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Twelve teams take part in fighting fire in Sharq



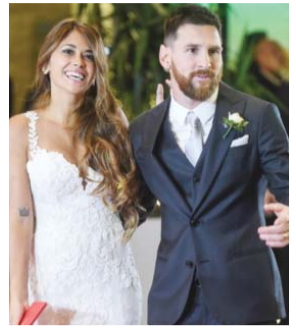
Can IS be ousted from Syria without Assad's help?



India launches new economic era with sales tax reform



Football star Messi weds childhood sweetheart



TURKEY REMAINS HOPEFUL OF SOLUTION TO GULF ROW

ERDOGAN MEETS QATAR DEFENSE MINISTER



Min 30°
Max 50°
High Tide 06:31 & 18:16
Low Tide 12:42

AMERICAN MUSLIMS DECRY TRUMP TRAVEL BAN

CHICAGO: American Muslim leaders Friday decried Donald Trump's rhetoric towards their community and predicted the president's travel ban would eventually be proven unlawful, a day after a weakened version of the measure came into force. A limited version of Trump's travel ban - temporarily barring refugees and visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen - took effect on Thursday, after the US Supreme Court allowed it to be enforced pending a full hearing in October.

The Trump administration says the ban is necessary to keep terrorists out of the country, but immigrant advocates charge that it illegally singles out Muslims - in line with campaign pledges by Trump to bar all Muslims from the country. Leaders of the Islamic Society of North America, which claims to be the largest Muslim advocacy group on the continent, slammed the ban as they gathered for a weekend convention in Chicago. "His statements and his rhetoric have caused a great amount of harm to the American Muslim community," said Azhar Azeez, president of the ISNA, which believes the ban will ultimately be proven unconstitutional. "This country has always been an inclusive nation, a tolerant nation," Azeez said, "and we as Americans have an obligation to make sure we uphold all these things."

Continued on Page 13



CHICAGO: People attend the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) annual convention on Friday. — AFP

ANKARA: Turkey yesterday said it remained hopeful of a solution to the Gulf crisis that has seen its ally Qatar diplomatically and economically isolated, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held talks with the emirate's defense minister. In Ankara's latest show of support for Qatar, Erdogan hosted Defense Minister Khaled bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah for talks at the headquarters of the ruling party in Ankara. The meeting came as Ankara, which has stood by Doha throughout the crisis, resists pressure to shutter a Turkish military base on the emirate that Qatar's neighbors want to see closed.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain announced on June 5 the suspension of political, economic and diplomatic ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremist groups. Doha denies the claims, a stance backed by Turkey which has sent hundreds of aid flights and even a cargo ship to bring food for its embattled ally. Ankara's attempts to mediate between the sides have so far come to nothing but after the talks in the Turkish capital presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said he was hopeful of a resolution. "There are some indications that a solution is possible. This is our general impression. We need to continue efforts to take measures that go in the right direction," he said.

Crucially, Ankara is also setting up a military base on the emirate that is set to give Turkey a new foothold in the Gulf, sending in a first deployment of two dozen troops. Kalin defended the base, saying its aim was ensuring "defense and security" in the region. Riyadh and its allies issued 13 demands to Qatar for resolving the crisis, including the closure of the Turkish military base and the Doha-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera.

Continued on Page 13



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AMIR CONGRATULATES IRAQIS ON RECAPTURING MOSUL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Thursday to Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on the recapture of Mosul City from the so-called Islamic State (IS).

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his hope that Allah Almighty would help Iraq restore stability and security across the country, and enable the Iraqi people to meet their aspirations. His Highness the Amir stressed Kuwait's stance rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

His Highness the Amir also affirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the international community to combat terrorism and dry up the sources of its finance, and the country's support for Iraq in all measures taken to counter terrorist acts aiming to tamper with its stability and security. In addition, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. Meanwhile, National Assembly



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi counterpart Dr Saleem Al-Jbouri on the recapturing of Mosul. In the cable, Ghanem voiced trust of the capability of Iraqis to carry on with safeguarding their country's stability. He also stressed Kuwait's stance rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. — KUNA

AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS VISA CONDITIONS TO TRAVEL TO FRANCE

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: As the summer travel season approaches, the French Embassy to Kuwait held a press conference on Thursday to highlight the visa procedures for travelers to France this summer in order to help them avoid delays or rejections. Capago International has been mandated by the French Embassy in Kuwait to process all applications for Schengen visas by Kuwaiti nationals and permanent residents wishing to visit France and French overseas territories.

"25,000 visas have been issued since the beginning of 2017," French Ambassador Christian Nakhla said. "The percentage of rejected applications reached less than one percent for Kuwaitis and two percent for expats. We want Kuwaitis, non-Kuwaitis and even bedoons to be excited about traveling to France and be sure that the visa will be ready for them without any complications." During the summer season,

travelers used to take appointments by calling the embassy, but now, people do not need to book an appointment anymore to apply for a visa to France. "We now work on a first come first serve basis," Nakhla added. "Travelers should refer to the indicative waiting time that is displayed on our Instagram's account where they can know when is the best time for them to apply for their visa. The waiting time is updated on a weekly basis, where red means long wait, while green indicates the best time to apply from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm."

About the procedures, the ambassador confirmed that the tickets are obligatory to get a French visa to make sure that France is the single or main destination. If the main destination in Schengen is not determined, the point of entry into the Schengen area becomes France by default. The ambassador added that the hotel reservation is not a necessary condition anymore. The visa

application only requires the passport, ticket, insurance and two passport size photos, he explained.

For housemaids, Nakhla pointed out that the maids must travel with the sponsor. "We accept the visa for a maid if she is working for the family for more than one year, and the number of servants should be proportional to the number of family members. It looks suspicious if one person is traveling with three maids," he said. After an application for Schengen visa has been submitted, processing normally takes less than 48 hours if the applicant is a Kuwaiti national or up to 15 days if the applicant has a different nationality to receive the necessary clearances. "Travelers may receive a short message on their phone to know that their visa is ready or they can receive their passport through DHL delivered to their homes," he said.

For Kuwaitis who have the new electronic passport but they have the Schengen visa for



KUWAIT: French Ambassador Christian Nakhla speaks during a press conference on Thursday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

France in their old one, Nakhla explained that they should travel with both the old passport that contains the valid visa and the new one. The ambassador further noted that France is the world's top tourist destination, with more than 80 million tourists, which shows why France takes all the security measures.



National Guard Chief Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah



KNG's Deputy Chief Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

KUWAIT: National Guard Chief Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah lauded yesterday the sacrifices and efforts of the National Guard's members in serving Kuwait for 50 years. Kuwait National Guard (KNG) had exerted great efforts in defending the country against the Iraqi Invasion in 1990, said Sheikh Salem in a special publication to celebrate KNG's golden jubilee.

Meanwhile, KNG's Deputy Chief Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said

the National Guard had prominently developed on all levels over the years. Those include administrative services, security, sports, and healthcare, he added. The publication presents the efforts and work of KNG from 1967 to 2017 and its establishment history during the era of former Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It also tells the efforts of KNG founder and Chief Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah in developing the military body. — KUNA



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson meets with Kuwaiti Minister for Cabinet Affairs Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah meets with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

EU REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF KUWAIT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE GULF CRISIS

BRUSSELS: The European Union (EU) on Friday reiterated 'full support' to Kuwaiti efforts to put an end to the Gulf crisis within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This came in a joint statement issued following talks between EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in Dubrovnik in Croatia.

"[Mogherini] expressed the EU's full support for the efforts of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait (Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah) to heal the rift in relations between some Gulf countries and reduce tension in the region as a whole," said the statement. During the meeting, which was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi, they discussed the latest developments of the

Gulf crisis and the perspectives for overcoming current tensions, according to the statement.

Mogherini and Sheikh Mohammad "expect all parties involved to reduce tension and to engage urgently in a dialogue to resolve their differences," it added. They reiterated the importance of the unity and stability of the Gulf region, emphasizing that a solution should be found within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and discussed ways in which the EU could best support this work. In particular, they stressed that it was important to avoid other regions being drawn into this dispute. Sheikh Mohammad shared with Mogherini the elements of the mediation that Kuwait has been undertaking. They agreed to continue working in close cooperation for the swiftest possible resolution of the situation. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah is in Croatia as part of a tour that has taken him to

Washington, London, Paris and Berlin within the framework of Kuwait's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

In Washington, the Kuwaiti official held talk with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling on all parties to exercise restraint to allow for productive diplomatic discussions in the GCC. Also in Washington, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who lauded the international organization's support to Kuwaiti mediation efforts.

In London, the Kuwaiti minister met with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who voiced London's backing to Kuwaiti efforts to put an end to the Gulf crisis, and vowed to work with Kuwait in this regard. In Paris, he held talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who urged all parties to reduce tension and hold dialogue. — KUNA



The cover of a special publication to celebrate Kuwait National Guard's golden jubilee.

GERMAN FM TO VISIT KUWAIT AS PART OF GULF TOUR

BERLIN: Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel will visit Kuwait this week as part of a Gulf tour. The Kuwaiti embassy in Berlin said in a statement that Gabriel received in Berlin last Monday Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The meeting discussed means of promoting bilateral ties. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah is on a tour that saw him also visiting Washington, London and Paris, to discuss the latest developments of the Gulf crisis. The countries included so far in the minister's tour

have voiced support to Kuwait's initiative to solve the crisis within the Gulf framework, without interference of any external parties.

They also reiterated their commitment to coordinate and cooperate with the State of Kuwait in its mediation push to lessen tension in the region. Gabriel has recently called for avoiding escalation, saying there were good opportunities for a progress to solve the crisis. The German Foreign Ministry has recently voiced thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his mediation efforts to conclude a solution to the crisis. — KUNA

JELLYFISH ATTACK AL-ZOUR POWER STATION

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A heavy attack by jellyfish was detected during the past three days at the inflow opening of cooling and condensing water in Al-Zour Power Station. Assistant Undersecretary for Power Stations at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Fuad Al-Oun confirmed the news, saying that said this phenomenon occurs every year as sea water temperature rises. However, it was noticed that the jellyfish numbers is much higher this year than previous years.

There is danger that the jellyfish may block and halt the revolving nets that filter the water out of sea creatures and keep them from getting into station systems, he warned, adding that jellyfish were sucked out and kept from blocking the nets.

Lingering issues

MP Riyadh Al-Adsani asked the government to deal with the lingering issues and to take reports of supervisory authorities into consideration and stop squandering; otherwise they will be held accountable "because that is the core of the prime minister's job." Adsani said that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is aware of the notes made by the budgets on the KD 3.8 million that are under the 'custody accounts' and should be resolved.

"We will not allow the situation to continue and become a snowball, as things will accumulate and grow, and all government departments must present documents when payments are made and adhere with the budget rules, otherwise the prime minister will be grilled again," he said. Adsani gave an example

for the accumulated funds that were not settled at the foreign ministry, where the closing account for the fiscal year 2010/2011 reached nearly KD 300 million, and reached KD 547 million in the fiscal year 2015/2016. He said the government has an opportunity during the summer to deal with these issues and settle things with sound accounting and legal methods.

Pay for jobs performed

Education Ministry Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari announced the amendment of the laws that regulate the use of non-Kuwaiti employees on the "pay for jobs performed" system experience, so that they can benefit from the leaves enjoyed by those on the second contract. Athari said the contracted employees are not entitled to any leaves or other incentives while the contract is valid. He added that the contracted employee is also not entitled to indemnity or any other advantages when the contract expires other than what is mentioned in this decision for any reason. He said it is allowed to sign contacts with bedoons, provided that they present proof that they are registered at the central department for remedying the status of illegal residents, and they cannot be contracted under any other contract unless they get the security ID.

