested the ball against his own post, but Leicester finally conjured a moment of inspiration to win it four minutes into extra-time.

Riyad Mahrez fed fellow substitute Ndidi who advanced unchecked before unleashing a blistering strike that beat Mitchell and went in off a post. Gray capped Leicester's encouraging finale in the 114th minute when he went on a mazy run through the Derby defence and guided a cool finish into the roof of the net. —AFP



DORTMUND: Hertha's Julian Schieber, right, and Dortmund's Marc Bartra challenge for the ball during the German Soccer Cup match between Borussia Dortmund and Hertha BSC Berlin in Dortmund, Germany, Wednesday. —AP

SOCCER

SALOMON KALOU'S MISS PUTS DORTMUND INTO CUP QUARTERS

BERLIN: Salomon Kalou's missed spot-kick put hosts Borussia Dortmund into the German Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday as Hertha Berlin lost 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The Ivory Coast striker gave Hertha a first-half lead in the third-round cup clash in Dortmund when he volleyed home on 27 minutes after the hosts made a slow start. But Dortmund raised the pace as Marco Reus equalised straight after the break while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had a goal disallowed and Ousmane Dembele fired wide for Borussia.

Dortmund kept up the pressure as the game went into extra time. However, they finished with 10 men when defender Sokratis was sent off in the 119th minute for dissent—just before the final whistle—as his back-chat earned him two yellow cards in quick succession. In the shoot-out, goalkeeper Roman Burki was Dortmund's hero. He saved Hertha's second penalty from Vladimir Darida and stopped Sami Allagui's fourth shot, although unluckily for Burki the ball still rolled into the net.

But Kalou blasted his effort over the bar to send Dortmund through. Before kick-off, Dortmund captain Marcel Schmelzer addressed home fans to criticise hooligans who attacked RB Leipzig supporters, including families, before Saturday's home league game.

The violence has shocked Germany. "We as players were, and are, very shocked at what happened," said Schmelzer in a video message. "On Saturday, people were harmed and we condemn that as a team. "We, the team, wish all victims a good and speedy recovery and apologise for what happened." Eintracht Frankfurt also reached the quarters with a 2-1 win at second-division Hanover 96 with goals from Israel defender Taleb Tawatha and striker Haris Seferovic.

Schalke saw off second-division Sandhausen with a 4-1 win thanks to three goals in a devastating seven minute-spell from Alessandro Schoepf, Daniel Caligiuri and Naldo.

Third-division minnows Sportfreunde Lotte, from near Osnabrueck, continued

their giant-killing run with a 2-0 win at home to second-tier 1860 Munich. A heavy snowfall had threatened to delay kick-off, but goals by midfielder Jaroslav Lindner and striker Kevin Freiberger sealed the win. It was another scalp for Lotte having already beaten top-tier clubs Werder Bremen and Bayer Leverkusen in the previous rounds. On Tuesday, holders Bayern Munich reached the quarter-finals for the 10th year in a row with a 1-0 win over Wolfsburg, thanks to some heroics from goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

Bayern were coasting at Munich's Allianz Arena after a well-taken goal from Douglas Costa on 17 minutes, but two superb saves from Neuer denied Yunus Malli. Borussia Moenchengladbach reached the quarters with a 2-0 success at second-division Greuther Fuerth thanks to goals by Oscar Wendt and a Thorgan Hazard penalty.

Hamburg brushed off poor Bundesliga form to win 2-0 at home to Cologne with goals by Gideon Jung and US striker Bobby Wood. —AFP

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Yuna Kim reveals Olympic torch in countdown to 2018 Games