Vacant jobs

Statistic by the Civil Service Commission showed that the number of vacant jobs in the public sector reached 17,538. Furthermore, it showed that the number of jobs for those with a PhD is 13,380 for masters, 7,819 for bachelors, 4,866 for diploma and 4,165 for

general secondary holders. Another statistic showed that the number of those registered at the commission on the central employment system since it opened 14 years ago reached 2,17,770 including 1,42,993 females. It said that 70,982 were nominated out of 74,777 males, while 1,30,782 out of 1,42,993 females were nominated.



KUWAIT: A picture taken from a video circulated on social media yesterday allegedly showing jellyfish at the inflow opening of cooling and condensing water in Al-Zour Power Station.



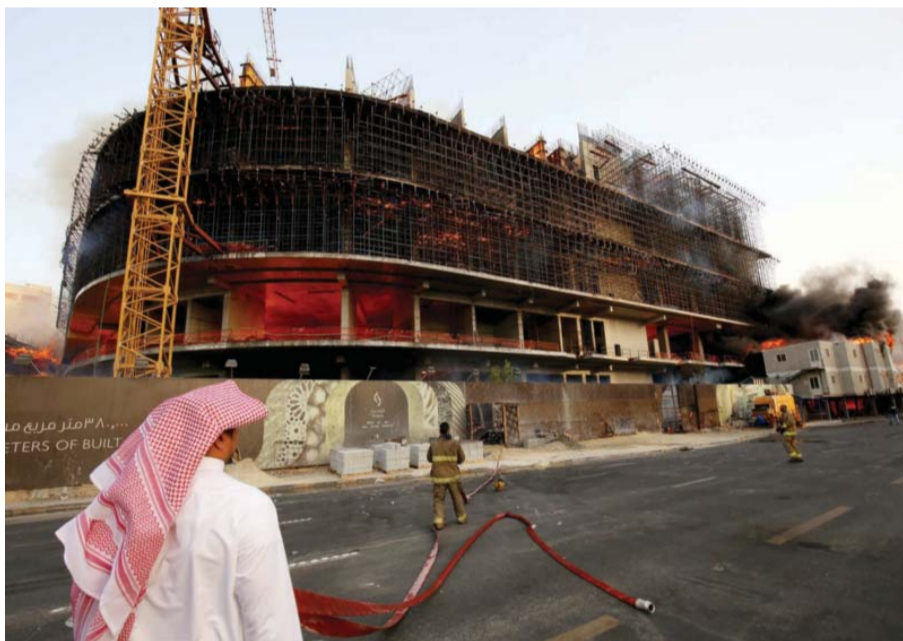
KUWAIT: Smoke billows as firefighters tackle a blaze at a building under construction in Sharq. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

TWELVE TEAMS TOOK PART IN TAKING OUT FIRE IN SHARQ

KUWAIT: Twelve teams, which consisted of 180 firefighters, took part in taking out the fire that broke out in an under-construction building in Sharq area, causing injury to three of them, the Fire Public Relations Department said Friday. A statement by the administration said the operation center received a call at 15:30 pm of a fire in one of the under-construction buildings, an area spreading to 380,000 square meters.

The statement noted that the biggest challenge firefighters faced was to prevent the fire from spreading to other buildings or areas that were nearby, even though the fire reached eight buildings due to high winds, however, firefighters were immediately on the scene, including teams from Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), to enforce fire resistance. The statement also noted that huge material damage has occurred and a final estimate on the losses will be calculated later on, due to undergoing investigation on the reason that caused the fire.

Meanwhile, the Director of Public Relations and Information at the fire department, Colonel Khalil Al-Amir expressed his thanks and appreciation to all who participated in putting out the fire, including those from the Interior ministry, firefighters from the National Guard, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Information. —KUNA



Local Spotlight

GULF CRISIS AND MEDIA



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has been confronting a serious diplomatic crisis since the past three weeks, which may have implications on the future of the region and the world if not contained and dealt with firmness, transparency and diplomatic negotiations. The question that arises is over the role of the media in this crisis and if there is a way out. Despite the ambiguity of the crisis, I believe a solution is not hopeless or impossible. These are the reasons.

With the emergence of the Gulf crisis between Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain with Qatar, there was great fear from Muslim Brotherhood groups all over the world. Their news channels and allies attacked Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Social media was filled with heated debate, videos, articles, tweets and religious WhatsApp messages showing the situation as a bomb that is about to explode.

There have been some dangerous tweets from people who poured more oil on fire while they don't know anything about the supreme interest of the states, for the sake of material gains and a little fame. They have made the situation worse. Saudi Arabia and the UAE did well when they banned such ignorant statements. Because of the damage to the supreme interests of the state, national unity and social peace, these practices have a negative impact on the society and its unity. I am in favor of such firm procedures.

Saudi Arabia and its allies presented a list of 13 demands to Qatar last week through Kuwait, such as ending relations with the Muslim Brotherhood, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda and Islamic State. These demands do not seem to be impossible if there is a genuine desire to maintain the security and strength of all Gulf states in front of enemies at home and abroad.

It is regrettable that the Muslim Brotherhood, their allies and the enemies of Gulf countries of different sects want to present the crisis to the world like it's a war against Qatar. For example, the media has used the term 'siege' instead of 'temporary boycott'. This is a deliberate exaggeration. It is not about Qatar or its future, or about the interests of Gulf countries, but personal interests, which have nothing to do with love for Qatar or concern for its interests. I cannot find a voice from these groups that calls for reform and unity and not division, and looks for what brings us together and not what separates us.

The Muslim Brotherhood around the world feels the danger impinging on them and is therefore shouting and yelling because its interests are at stake. Its supporters stand behind the evils of the world, the most important of which is terrorism. These extremist groups have multiple media outlets and it is essential to have a clear stand with a strong counterforce.

Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has written a poem asking Qatar to accept the demands of neighboring Gulf Arab states as the deadline nears. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, also Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE, called on Qatar to abandon its current policy, referring to relations between Qatar and Iran. The poem was published on Instagram and thousands of people expressed their admiration for it. It is a clear media move and whether it has an immediate result or not, it is the diligent work of a patriotic man and I wish more people, especially writers and journalists in the Arab world, act with such courage. Salute to the ruler of Dubai!

Islam is not exclusive or limited to these groups and others. Islam is a faith that will remain as long as Allah wants it to be on earth and will not end with the end of these groups. Extremism is not confined to a group that is making spilling of Muslim blood permissible and violating it. The media too should not be a means to hide the truth, and it must have a clear and just stand.

16 ARRESTED IN HASAWI MARKET CRACKDOWN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya Security Directorate launched a campaign at makeshift markets in Hasawi, which resulted in the arrest of 16 persons of various nationalities for violating the labor law. Among the detainees were also roaming vendors, people who failed to produce IDs and others with expired residency permits. They were all sent to concerned authorities.



In Brief

WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has launched an initiative to install water filters in some 5,000 homes in an effort to conserve valuable natural resources. Speaking to the press yesterday, Dina Al-Naqeeb, KFAS' Manager for the Water and Energy Program, noted that the new endeavor will bring together various government bodies for a project that will help provide 220 million gallons of water yearly to 5,000 homes. —KUNA



OIL PRICE UP

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti went up by 17 cents to \$44.27 per barrel Friday after being at \$44.10 pb on Thursday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. On the global level, the price continued to climb due to the increase in the number of American drilling rigs and statistics showing a growing Chinese demand for oil. The price of the Brent crude was up by 50 cents to \$47.92 pb, the same case with the American crude, which went up by \$1.11 to \$46.04. —KUNA



THIRD CRUDE SUPPLIER

TOKYO: Kuwait remained Japan's third-biggest crude oil supplier in May, shipping 6.91 million barrels, or 223,000 barrels per day (bpd), government data showed Friday. Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan grew 10.2 percent from a year earlier, marking the first expansion in four months, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report. It supplied 8.0 percent of the Asian country's total crude imports. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Birds put for display at the birds' market in Kuwait. The Environment Public Authority has reportedly made a request to Kuwait Municipality to shut down the market because it lacks basic environmental standards. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF KUWAIT RELIEF EFFORTS



Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) provides relief aid and medical assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tanzania partakes in a charitable event for orphans.



KUWAIT: Living up to its status as a 'humanitarian center,' Kuwait continued during the last days of Ramadan and the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr to provide aid and relief to needy people in the Middle East and beyond. In Lebanon, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) signed two agreements to provide drinking water for Syrian refugees, and to help those who are suffering renal disease in east Lebanon's Bekaa. KRCS's Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said that the signing of the agreement was in continuation of the Kuwaiti society's efforts to help Syrian refugees since the eruption of the Syria crisis. The Bekaa hosts many refugee camps on cultivated land, where no sustainable water resources are found, she added.

The water plant in the town will help provide 40,000 liters of drinking water for 10,000 people, mostly Syrians staying in a host of camps in Saadnayel and neighboring areas, said Rashed Al-Mohannadi, Director of Social Development at QRC. Meanwhile, KRCS and QRC also signed an agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to help provide health care for Syrian refugees who are suffering from chronic renal failure.

In the meantime, Barjas said that KRCS is keen on exerting every possible effort to help the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. KRCS has been providing all possible support for the Syrian refugees in Lebanon and other neighboring countries since the conflict broke out in 2011, Barjas said during visits to a number of projects supervised by the society. She said KRCS has been launching many projects in health, water and food sectors to help alleviate suffering of the Syrian refugees and ease the burden on the Lebanese state.

She added that KRCS was also assisting the Palestinian refugees in the camps in Lebanon, in addition to a number of Lebanese families. Barjas and head of the volunteers department at KRCS Musaed Al-Enezi, visited the artificial limbs and physical rehabilitation project in Bekaa. Fifty-two patients benefited from the project this year only. Around 370 people benefited from artificial limbs and rehabilitation in Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon and Bekaa.

The KRCS officials also visited Rasheed Syrian refugee camp, which KRCS contributed to its establishment to host more than 65 Syrian families. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said more than a million Syrian refugees live in Lebanon, while the Lebanese government said the number exceeded 1.5 million.

In Tanzania, The Kuwaiti embassy in the African country honored a number of orphans who took part in a Quran memorization contest, said in a statement. The Kuwaiti Embassy in Tanzania said in a statement that some 30 orphans were honored by Kuwaiti Ambassador Jassem Al-Najem. The Kuwaiti diplomat affirmed that his country was keen on bolstering Islamic values amongst the children and youth of Tanzania, noting that the Quran memorization contest was one of the ways to spread the message of Islam. —KUNA

KRCS REITERATES EAGERNESS TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEDDAWI, North Lebanon: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday reaffirmed keenness on helping Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The needs of the Palestinian refugees' are enormous and much efforts need to be exerted, KRCS's Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said after a meeting with officials of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Lebanon. The meeting was held in Al-Beddawi camp for Palestinian refugees north of the Lebanon.

Barjas noted that Kuwait's relief efforts are extended to the Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, as well as to Lebanese families. The KRCS will support the Palestinian counterpart to provide the urgent medical needs of the Palestinian refugees, she said. Over the coming two month, the KRCS will offer bread to 2,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugee families in Lebanon, as part of a project the society launched in 2011, she added.

Meanwhile, Director General of the Palestinian society, Dr Samer Shehada voiced optimism over cooperation with the KRCS, lauding the latter's leading role for helping the refugees and the needy. Yesterday's meeting focused on the framework of working together in Lebanon, to help refugees in the country, he added.

The two sides also discussed supporting the five hospitals the Palestinian society administers in different parts of the country. They have concluded an initial agreement on the form of backing over the coming period. Lebanon hosts up to 400,000 Palestinian refugees at 12 camps. —KUNA



In my view

THE POPE IN EGYPT



By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

The visit of Pope Francis to Cairo and other cities in Egypt had a great impact and echo because, as Muslims, we have to respect and protect the followers of all heavenly religions. Our faith is based on believing in Almighty Allah, his angels, his books and all his messengers. The stories about previous prophets in the Holy Quran are the best ever because they address all mankind at all times as people will remain the same.

Attending Al-Azhar International Peace Conference was surely a gigantic step towards confirming that Egypt is truly 'The Land of Kinana,' it is the land of the Nile that has been bestowing its virtues and good

Egypt will always remain a peace-loving country that has been living on principles of religious tolerance for long centuries

deeds on everybody. The Pope's visit to Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Abbasiya to meet Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria reflects Egypt's decisive confirmation that killing of innocent people in a church was nothing more than a cowardly act of terror and blood shedding.

It stressed that Egypt will always remain a peace-loving country that has been living on principles of religious tolerance for long centuries. Extremism and terrorism is alien to Egypt. The phrases were used by some media that has been relentlessly working on damaging the image of Islam and Muslims, especially when some Muslims are committing crimes reflecting extremism that strongly condemned in Islam; a religion that fully respects other religions and other people's choices.

AL-SAAD FOUNDATION SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH UNESCO

KUWAIT: Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research said that it signed an agreement of cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for sustained development and woman empowerment.

Foundation president Sheikha Fadiya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said the agreement was made per the rules and instructions related to UNESCO's relations with similar organizations that were approved by the organization's general assembly in 1991.

She further indicated that UNESCO's acceptance to sign the cooperation agreement came due to the clear link between the foundation's activities with the current programs and priorities, particularly in the educational field for sustainable development and women in the field of science.

Furthermore, she said that the foundation is a private body that complements the role of various entities responsible for supporting the principle of education and development for the service of the Kuwait society, through boosting the participation

responsibility and seeking international partnership with experienced establishments in this field.

Sheikha Fadiya said the goal of cooperation with various concerned authorities is to raise the local cadres' efficiency and meet national needs, adding that the private sector must have a role in active contribution to the service of the Kuwait society. Moreover, she hoped to form a Kuwaiti national team that has distinguished programs and experience, so that it can contribute to deepen and develop scientific exchange in the educational, professional and educational fields.



Sheikha Fadiya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah

KFH: RAMADAN AWARENESS PROGRAM PRESENTED BY DR AL-TABTABAEI

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched comprehensive Ramadan awareness program on its accounts on social media. The program that encompassed several videos, tips and messages related to Ramadan, witnessed remarkable interaction and positive feedback from followers and customers. Presented the program the Chairman of Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board of KFH Group Dr Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtabaie.

Tabtabaie presents different religious and awareness programs to the employees and the public throughout the year. He spares no efforts in serving the Islamic finance while emphasizing the full compliance with Sharia principles in

all the bank's transaction in order to ensure further success and prosperity to the Islamic finance industry. The pro-



Dr Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtabaie

gram included several subjects on Ramadan its rituals and duties, etc. These topics were posted on KFH accounts on social media in efforts to benefit the fasting people and help them perform fasting perfectly.

Moreover, the program reassures KFH's ongoing commitment towards assuming the social responsibility while participating in the religious and national activities and events. The program came as part of the bank's Ramadan program that included various social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.

KUWAIT REITERATES SUPPORT TO UNIDO'S EFFORTS TO END POVERTY WORLDWIDE

VIENNA: Kuwait has reaffirmed support to the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), encouraging comprehensive development around the globe to eradicate poverty. Acting Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdulkarim Taqui on Friday addressed the 45th session of the UNIDO's Industrial Development Board (IDB), session, Vienna, 27-29 June 2017.

Taqui urged the organization to increase concentration on countering the harmful practices resulting from liberating the international trade, topped with dumping which has been troubling most emerging markets.

Dumping is a major reason for several economic problems, he said. The UNIDO must set a host of projects and programs that are likely to develop practical and realistic solutions to remedy such practices that have been causing colossal damage to the industrial sector in many countries, he said. He also proposed drawing up mechanisms to identify the proper price in the origin country, as well as comparing prices in different ones. Taqui referred to Kuwait's view on some countries' intention to withdraw from UNIDO. He stressed the dire need to identify and remedy the reasons behind the move to avoid it in the future.

Kuwait underlines the momentousness of UNIDO's continuous work out of belief in the organization's role for a balanced world economy and social stability. The IDB comprises 53 members elected for a four-year term on a rotational basis from all UNIDO Member States. It reviews the implementation of the work program, the regular and operational budgets, makes recommendations to the GC on policy matters, including the appointment of the Director-General. The IDB meets once a year. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Municipality inspected roads around governorate in order to stop roaming vendors in the period following Eid Al-Fitr. The tour resulted in issuing five citations for roaming vendors, impounding five cars, placing three warnings on abandoned cars, and confiscating 125 kilograms of foodstuffs that were found unfit for human consumption, head of the Ahmadi Municipality department Talal Al-Oqab said.

—By Hanan Al-Saadoun



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Crime

Report

DRUG ADDICT DIES IN HOSPITAL

KUWAIT: Three men rushed their friend to the hospital, but he died after abusing 'chemical' drug; a variety of Spice with added chemicals, inside a car. A source said the three friends took the victim to Mubarak Hospital unconscious, but he was declared dead. The men admitted using drugs in the car. They were arrested and will face further legal action. The body of the deceased was recovered by the coroner who will submit a report on the circumstances of the man's death.

Collapsed

The body of an American was recovered by the coroner after being found in the flat of a Filipina in Fintas. The Filipina called police, telling them an American fell ill in her flat, so police and paramedics went to the flat and found out the man was dead. The Filipina said the American was visiting her and collapsed suddenly. Investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of death.

Swindling

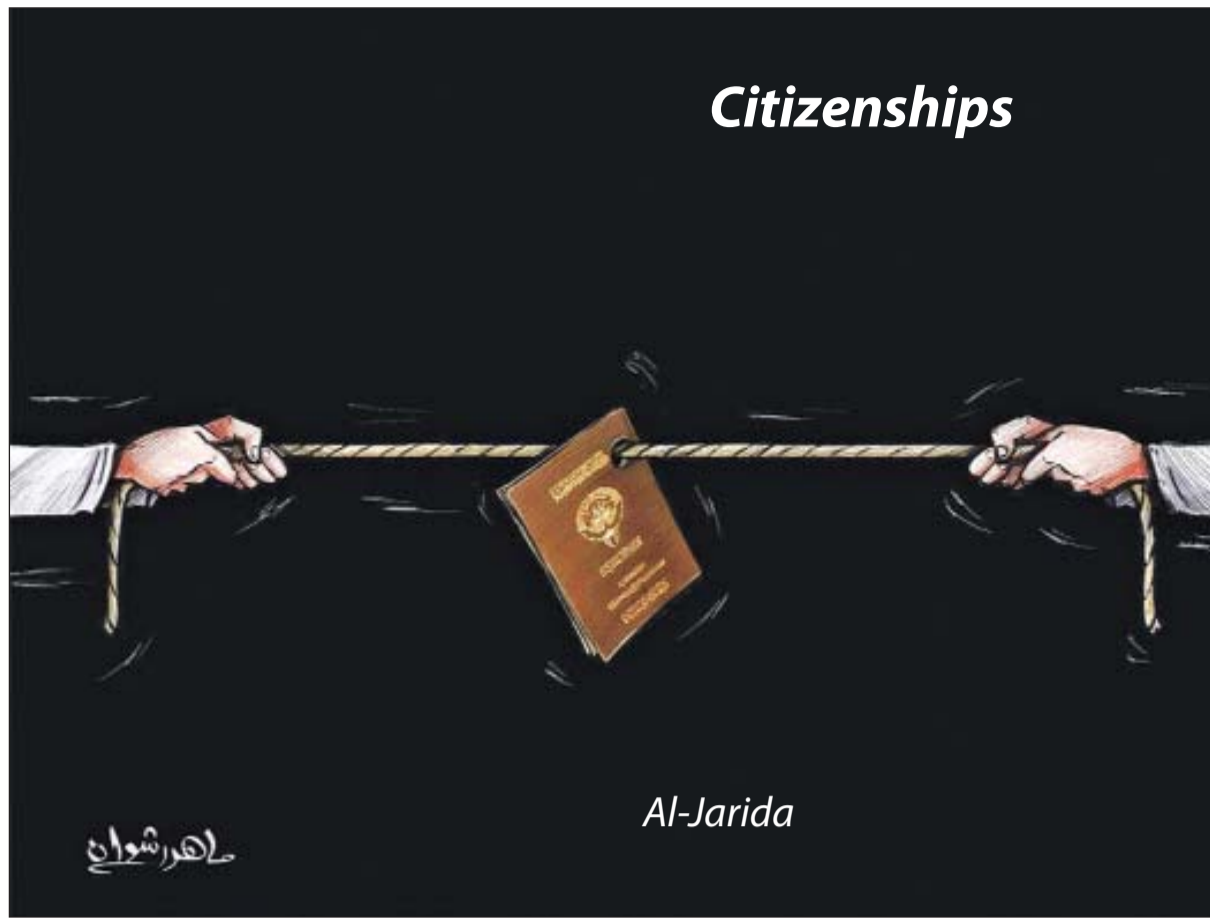
A citizen accused an Egyptian of swindling him out of KD 2,000, the value of car spare parts. When police checked on him, they found him wanted over nine cases. The citizen said he agreed with the Egyptian to import spare parts for his car and paid him KD 2,000, and the Egyptian told him it will take a week. The citizen repeatedly called the Egyptian but he did not respond.

False claims

Hawally detectives uncovered the false claims of a citizen of being swindled by another who sold him two rings with precious stones. They found he was attempting to sell them at a higher price, and when he failed, he claimed an expert told him they were fake. Investigations are underway.

Officer assaulted

A Syrian woman went to a Jahra police station to file a complaint and was very upset. She argued with an officer there, insulted and hit him, injuring his hand. Colleagues of the officer brought her under control and she was charged with assault and insulting an official. Investigations are underway. — Translated from the Arabic press



Citizenships

Al-Jarida

الجريدة Al-Jarida

KHADIJA

By Dr Najem Abdul Kareem

The following dialogue took place between Warqa bin Noufal and Khadija bint Khuwaylid (wife of Prophet Muhammad PBUH):

Khadija: Cousin...were you joking when you said that the light of prophecy will come out of my house?

Warqa: I swear I did not, Khadija. Torah and Bible sources have pointed that the light of prophecy will come out of Makkah in these days.

Khadija: Will it be one of my children?

Warqa: No.

Khadija: A husband, then?

Warqa: I know not. Why are you so keen on knowing?

Khadija: Because my cousin Hakeem ibn Hezam proposed to me. Could he be the light of the prophecy the Bible and Torah refer to?

Warqa: I do not know. But Hakeem prays to idols, and Allah's light through his messengers would never allow that.

Accordingly, Khadija rejected her cousin's proposal, and he inquired:

Hakeem: Is there anyone in the Quraish who deserves you more?

Khadija: Dear cousin, you are truly fine and one of the most generous. But I have an orphan son to take care of.

Hakeem: You are the richest in Quraish and you will easily find somebody to take care of him. You can even hire slaves and servants to do so.

Khadija: Dear cousin, I have no wish to get married. Hezam then left Makkah and travelled to the Levant. A while later, he accidentally met Khadija's servant, Maysarah:

Hakeem: Well, Maysarah. Has Abu Taleb come out for trading this year?

Maysarah: Why do you ask?

Hakeem: Because I see his nephew Muhammad standing near the camels.

Maysarah: They are your cousin Khadija's camels.

Hakeem: Why is Muhammad standing near them?

Maysarah: He works for my lady as she had heard about his honesty and truthfulness.

Hakeem: Well, she made a good choice.

Maysarah: One day, she summoned me and started asking about Muhammad, then asked me to bring him over. He was too shy to look her into the eye when she asked him to run her business.

Soon the convoy returned to Makkah and Maysarah rushed to his lady:

Maysarah: Milady, although scores of people were responsible for your business on various previous trips, we have never made as much profit as with Muhammad.

Khadija: I am happier to hear about his manners during the trip.

A few days later, Abu Taleb proposes for Khadija on behalf of his nephew Muhammad (PBUH), and Warqa announces the news amongst the Quraish:

Warqa: Oh, people of Quraish, be my witnesses that I have given Quraish's chaste woman to Quraish's honest man in marriage.

And yes, a few years later, the light of Muhammad's (PBUH) prophecy shines from Khadija's house!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

النباء

Al-Anbaa

THE 2035 VISION

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

What are the actual steps towards building the Silk City? When will the islands be developed? What facilities are used to encourage foreign investors? When will Mubarak Port open? Nobody knows. We just have to mention a very distant year such as 2035 and sell illusions to people without any actual work being done. The idea of the Silk City and making use of the Kuwaiti islands and developing them into new non-oil sources of investment, is once more revived. It is an old topic occasionally brought up without having actual steps taken to achieve it.

There is no need to go into much detail of what the government and state officials say about the project using 'canned' phrases that had been used for decades such as: 'We will connect the East and the West', 'a delegation from a major country will visit Kuwait soon to set strategies', 'we will provide endless job opportunities', 'the development process will include A,B and C phases', 'foreign investors will play a vital role' and so many other stereotype statements that are, sometimes accompanied by a visualized presentation like what happened two years ago when the supreme planning council met with His Highness the Amir on TV.

However, zero percent of that project has been

actually executed. Those phrases and statements are no more meaningful or even able to create the least amount of optimism because people can no more be convinced with illusions while they can see the progress made by the neighboring countries and can be felt on each and every visit. Only five years from now, Qatar will host the world's prime football championship and has already started opening special fully air-conditioned stadiums. Dubai has become an international tourist destination with a very busy airport while we are still singing the same tunes of the Silk City and developing the islands about which I wrote with so much optimism in 2007, when I used to believe what I heard.

In real life, the Jaber Causeway connecting Kuwait City to Subbiya tells the entire story because it is scheduled to be finished by the end of next year while nothing so far is built there. This means that when the bridge will open and people will be able to reach Subbiya in 20 minutes, they will have nothing to see there but an empty desert and then come back. The same applies for the so-called Jaber Hospital where constructions concluded years ago while MOH is still incapable of opening it. If the government is serious, a clear schedule should be set to make such dreams come true. —Translated by Kuwait Times



ABK SPREADS THE JOY OF EID AL-FITR

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) celebrated Eid Al-Fitr with the children at the Amiri Hospital, spreading the joy of the holiday among the young patients. The Bank's initiative comes in line with the series of Ramadan activities it held throughout the Holy Month. A group of staff members from ABK vol-

unteered to participate in the visit to the young patients, where they distributed gifts across the children's wards and engaged them in an enjoyable atmosphere. ABK will continue to be an active member of the community and share the joys of the religious holidays with all segments of society.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored a trip organized by the Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) to Morocco as part of its youth program for this year.

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) offered financial aid to the Sabah Al-Salem Co-operative Society to support charity, educational and other activities that the society organizes to area residents.



Duterte rides high after 'rough' year



HONG KONG: Protesters carry a large image of jailed Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo as they march during the annual pro-democracy protest in Hong Kong yesterday. —AP

XI DRAWS 'RED LINE' AS PROTESTERS MARCH

HUGE SECURITY OPERATION IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG: China's President Xi Jinping warned yesterday that any challenge to Beijing's control over Hong Kong crossed a "red line", as tens of thousands calling for more democracy marched through the city 20 years after it was handed back by Britain. Xi spoke in a televised address after swearing in new Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, who is already being cast by critics as a China stooge in a city where many are angry at Beijing's tightening grip on the freedoms of its nearly eight million people.

A huge security operation shut down large parts of Hong Kong for Xi's three-day visit, reflecting Beijing's concern that there should be no embarrassment ahead of a key Communist Party congress later this year which is expected to cement his position as

the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation. Xi said yesterday that any threat to China's sovereignty and security or to the power of the central government "crosses the red line and is absolutely impermissible".

He also warned against anyone endangering Hong Kong's constitution or using the city "to carry out infiltration and sabotage activities against the mainland". The message comes as young activists have emerged calling for self-determination or even full independence for Hong Kong, which has infuriated Beijing. Just hours after Xi left the city yesterday afternoon, organizers estimated 60,000 people marched from Victoria Park to government offices in central Hong Kong in an annual pro-democracy protest.

Protesters also called for the release of can-

cer-stricken Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who was given medical parole earlier this week but remains on the mainland. "Suppression by the regime has never let up and I don't see any end in sight," said activist Nathan Law, Hong Kong's youngest legislator, who was arrested Wednesday over an anti-China sit-in and attended the protest after being released Friday. Xi insisted that Hong Kong had "more extensive democratic rights and freedoms than at any other time in its history" in his speech and pledged to uphold its semi-autonomous status. But Beijing's foreign ministry declared Friday that the document signed by Britain and China which initiated the handover "is no longer relevant". The Sino-British Joint Declaration gave Hong Kong rights unseen on the mainland through

a "one country, two systems" agreement, lasting 50 years.

'Gangsters and mobs'

There are growing fears that freedoms guaranteed by the handover deal are now under threat, with Chinese authorities accused of abductions and interfering in a range of areas, from politics to media and education. Xi cautioned that political conflict would "severely hinder" Hong Kong's economic and social development and called for education measures to promote China's national culture and history.

A proposal to include patriotic education in Hong Kong schools met with huge protests in 2012 and has since been shelved. Pro-China supporters jeered and booed yesterday's

democracy march, shouting: "Long live the communist party! This is China's soil!" Earlier in the day, loyalists had also targeted a small peaceful march by activists in memory of the victims of Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Leading activist Joshua Wong accused "pro-China gangsters and mobs" for instigating the attack.

Democracy campaigners including Wong were taken away in police vans, with two of them saying they had been hit by officers inside, before all were released. Activists said they had been repeatedly targeted during Xi's visit. "What we've experienced this weekend was a whole new level of intimidation and direct violence that's unprecedented," said campaigner Avery Ng of League of Social Democrats.—AP

FIVE SUICIDE BOMBERS ATTACK LEBANESE TROOPS; GIRL KILLED

BEIRUT: A girl died and seven Lebanese soldiers were wounded on Friday when five militants blew themselves up and a sixth threw a grenade during army raids on two refugee camps near the Syrian border. Four of the suicide bombers struck in the Al-Nur camp near the border town of Aarsal, the army said. A young girl, whose parents are both refugees, was killed and three soldiers wounded.

A medical source in the provincial capital Baalbek said the girl was two and a half years old. Troops recovered four explosive devices. During a raid on Al-Qariya, another camp near Aarsal, one militant blew himself up and a second threw a grenade at troops, wounding four of them. The civil war, which has raged in Syria since March 2011, has triggered an exodus of more than 1.1 million refugees into neighboring Lebanon and has repeatedly spilt over. The raids were aimed at "arresting terrorists and seizing weapons," the army command said.

A military source said that troops made a number of arrests. "The objective of the operation was to arrest a wanted man and it was this man who was the first to blow himself up," the source said. A leading Syrian opposition body late Friday accused the Lebanese army of violating refugee rights. "The National Coalition strongly condemns the systematic attacks today against refugee camps in Aarsal...

during which (refugees) were humiliated and treated like hostages," a statement said. "We ask the Lebanese authorities to provide the necessary protection to Syrian refugees according to international humanitarian law," the National Coalition said.

There have been multiple clashes along the border between the Lebanese army and jihadists of the Islamic State group or Al-Qaeda. In August 2014, the army clashed with jihadists of IS and Al-Qaeda's then Syria affiliate Al-Nusra Front in the Aarsal region, with militants kidnapping 30 Lebanese soldiers and policemen as they withdrew back along the border. After long and arduous negotiations, 16 of the kidnapped men were released in December 2015 in exchange for Islamist prisoners held in Lebanese jails.

The jihadists executed four of their hostages while a fifth died of wounds he suffered in the initial Aarsal clashes, leaving nine members of Lebanon's security forces still in their hands. Since 2014, both the Lebanese army and Shiite militant group Hezbollah have carried out attacks on Syria-based jihadists in eastern Lebanon. Hezbollah has intervened in the war in Syria in support of President Bashar Al-Assad, sending tens of thousands of fighters. Its strongholds in Lebanon have been hit by several deadly attacks claimed by IS.—AP

DOCTOR ACCUSED OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT KILLS ONE, SELF

NEW YORK: A doctor forced out from a New York hospital because of sexual harassment accusations returned Friday with an assault rifle hidden under a lab coat and shot seven people, killing one woman and leaving several doctors fighting for their lives, authorities said. The gunman, Dr Henry Bello, fatally shot himself after trying to set himself on fire at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, they said. He staggered, bleeding, into a hallway where he collapsed and died with the rifle at his side, officials said.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene as gunfire erupted, spreading terror throughout the medical facility as employees locked themselves inside rooms and patients feared for their lives. "I thought I was going to die," said Renaldo Del Villar, a patient who was in the third-floor emergency room getting treatment for a lower back injury. Law enforcement officials identified the shooter as the 45-year-old Bello, who was

described on the hospital website as a family medicine physician. Officials said Bello used an AR-15 in the attack on the 16th and 17th floors.

Bello was allowed to resign from the hospital in 2015 amid sexual harassment allegations, according to two law enforcement officials. The officials didn't know the details of the allegations. The officials were not authorized to discuss the still-unfolding investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. In unrelated cases, the doctor pleaded guilty to unlawful imprisonment, a misdemeanor, in 2004 after a 23-year-old woman told police Bello grabbed her, lifted her up and carried her off, saying, "You're coming with me."

He was arrested again in 2009 on a charge of unlawful surveillance, after two different women reported he was trying to look up their skirts with a mirror. On Friday, one female doctor was killed

and six other people were wounded, five of them seriously, according to Police Commissioner James O'Neill. The patients were treated in the emergency room at Bronx Lebanon. Two surgeons at the hospital told the AP that all six victims were in critical condition, but they were expected to survive. The victims largely suffered gunshot wounds to the head, chest and abdomen, they said.

The most seriously wounded was shot in the liver, said the surgeons, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to speak publicly. "This was a horrible situation unfolding in a place that people associated with care and comfort, a situation that came out of nowhere," Mayor Bill de Blasio said, adding that terrorism was not involved in the attack. Shortly after receiving a 911 call about an active shooter, police officers went floor by floor, their guns drawn, looking for the gunman. They later learned he was dead inside the building. De Blasio confirmed that Bello killed himself.

Bello may have doused himself with an accelerant like gasoline and tried to set himself on fire before shooting himself, officials said. Sprinklers extinguished the fire. According to New York State Education Department records, Bello had a limited permit to practice as an international medical graduate to gain experience in order to be licensed. The permit was issued on July 1, 2014, and expired last year on the same day. A former colleague described Bello as a problematic employee. Bello "was very aggressive, talking loudly, threatening people. All the time he was a problem," said Dr David Lazala, a family medicine doctor who said he trained Bello at Bronx Lebanon. He said Bello, who worked at night as a doctor, sent him a threatening email after Bello was fired.—AP



NEW YORK: Photo shows the AM-15 assault rifle used by Dr Henry Bello in a shooting at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York. — AP

LAST CHRISTIANS OF ISRAELI-CONTROLLED GOLAN HEIGHTS

EIN QINIYE: When about a hundred Arab Christians recently attended the small church at Ein Qiniye in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, it was a turnout not often seen there. Few Christians remain on the Israeli-held part of the strategic plateau northeast of the Sea of Galilee, where Christians believe Jesus walked on water. Only two isolated Christian families still live there, according to the families themselves and a researcher on the Golan Heights.

Their churches open only on rare occasions, such as for a recent solidarity visit by Arabs from the Israeli cities of Haifa and Nazareth. Without such visits and the perseverance of the Adibs, the last Christian family left in the village of Ein Qiniye, the Maronite church perched on hills overlooking the Sea of Galilee would have faded into oblivion. Israel seized 1,200 square kilometers of the Golan from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move never recognized by the international community.

Before that, says Assaf Adib, 57, about 600 Christians and 300 Druze lived in the village but with the outbreak of war most of the Christians fled westward to the disputed Shebaa Farms area along the Lebanon-Israel ceasefire line. In Ein Qiniye today, he says there are 1,800 Druze—an offshoot of Shiite Islam—while the Christian population has shrunk to the 12 members of his family. Some of his close relatives moved a short distance north to the Golan Druze town of Majdal Shams, Adib said. "My father and my uncle followed the Druze families and went to take refuge in Majdal



QATZRIN, Israel: A general view shows the Jewish settlement of Qatzrin in the Israeli occupied Golan Heights as they celebrate the 40th anniversary of its creation with a visit from the Prime Minister on June 28, 2017. — AFP

Shams." They were allowed to return to Ein Qiniye with the Druze after the war but the other Christians were unable to get back home and were left in Syria or Lebanon. Around 510 square kilometers of the Golan remain today under Syrian control. Syria and Israel are still technically at war, although the border was largely quiet for decades

until 2011, when the Syrian civil war broke out. Suriya Samaane, 72, is a member of an Israeli Christian support group from the Galilee which makes occasional solidarity visits to keep the little hilltop church going. "We come from Nazareth to support the Christian presence in Ein Qiniye," she said outside the building after attending mass.

'No future' for Arabs

In Majdal Shams, Orthodox Christian Ibrahim Nasrallah, 80, recalls the time before the war, when "no one spoke of Christian, Muslim or Druze: we were all Arabs first and then Syrians," he told AFP. "Thirdly we were Christians." "Before 1967 Christians left Majdal Shams to work in Quneitra," he said, referring to the nearby once-prosperous provincial capital in southern Syria now torn apart by the civil war there.

"The most educated went to Damascus," Nasrallah said, adding that two of his children have resettled inside Syria but he will remain where he is. "Outside Majdal Shams I am like a fish out of water. I will not leave until I die." Before the occupation, Christians accounted for 12 percent of the population of the Golan, which then had 340 villages and 150,000 inhabitants, according to researcher Salmane Fakhreddine. Today, about 22,000 Syrian Druze live on the Israeli-controlled side of the Heights as well as 25,000 Israeli settlers who moved in after 1967. In Majdal Shams, the only church is closed and has long since fallen into disrepair.

"When my father died the priest had to come to our house to perform the funeral mass," Nasrallah said. He was then laid to rest in a cemetery shared by Druze and Christians among pine trees. "In 1984 when we had my son Iyass baptized we got the Israeli authorities to open the Banias church," south of Majdal Shams, Nasrallah added. Iyass worked in Haifa for a time but eventually moved to Germany. Back home for a visit, he is convinced he made the right decision in leaving the region. "There is no future for the Arabs," he said. — AFP

'CARROT, NOT STICK': ISRAEL PUSHES ITS CURRICULUM IN PALESTINIAN SCHOOLS

ISRAEL OFFERS INCENTIVES TO ADOPT ITS CURRICULUM

JERUSALEM: Young Palestinian Faris Abu-Mayyaleh will soon find out how he did in his final high school exams, in which he answered questions about Israel's founding fathers and the history of Zionism. Faris, 18, chose to study the Israeli curriculum instead of the Palestinian equivalent in the hope that it will open more doors at colleges in Israel and help him get work there. "I know it's the 'Occupation.' But Palestine, Israel—don't care. I just want to go to university," said Abu-Mayyaleh, who lives and studies in East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel hopes many other Palestinians will share his attitude after offering additional funding to Palestinian schools in East Jerusalem if they agree to teach the Israeli curriculum. The aim, it says, is to help young Palestinians gain

events. Under the Israeli curriculum, pupils are taught that the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, the year Israel was created, was a battle for independence for a state that would be a haven for Jews after centuries of persecution. The Palestinian curriculum teaches it as the Nakba, or Catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes during the fighting.

Gaps

Staff at the East Jerusalem schools who spoke to Reuters asked not to be identified because they did not have permission to be interviewed and feared for their jobs. The head of one East Jerusalem school who rejected the Israeli curriculum said authorities had offered to triple the annual budget for each pupil, from

for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) and other rights groups say the programme is discriminatory. They say Palestinian schools in East Jerusalem are underfunded and the Israeli authorities should fund all the city's schools equally.

"Israeli authorities have for years neglected the education system in East Jerusalem," said Nisreen Alyan, head of the Jerusalem Program at ACRI. "While it is the first time the government and municipality see a need to close the gaps in East Jerusalem, the program is designed according to a political agenda." Bennett rejected the criticism. "I'm not forcing anything on anyone. I'm saying 'make it available,'" he said. "I believe market forces will do the job. Ultimately, parents will tell their children: 'I want you to get the Israeli diploma so you get a job in programming, not cleaning.'"

Classroom shortage

Israeli authorities recognize that gaps in education deepen a chasm between Jerusalem's east-which Palestinians want to be the capital of their future state—and predominantly Jewish west, making it harder for Palestinians to get ahead in life. More than a third of Jerusalem's Palestinian children drop out of high school. Among Israelis only about 2 percent do so. Almost 80 percent of the city's Palestinians live below the poverty line and just 40 percent are employed, mostly at the lower rungs of the labour market ladder, according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

The Israeli national employment rate stands at 64 percent, and in Jerusalem 58 percent of Israelis are employed, according to the CBS. Supreme Court petitions and reports by rights groups including ACRI show consistent gaps between Jerusalem's Palestinian and Israeli schools, including allocation of staff and funding for educational programs. There is a shortage of 3,800 classrooms, disproportionately affecting the poorer Palestinian and ultra-Orthodox Jewish sectors. The municipality has rented apartments in some areas to create space, or supplied mobile shacks to serve as classrooms.

In the Jabal Mukhabber neighborhood of East Jerusalem, the Al-Sawahereh primary school for boys is housed in a converted two-storey apartment building. Pupils are crammed, mostly in groups of 25-30, into six classrooms of about 12 square meters, and facilities are poor. When the bell sounds at the end of the day, 150 boys in bright blue uniforms run through a sparse, narrow yard and pour out of a driveway gate into a bumpy, broken road lined with overflowing rubbish containers.

Residents see a stark contrast with the well-kept streets of Armon Hanatziv, the Israeli neighborhood across the street. "I see normal schools there," said Mahmoud Awissat, a father of six from Jabal Mukhabber who drives a school bus in west Jerusalem. "It's worlds apart." Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat acknowledges gaps in the quality of schools. "But we're catching up. We just took a loan of a billion shekels (\$284 million) to build 1,000 classrooms, and half of that will be in East Jerusalem," he told Reuters. — Reuters



JERUSALEM: Young Israelis dive into a natural pool in the village of Lifta, which was abandoned during fighting in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and lies on the northwestern outskirts of Jerusalem. — AFP

the qualifications they need to find work in Israel more easily. It also offers Israel a chance to steer some Palestinians away from a curriculum it says is rife with anti-Semitism and incitement. It is a loaded issue for principals, parents and pupils.

Many Palestinian schools badly need funding, but embracing the Israeli education program—including subjects such as Israeli civics and history—is seen by many Palestinians as tantamount to adopting the historical narrative of the enemy. Only 10 of the city's public Palestinian schools have so far agreed to the change on offer since last year, and only about 5,000 of the 110,000 Palestinian pupils of East Jerusalem's 185 public and private establishments study the Israeli program. "It's not easy," said a Palestinian member of staff who teaches Israeli civics at a Palestinian school.

"The children want to learn about their own people. I teach a lot of things I don't believe in, but I have no choice." Not every school uses the same textbooks but the Palestinian and Israeli programs differ widely on some historical

about 500 shekels (\$144) to 1,500. Another Palestinian headmaster said: "They offered me more money, but I said no. The parents here don't want it. It's not our story, we want to teach the Palestinian story."

Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett, head of the religious-nationalist Jewish Home party, said the program was meant to close gaps in education, poverty and unemployment that have afflicted Jerusalem's 320,000 Palestinians for decades. "A young man from East Jerusalem who has an Israeli diploma has a much higher chance of getting a job. Our aim is to spur economic progress—that's why we're using a carrot, not a stick," Bennett said. The Education Ministry did not provide full details of the extra budget and incentives these schools have received, beyond funding for extra teachers and teaching hours. Asked whether funding could be tripled per pupil at schools that adopted the Israeli curriculum, an Education Ministry source said it was "certainly possible" but the offers of extra funding varied from school to school. The Association



BANKI, Nigeria: This photo taken on April 26, 2017 shows a man, injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) sitting with others outside his tent in this town in northeastern Nigeria. — AFP

NIGERIA CAMPS UNDER STRAIN FROM RETURNING REFUGEES

LAGOS: An upsurge in Boko Haram attacks and returnees from Cameroon are stretching camps for those made homeless by the conflict to breaking point, as the UN warned against forcing people back to northeast Nigeria. Obinna Orjigene is a doctor for UNICEF in the town of Banki, near the border with Cameroon, where the population has jumped from 32,000 to 45,000 in the last few months alone. He is part of a small, overworked medical team treating everything from malaria and trauma to malnutrition in the overcrowded camp for the displaced. "A population of over 40,000 people with just one medical doctor is crazy," he told AFP from Banki by telephone. "It's overwhelming." But he said the situation is replicated across the remote region. "I'm quite aware that some camps don't have doctors. There are a lot of challenges."

Rounded up

A total of 889 Nigerian refugees arrived in Banki from the Minawao camp in Cameroon on June 17, prompting the UN high commissioner for refugees to speak out. Filippo Grandi said he was "extremely worried" by the returns and called them "unsustainable." The UN refugee agency on Thursday said 887 Nigerians were "rounded up" into six trucks and forcibly returned by Cameroon to camps "dangerously unprepared to receive them."

Like other camps, Banki remains vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks and has been targeted by suicide bombers. The camp lies inside the old walls of the destroyed city and people, unable to leave because of the militants nearby, depend on handouts for

food. Water and shelter are scarce and children are not in school. Boko Haram fighters are said to be responsible for the gunfire heard at night.

Forced movement

"In the last month we've had a precipitous return of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon that wasn't necessarily expected," said UNHCR Representative to Nigeria Jose Antonio Canhandula. "They apparently were informed that the situation was good in Nigeria and they could return." "We immediately started a campaign to inform them of the real situation. This is not the time to return, because when you return you end up in a camp with much less services."

Cameroon and Nigeria have been battling over refugees for the past year, said Yan St-Pierre, of the Modern Security Consulting Group in Berlin. In March, the UN said that more than 2,600 Nigerians of an estimated 85,000 who fled into northern Cameroon to escape Boko Haram jihadists had been forced to go home. In a way, Cameroon is calling Nigeria's bluff, St-Pierre said. Since Dec 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari has claimed Boko Haram is "technically defeated" and the government has insisted the group is on the back foot despite attacks.

In the first six months of 2017, Boko Haram has attacked soldiers, staged assaults on military bases, killed scores in suicide bombings and earlier in June launched a major assault on Maiduguri, the capital of northeast Borno state. "It's a political way of taking them to the word, saying, 'Well, if you've secured the area, then take your population back,'" said St-Pierre. — AFP

POLITICS OF DEATH: THE MAP MAKER WHO FINDS THE BODIES IN ETHIOPIA LAND BATTLE

LONDON: It was late 2015 when Endalk Chala began documenting deaths in his home country of Ethiopia, scouring Facebook, Twitter, and blogs to piece together who had died and where. Chala comes from Ginchi, a town 72 km from Addis Ababa where protests began in November 2015, initially over a government plan to allocate large swathes of farmland to the capital city for urban development. The plan would have displaced thousands of Oromo farmers, the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia.

"There were reports that people were killed in the protests and no one was reporting about it. No one cared who these people are," Chala told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "The information was all over the internet, not well organized. I just wanted to give perspective." While the land re-alloc-

ation project was officially scrapped by authorities, protests and conflict reignited over the continued arrest and jailing of opposition demonstrators with full-scale protests over everything from Facebook to economics. Several hundred protesters were killed in the 11 months to October 2016 when the government declared a state of emergency and shut down communications, including the internet.

More than 50 people died at a single demonstration that month, after a stampede was triggered by police use of teargas to disperse anti-government protesters at a religious festival. Witnesses also reported security forces firing live rounds into crowds of protesters at multiple locations. A government report presented to parliament in April acknowledged a death toll 669 people - 33 of them security personnel -

although activists believe it could be much higher. For the government shutting off the internet for periods all but ended online contact across Ethiopia, leaving it to the Ethiopian diasporas to pull together the facts.

Diaspora's database

Enter Chala, a PhD student in Oregon, the United States, who decided to log every death he could on an interactive map, inspired by a similar Palestinian project. "I started to collect the information from the internet: Facebook, Twitter and blogs. And I started to contact the people who had put that information out," he said.

Once word spread that Chala was collating the deaths, Ethiopian friends and activists began to send details, including photographs of those injured and killed. They contacted Chala via social media and

instant messaging applications like Viber. Chala learned that Ethiopians in rural areas were driving miles to put evidence of the killings online, but he still feared there were information black holes. In its report of 669 deaths presented to parliament, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission - which works for the government - blamed protesters for damaging land and property.

In the report, seen by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the Commission said the disturbances had damaged public services, private property and government institutions. It also cited harm to investment and development infrastructure. However the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, criticized the government for a lack of accountability and called for access to protest sites. — Reuters

ERDOGAN SLAMS OPPOSITION AS 'JUSTICE MARCH' NEARS ISTANBUL

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday accused Turkey's main opposition party of siding with terrorism, as a three-week "march for justice" led by its chief neared its ending point of Istanbul. Some analysts have seen the 450-kilometre trek from Ankara to Istanbul led by Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu as a significant challenge to Erdogan but the Turkish strongman has regarded it with disdain.

Kilicdaroglu began the march on June 15 after former journalist turned CHP lawmaker Enis Berberoglu was sentenced to 25 years in jail for leaking classified information to a newspaper. Marching without party insignia and simply a sign with the word "Justice" in Turkish, he has been followed by thousands every day and plans to end the march on July 9 with a mass rally outside Berberoglu's prison in the Istanbul district of Maltepe.

"If you start protests to protect terrorists and those who support terrorism—when it did not occur to you to take part in anti-terror demonstrations—then you

cannot convince anyone that your objective is justice," Erdogan said. The president told a meeting of his ruling party that the line represented by the CHP "had gone beyond being a political opposition and taken on a different proportion." Accusing the CHP of sympathizing with Kurdish militants and the alleged mastermind of the July 15 failed coup, he said the road taken by Kilicdaroglu was "the way to Qandil and Pennsylvania".

The leadership of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is based in the Qandil mountain of northern Iraq while the alleged coup mastermind, the preacher Fethullah Gulen, is based in Pennsylvania. He denies the allegations. The march by Kilicdaroglu has rallied supporters concerned by the extent of the crackdown after the coup which has seen tens of thousands arrested and even more lose their jobs. The opposition leader was walking through the Akyazi district of Sakarya province on day 17 of the march, heading towards the town of Sakarya from where he will have a walk of around 150 kilometers to Istanbul. — AFP

TRUMP BACKS REPEALING 'OBAMACARE' NOW, REPLACING IT LATER

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump barged into Senate Republicans' delicate health care negotiations Friday, declaring that if lawmakers can't reach a deal they should simply repeal "Obamacare" right away and then replace it later on. Trump's tweet revives an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise.

And it's likely to further complicate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's task as he struggles to bridge the divide between GOP moderates and conservatives as senators leave Washington for the Fourth of July break without having voted on a health care bill as planned. "If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!" Trump wrote.

The president sent his early-morning tweet shortly after Nebraska Republican Sen. Ben Sasse appeared on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" to talk about a letter he had sent to Trump making that exact suggestion: A vote on repealing former President Barack Obama's health law followed by a new effort at a working out a replacement. Trump is a known "Fox & Friends" viewer, but Republican Sen Rand Paul of Kentucky also claimed credit for recommending the tactic to

the president in a conversation earlier in the week.

"Sen Rand Paul suggested this very idea to the president," said Paul spokesman Sergio Gor. "The senator fully agrees that we must immediately repeal Obamacare and then work on replacing it right away." Either way, Trump's suggestion has the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives like Paul and Sasse complain that McConnell's bill does not go far enough in repealing Obama's health care law while moderates criticize it as overly harsh in kicking people off insurance roles, shrinking the Medicaid safety net and increasing premiums for older Americans.

McConnell told reporters after an event Friday in his home state of Kentucky that the health care bill remains challenging but "we are going to stick with that path." "It's not easy making American great again, is it?" McConnell said. McConnell has been trying to strike deals with members of both factions in order to finalize a rewritten bill lawmakers can vote on when they return to the Capitol the second week of July. Even before Trump weighed in, though, it wasn't clear how far he was getting, and Trump's tweet did not appear to suggest a lot of White House confidence in the outcome.

"McConnell's trying to achieve a 50-vote Venn diagram between some very competing factions," said Rodney Whitlock, a veteran health policy expert who worked as a Senate GOP aide during passage of the Democrats' Affordable Care Act. "So what the president tweeted takes one side of that Venn diagram and pushes it further away, and actually puts on the table an option that will probably drive that group away from seeking compromise with the other side of the Venn diagram." A McConnell spokesman declined to comment on Trump's tweet. Even before Trump was inaugurated in January, Republicans had debated and ultimately discarded the idea of repealing Obamacare before replacing it, concluding that both must happen simultaneously.

Doing otherwise would invite accusations that Republicans were simply tossing people off coverage and would roll insurance markets by raising the question of whether, when and how Congress might replace Obama's law once it was gone. The idea also would leave unresolved the quandary lawmakers are struggling with now, about how to replace Obama's system of online insurance markets, tax subsidies and an expanded Medicaid with something that could get enough Republican votes to



EMPORIA: A nurse screens a patient at Greenville County High School, in Emporia, Virginia during free medical aid by Remote Area Medical (RAM), a non-profit volunteer medical relief corps that provides free health care to people in remote areas of the United States. — AFP

pass Congress.

House Republicans barely passed their version of an Obamacare replacement bill in May, and the task is proving even tougher in the Senate, where McConnell has almost no margin for error. Moderates were spooked as the week began with a Congressional Budget Office finding that McConnell's draft bill would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade, only 1 million fewer than under

the House-passed legislation which Trump privately told senators was "mean."

But conservatives continue to insist that the bill must go further than just repealing some of the mandates and taxes in Obama's law. "It's distressing to see so many Republicans who've lied about their commitment to repeal," Ken Cuccinelli, president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, said in a conference call on Friday. — AP



ALASKA: Alisa Landis (left) and her 11-year-old son, Zach, explain how a black bear crashed through Zach's bedroom window in Anchorage, Alaska, Friday, June 30, 2017. — AP

BEAR CRASHES THROUGH WINDOW OF A BEDROOM

ANCHORAGE: A huge crash jolted 11-year-old Zach Landis awake in his Anchorage home, but it soon became clear it wasn't a human intruder or his sisters playing a trick on him. A black bear had broken through the garden-level window of Zach's tiny bedroom and was whimpering like a scared dog in the room. Zach screamed, and the man-sized animal bolted out the window and disappeared, the boy recalled Friday about the Monday night encounter at his home on a large, thickly wooded lot.

The boy scrambled over the shattered glass and ran upstairs to tell his parents. "Mom, Dad, there's a bear in my room," he blurted. His mother, Alisa Landis, told him he just had a bad dream and that he could sleep with her and his father. No, no, no, it was a bear. Zach insisted, adding the animal had climbed out the window. At that point, his mother said, it must be an intruder. His father, Jon Landis, went downstairs to check and found the shattered window. "Call 911," he shouted.

No one was hurt, just shaken up. The animal left claw marks in the room, as well as black hair and a few smudges of blood. Plus, the bear smelled like a wet, dirty dog and left behind a powerful stench. "The odor lingered for hours," Alisa Landis said. It was the latest encounter between bears and humans this summer in the nation's largest state,

including four maulings in the past two weeks. Two people were killed by black bears in what are believed to be rare predatory attacks, but predatory behavior is not believed to have been what drove the bear in Monday's residential visit.

That bear appeared to find itself in the house by accident and it quickly fled, state Fish and Game officials said. The Landis family just returned to Alaska last fall after leaving the state about a decade ago. In the last couple of weeks, they've had their share of bear experiences. Before the bedroom escapade, they saw another, smaller black bear crossing a busy street in south Anchorage during a family bike ride. And on Wednesday, they discovered a bear had broken into a trash bin, pulling out a garbage bag, which was slit open like it was done with a sharp knife.

Their neighbors also saw a large black bear in the days before the window caper. "We don't live in a state of fear or being paranoid or anything," Alisa Landis said. "But we're also much more cautious and more alert to checking your surroundings." The day after the incident, state Fish and Game biologist Cory Stantorf visited the home to talk to the family and try to determine what happened. Like the Landis family, he speculates that the bear might have seen its reflection in the window and charged at it. — AP

US DEFENSE SECRETARY DELAYS A PLAN FOR TRANSGENDER RECRUITS

BILL TARGETS LAW AIMED AT KEEPING POLITICS OUT OF CHURCHES

WASHINGTON: Defense Secretary James Mattis has delayed a plan by Barack Obama's administration to start accepting transgender recruits in the military, the Pentagon said. The decision to delay the plan for six months was made on the eve of a deadline set by Mattis's predecessor, Ashton Carter, during Barack Obama's administration. The five armed service branches can now delay accepting transgender recruits until January 1 as they "review their accession plans and provide input on the impact to the readiness and lethality of our forces," Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said in a statement.

Last week, White explained that the different services were not in agreement on when to accept transgender recruits. "The service chiefs all had to give their what needed-to-be-done timeframes" for integrating transgender troops, she told reporters. "Different services had different takes. Some asked for time... there were all kinds of different recommendations." An estimated 2,500 to 7,000 transgender people are among the 1.3 million active duty service members. But these are troops who could not make their sexual preferences openly known prior to joining the military. Until a year ago, they could be fired for openly expressing their sexual orientation. "We have reason to be proud today of what this will mean for our military because it's the right thing to do, and it's another step in ensuring that we continue to recruit and retain the most qualified people - and good people are the key to the best military in the world," Carter said last year. "Our military, and the nation it defends, will be stronger."

Politicking from the pulpit

Meanwhile, House Republicans targeting a law that prohibits such outright politicking from the pulpit said that Churches should have the right to endorse political candidates and still keep their tax-free status. Republicans repeatedly have failed to scrap the law preventing churches and other nonprofits from backing candidates, so now they are trying to starve it. With little fanfare, a House Appropriations subcommittee added a provision that would deny money to the IRS to enforce the 63-year-old law to a bill to fund the Treasury Department, Securities and Exchange Commission and other agencies.

The subcommittee passed the bill Thursday. Republicans say the law is enforced unevenly, leaving religious leaders uncertain about what they are allowed to say and do. "I believe that churches have a right of free speech and an opportunity to talk about positions and issues that are relevant to their faith," said Rep. Jim Renacci, R-Ohio. Some Democrats say the measure comes too close to mixing church and state. They say religious leaders already have First Amendment rights, just like anyone else. But if they want to get political, they don't have a constitutional right not to pay taxes.

Some also worry that the measure could upend the system of campaign financing by allowing churches to use their tax-free status to funnel money to political candidates. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., recalled a speech that President John F. Kennedy gave to religious leaders when he was running for president. "He said the pope wouldn't tell him what to do, and the people in that audience shouldn't be telling people on Sunday morning who to vote for," Neal said. "I don't think churches should be endorsing."

Many nonprofit groups want to avoid politics. In April, 4,500 nonprofit groups signed onto a letter to congressional leaders asking them to preserve the law. The law prohibits tax-exempt charitable organizations such as churches from participating directly or indirectly in any political campaign to support or oppose a candidate. If the IRS determines that a group has violated the law, it can revoke its tax-exempt status. The law doesn't stop religious groups from weighing in on public policy or organizing in ways that may benefit one side in a campaign.

The bill specifically forbids the IRS from spending money to enforce the law against "a church, or a convention or association of churches," unless the IRS commissioner signs off on it and notifies Congress. The bill doesn't mention other types of nonprofit groups, or even synagogues or mosques, said Nick Little of the Center for Inquiry, which promotes secularism. "All they



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left), US Vice President Mike Pence (center), and US Secretary of Defense James Mattis speak before US President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in give joint statements in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, DC, on June 30, 2017. — AFP

care about is the Christian groups, and in particular, it will end up as the extreme religious right Christian groups," Little said. "If this goes through, this would add just another way in which unregulated dark money could be used."

Religious leaders have been weighing in on political issues for generations, whether it's the

debate over abortion or advocating for the poor. But periodically, the IRS has stepped in when religious leaders explicitly endorse or oppose candidates. The law is called the Johnson Amendment after former President Lyndon Johnson, who introduced it in 1954 when he was a Democratic senator from Texas. — AP

5 FACES OF CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

CARACAS: Venezuela's political and economic crisis has thrown people's everyday lives into chaos and left 82 of them dead. Killings, looting, traffic jams and clouds of tear gas fired by riots cops at anti-government protesters are making ordinary people's lives a nightmare. As the country marks three months since the worst unrest erupted, here are five faces of a crisis with no end in sight.

Butcher

Looters emptied the freezers and seized computers and even carving knives from Ricardo Rivas's butcher's shop on May 16. "They took absolutely everything," the 29-year-old said, in his western home city of San Cristobal. He was visiting his mother when he got a call telling him armed men had destroyed the business he worked years to build. "I thought of shutting it down and leaving. But I am one of those people who believe you should stay and fight," Rivas said. He laid off half the staff and put his van up for sale to keep the business afloat. Venezuela's Social Conflict Observatory counted 157 outbreaks of looting in the first two months of this year alone. That was before the worst of the unrest began, with the daily protests that erupted on April 1 by demonstrators who blame President Nicolas Maduro for the economic crisis. Entrepreneurial association Fedecamaras says 70 percent of Venezuela's businesses have shut down in the past decade.

Baker

Daniel Dacosta, 64, closed up his bakery as hooded protesters outside prepared for a pitched battle with police in Caracas. Flour is scarce and the violence worsens the shortage. Dacosta has laid off staff. The bakery is running at half capacity. "Customers are not coming. The situation is explosive," he said. "People are afraid to go out because of the tear gas and the bandits." Maria Carolina Uzcategui, president of trade association Consecomercio, told AFP protests in downtown commercial districts are causing "numerous" losses. Consultancy Ecoanalitica estimates the economy will contract by nine percent this year if the trend continues, its director Asdrubal Oliveros said. "But we have to carry on," Dacosta said.

Homemaker

For Karelis Rojas, 37, the unrest messes up just about every aspect of life: as a housewife, mother and entrepreneur. Her children, aged five and 12, stopped going to school three weeks ago because of the disturbances. The school is only two blocks from their house, but the streets are too dangerous to risk it. "People who live near the schools warn me if there are armored cars there, and if the streets are closed," Rojas said. Clouds of tear gas fired by riot police seeped into the apartment, forcing her to shut the children in their room. She had to take her five-year-old son to a psychologist because he suffered from "fear and anxiety." Rojas used to earn money by designing women's garments, but "what people least want to do at the moment is buy clothes." Rather than sit at home "crying," she said she has sometimes joined in the protests despite the risks. "The way to show my discontent is to get out in the street," Rojas said.

Student

Language student Laura Doffiny, 21, said she sometimes misses up to three days of classes a week due to transport chaos. "I am meant to attend 10 classes a week and I end up having three or four," she said. "In one of the subjects I am taking, I haven't had a single class." The private university she attends postponed exams in April after one of its students was killed during a protest. When classes are canceled, she joins in the demonstrations, though not all students agree with her. "Venezuela needs professionals," reads a placard in the university. "Not martyrs."

Taxi driver

Driving his taxi, Jean Carlo Ponce has to weave around barricades mounted by protesters. "We try to go to areas where the taxi doesn't risk getting set on fire," he said. In Venezuela's inflation crisis, something as basic as a spare tire costs a whole month's salary. Underground train stations shut down during demonstrations, but that doesn't help him much. Many passengers can't afford a cab, and the disturbances keep many away. He sometimes spends two hours at a time idle. "When the protest finishes, the demonstrators leave and you're on your own," Ponce said. "At that point, it's best not to hang around in case someone comes to steal your car or your money." — AFP

VENEZUELA'S CHOPPER CAPER SPELLS TROUBLE

CARACAS: Venezuelans disagree on whether a helicopter grenade attack claimed by rogue cops was a coup or a hoax. Either way, it shows security forces risk turning against the government. Authorities said they were still hunting the man accused of piloting the helicopter from which grenades were dropped on the Supreme Court on Monday: Oscar Perez, a cop who also happens to have appeared in an action film. Local people, opposition leaders and some analysts suspect he is just a pouter hired by the government to justify it cracking down on its opponents. For others, the most important thing it highlighted is the delicate role played by the security forces in Venezuela's potentially explosive crisis. "We call on the people to remain calm," said the head of the armed forces, Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, "but also to remain on alert in case of an escalation."

Testing loyalties

Analysts at consultancy Eurasia Group judged that the grenade attack "seems to be individually motivated rather than a government conspiracy or coordinated attempt with other security or military actors." But they warned in a note that the attack came as anti-government protests "are turning more violent and testing the loyalties of the security apparatus." Despite being widely blamed for a desperate economic crisis, Maduro retains the public backing of the military high command. Analysts say that is key to him remaining in power. But there is

Distracting attention?

The government said Tuesday the helicopter used in the attack had been found in Osmá, a town near Caracas, but no arrests had been made. Perez appeared in a video released online around the time of the attack claiming he was a "warrior of God" and urging an uprising against the government. He has not appeared since. Foreign Minister Moncada said some in the opposition were "acting crazy" by alleging that "this was a lie made up by the government, that we did it on purpose to distract the public's attention" from the crisis. — AFP

'WELCOME TO HELL,' VOW GERMAN ANTI-G20 PROTESTERS

HAMBURG: A ten minute walk from Germany's heavily-guarded G20 summit venue in the port city of Hamburg lies the graffiti-covered centre of the leftwing protest movement vowing to disrupt it. "Capitalism will end anyway-you decide when!" reads a banner atop the Rote Flora, a former vacant theatre that was occupied by squatters in 1989 in the midst of demonstrations and street battles.

It has since become an alternative cultural centre and spiritual home for protesters against war, nuclear power, climate change, racism, big business and the gentrification of the now hip Sternschanze district around it. In most years since, especially on May 1 Labor Days, black-clad youths with hoodies and balaclavas have hurled rocks and fireworks at armored riot police who have responded with batons, pepper spray and water cannon. The rowdy annual ritual tends to end with several burning cars and smashed shop windows, which the stiff-lipped citizens of the wealthy northern port have more or less learnt to live with.

But this year promises to be far hotter than most, with the world leaders of the Group of 20 big industrialized and emerging economies coming to town on July 7-8. Chancellor Angela Merkel has invited the leaders to the city of her birth, among them US President Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Recep Tayyip

Erdogan. Posters and stickers covering the Rote Flora and walls in cities across Germany have for months rallied demonstrators to "Shut down" or "Smash the G20", with 30 demonstrations announced in the summit week starting today.

'Combative message'

"Welcome to hell" is the eye-catching motto of one of the rallies seen as likely to escalate, organized for July 6 by veteran Rote Flora activist Andreas Blechschmidt. "It's a combative message ... but it's also meant to symbolize that G20 policies worldwide are responsible for hellish conditions like hunger, war and the climate disaster," he said. Blechschmidt said activists would seek to blockade access to the summit venue and, as usual, "reserve for themselves the option of militant resistance" against police.

Organizers expect a peak of over 100,000 demonstrators, while police estimate a hard core of 8,000 left-wing extremists considered likely to use violence. "It will be the biggest operation in the history of Hamburg's police," said police spokesman Timo Zell. About 20,000 officers will secure Germany's second city and the summit venues, a conference centre and the harbourside concert hall, the Elbphilharmonie.

A holding centre for detainees has been set up with space for 400 people and



HAMBURG: Officers of the police sit at the G20 command center in Hamburg, Germany yesterday. The police will direct the security measures during the G20 Summit with state-of-the-art technology. —AP

detention judges on hand. Police will need to secure road convoys from the airport to the city centre, including the US motorcade with its scores of vehicles. Police have warned protesters who may be thinking of a sit-in in front of Trump's armored presidential limousine known as "The Beast" that it may not stop. Border controls have been reimposed since mid-June at cross-

ings to nearby Denmark and other neighbors after protest organizers mobilized across Europe and beyond.

'Right to assemble'

Many Hamburg residents are fleeing town to evade traffic jams, ID checks and the noise of police helicopters above, and some shops near the summit are boarding

up their windows. Protesters have voiced anger about the city turning into a police "fortress", and at a July 7-8 ban on demonstrations across most of the city which will force rallies into harbourside areas. Georg Ismael, 25, of leftist group ArbeiterInnenMacht, said that given how police "are trying to put pressure on the organizations mobilizing against the G20, you can expect them to be violent". "We are prepared and we'll try to defend our democratic rights to assemble." Many fear a rerun of the kind of major urban clashes seen at the 2001 G8 summit in Genoa, or the Frankfurt opening of the new European Central Bank building in 2015.

So why has Germany chosen the centre of a large city after most recent world summits were held in secluded spots, such as the G7 at the Bavarian Alpine retreat of Elmau? Germany says it wants to signal transparency at a time when politicians are accused of hiding away, and host the meeting in a port city that prides itself as the country's "gateway to the world". Another reason is logistics: with over 10,000 delegates and almost 5,000 journalists expected, no German town, castle, resort or cruise ship could host the mega-event. The government hopes the summit will be a success, but it fully expects police lights and water cannon or, as one official put it, a summit that will be "blue and wet". —AFP

EUROPE PAYS TRIBUTE TO KOHL, 'A GIANT' OF POST-WAR HISTORY

HELMUT KOHL - AN ARCHITECT OF GERMANY UNITY

STRASBOURG: European leaders joined with former US president Bill Clinton at an emotional tribute in Strasbourg yesterday for former German chancellor Helmut Kohl, the father of German reunification and a founder of modern-day Europe. "A giant of the post-war period has left us," European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said in an oration in French and German. "Helmut Kohl was a German patriot, but he was also a European patriot," said Juncker, the only current leader in Europe to have worked along-

world. With former French president Francois Mitterrand, Kohl also drove the expansion and integration of the EU. Together, they helped to open up its membership to fledgling democracies of the former Soviet bloc, create the euro single currency and ripped away internal border controls. "Helmut Kohl was a privileged partner for France, an essential ally, but he was also more than that, he was a friend," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "We are here to salute his mark in

(With love, Maïke). The choice of Strasbourg for the ceremony carried great symbolic weight. A French city on the Rhine border with Germany, Strasbourg is located in a region that once was bloodily contested by France and Germany. Its location, along with Brussels, as the seat of the European Parliament is an emblem of the post-war reconciliation between the two former enemies that was fostered by the EU. The parliament building was ringed by steel for the ceremony, with more than 2,000 police on duty. Kohl's coffin was to be taken by helicopter to the German city of Ludwigshafen and then taken by boat down the Rhine to the southwest town of Speyer for his funeral service yesterday.

Family row

Arrangements to honor Kohl were clouded by criticism from Kohl's elder son. In an interview with Die Zeit weekly he called the plans "unworthy" of his father's role in Germany's history. Walter Kohl, whose mother was the late chancellor's first wife Hannelore Kohl, criticized the lack of a state funeral, which was refused by Kohl-Richter. Kohl married Kohl-Richter, 34 years her husband's junior, when he was 78. One of the reasons for her refusal was lingering anger at the current chancellor, Angela Merkel, for treatment of her former mentor.

Merkel ousted Kohl from the leadership of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and urged the party to drop him when he became embroiled in a party funding scandal. Walter Kohl wanted his father's coffin to be taken to the German capital for "a national homage, an ecumenical requiem and a military farewell ceremony" near the Brandenburg Gate, where the German leader witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Because of a long-running feud with his stepmother, who jealously guards her husband's political legacy, Walter Kohl had not had contact with his father for many years and said he learned of his death from a radio report. He said he would not take part in the burial in Speyer. Kohl's death on June 16 was followed on Friday by that of Simone Veil, another colossus of European history. Veil, a Holocaust survivor and pioneer of women's rights in France, was the first president of the European Parliament. —AFP



LUDWIGSHAFEN: Former German chancellor Helmut Kohl's coffin is driven through the city of Ludwigshafen, Germany yesterday. Kohl died June 16 at the age of 87. —AP

side the iconic figure. "Helmut Kohl was not just the architect of Germany unity. He contributed substantially, more than others, to the reconciliation between European history and European geography," Kohl, who served as chancellor from 1982 to 1998, died on June 16 at age 87. On his watch, the pro-Western and pro-Soviet states of West and East Germany reunified after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, becoming one of the stablest and most prosperous democracies in the

history." The EU flag, of 12 gold stars on a blue background, draped the coffin of the former chancellor, which was placed in the chamber of the European Parliament by a phalanx of eight German soldiers. Three wreaths were placed in front of the casket-one in the colors of the Federal Republic of Germany, the other in the name of the EU, and the third in the name of Kohl's wife Maïke Kohl-Richter, bearing a simple inscription in German, "In Liebe, deine Maïke"

PONTIFF DISMISSES DOCTRINE CHIEF IN TURBULENT WEEK FOR VATICAN

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has dismissed the church's chief of doctrine, Cardinal Gerhard Mueller - one of the most powerful cardinals at the Vatican - and appointed a Spanish archbishop to the role, the Vatican said yesterday. German conservative Mueller, 69, who served a five-year posting as head of the powerful department responsible for church doctrine, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), had clashed with the pope over key reform issues.

He was one of several cardinals who questioned Francis's determination for the Catholic Church to take a softer line on people traditionally seen as "sinners", including remarried divorced people who want to take communion. Mueller had also been caught up in the controversy surrounding the church's response to the clerical sex abuse scandal after his department was accused of obstructing Francis's efforts to stop internal cover-ups of abuse.

"In space of three days, two leading Vatican cardinals out of their posts," said Vatican watcher Christopher Lamb, after Vatican finance chief George Pell was charged with historical sexual assault this week. The Vatican said Mueller's five-year term would not be renewed and he would be replaced by CDF secretary Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria

Ferrer, a 73-year-old Spaniard. Ladaria was appointed to the CDF by former Pope Benedict in 2008, and was asked last year by Francis to head up a new papal commission studying the possibility of having women deacons in the Church.

'Neither angel, nor pope'

Francis may not have liked the Mueller's "excessive media exposure" and "interventions... that almost always sounded like he was distancing himself from the pope", Vatican expert Andrea Tornielli wrote in the Vatican Insider. The German was dragged into the row over Francis's attempt to shift Church attitudes after the pope intimated last year that some believers who have remarried should be able to take communion.

Traditionalists were horrified; Roman Catholic marriage is for life, so divorcing your first partner and marrying someone else is considered adultery. Four conservative cardinals accused the pope of sowing confusion and publicly demanded an answer to "doubts" about family guidelines Francis published in April. The pontiff has yet to respond. Mueller said the cardinals were within their rights to challenge the guidelines and in February said marriage was a "sacrament, and no power in heaven or on earth, neither an angel, nor the pope... has the faculty to change it".

Singled out

In March a prominent church reform group called for Mueller's resignation after accusations that senior officials had willfully ignored Francis's decision to create a new tribunal to judge bishops who cover up sexual abuse. Irish survivor of abuse Marie Collins, who quit the pope's commission on the protection of minors in disgust, singled out Mueller's ministry, which is in charge of the clerical abuse dossier. The German cardinal retorted in an

open letter that the tribunal had only been a "project" which Vatican departments felt would needlessly duplicate initiatives already in place to deal with wayward bishops.

Mueller is six years short of the traditional retiring age. The Vatican did not say what his next appointment might be. His dismissal comes at the end of a turbulent week in the heartland of the Roman Catholic faith, following the charges of sexual offences brought against the Vatican finance chief on Thursday. — AFP



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis talks with Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Mueller at the end of his weekly general audience, in St Peter's Square at the Vatican. — AP



MADRID: Participants wait for the start of a Gay Pride high heels race in the Chueca district, a popular area for the gay community in Madrid. —AP

IN MADRID, GAY ACTIVISTS FROM MUSLIM WORLD URGE FREEDOM

MADRID: The Arab Spring brought a taste of liberty for north Africa's gay and transgender communities, but six years on their battle for rights and recognition continues, activists say. In Madrid for WorldPride 2017, one of the globe's biggest celebrations of LGBT rights, activists from the Muslim world called for greater freedom or the de-penalization of homosexuality in countries where being gay is so frowned upon it can lead to jail.

In Tunisia, the fragile democracy ushered in after the 2010-2011 revolution against dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has allowed for open debate on the situation of the country's LGBT community. But homosexuality is nevertheless still punishable by three years in jail as per article 230 of the criminal code. Paradoxically, the country made abortion legal in 1973, ahead of France.

Silence and control

At a three-day gathering of more than 180 activists, Tunisian activist Hafedh Trifi said the "priority" was to abolish this article and the anal test used to see if someone had gay sex-a practice he qualified as "inhuman" and "degrading." He said the LGBT community had called for the repeal of this article ahead of elections in 2014, but was met by "silence from all parties." In the Islamist Ennahda party that forms part of the ruling coalition, he added, some "say that it is an illness that must be treated, or that you have to kill, imprison or send homosexuals away into exile."

But it's not just about religion. In October 2015, Tunisia's President, the secular Beji Caid Essebsi, said on television that article 230 would not be repealed. "I'm against it," he said. In neighboring Algeria, meanwhile, openly gay imam Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed says that "there is the impression that it isn't even possible to debate these issues." Homosexuality there is also punished by jail-as it is in Morocco and Libya-and he says his country is in the hands of a "military-economic oligarchy" that fears diversity. "If people live in a climate of diversity and debate, (the elite) will lose control, and it knows it," says this imam who has lived in France since the 1990s. "It's easy to control a harmonized population."

Beware of cliches

In Egypt, the fall of dictator Hosni Mubarak in 2011 did not free up the situation. There, the law doesn't explicitly penalize homosexuality, but gay men are regularly jailed for "debauchery." But in a talk on the LGBT community in the Islamic world, Muslim activist Daniel Ahmed Said warned against blanket-labeling Muslim countries as homophobic. He said that in north Africa and the Middle East, French and British colonization's from the 19th century brought "rigid morals with regards to sexuality." Trifi concurred, saying that laws against homosexuality in Tunisia came with the French protectorate, set up in 1881.

Secular Turkey

Further afield, the situation is particularly complex in Turkey, where secularism is one of the pillars of the modern republic proclaimed in 1923. A first Gay Pride march took place in Istanbul in 2003. But authorities have banned it since 2015, citing security concerns. This year, police fired rubber bullets at a small group of activists that tried to defy the ban. Sedef Cakmak, an activist and councillor for Istanbul's Besiktas district, said the prohibition hides political and religious motives.

She told AFP that authorities in the secular country couldn't openly say that the 2015 ban was for Ramadan, but on the phone, she was told that it was due to the Muslim holy fasting month coinciding. In 2014, the 35-year-old added, 80,000 people took part in Istanbul's Gay Pride march. She said "the government saw that the LGBT movement is becoming a political actor in the country, so they started to see this as a threat."

Turkey is currently under a state of emergency implemented after a failed coup in July 2016 to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and critics say their freedoms are not safeguarded. Homosexuality is legal in Turkey, but on the other hand, Cakmak says, "there are no laws that forbid discrimination on sexual orientation and identity." "So literally the state is saying 'we don't care about what happens to the LGBT community.'" — AFP

TRUMP AND PUTIN FACE HIGH-STAKES MEETING

WASHINGTON: Meeting face-to-face with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Donald Trump's "America First" policy will be put to the test if he opts to confront Russia over intelligence that Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election. National security adviser HR McMaster said Thursday that Trump will meet with Putin along the sidelines of the annual Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg, Germany, part of an itinerary that will include meetings with several world leaders.

Trump will face the challenge of working with Russia toward common goals in Syria and Ukraine, while also potentially broaching allegations about Moscow's interferences in the US elections and

accusations that some of his associates may have had contact with Russian officials during the 2016 campaign and the transition. All 17 US intelligence agencies have agreed that Russia was behind last year's hack of the Democratic Party's email systems and tried to influence the 2016 election to benefit Trump. Trump will be under pressure to side with the US intelligence agencies and press Putin on the issue of election meddling, something he has thus far been reluctant to do.

Trump's promise of closer cooperation with Russia has prompted concerns that the US will have diminished leverage over global issues and he could be more sympathetic to Russia. —AP

News

in brief

19 gunmen killed

CULIACAN: Clashes killed 19 gunmen and injured five police officers in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, the heart of operations of some of the country's biggest drug traffickers, authorities said yesterday. The incident occurred late Friday when a group of gunmen clashed with Mazatlan city police who were on a routine tour led by local police chief Joel Ernesto Soto. The confrontation began around 8:00 pm in the town of Villa Union when police repelled the gunmen's assault, Sinaloa deputy secretary of security Cristobal Castaneda said. The 19 men, who were riding in four vehicles, pursued their confrontation by a highway, where they were killed by municipal police. "They faced quite a number of aggressors, but thanks to their training and professionalism, they managed to get ahead. The wounded policemen are well," Castaneda told reporters. At the scene of the clash, four vehicles, 15 rifles and seven handguns were found.

Nightclub shooting

MIAMI: Seventeen people were wounded in a nightclub shootout in the southern US state of Arkansas, police said yesterday. Some of the victims may also have been trampled when gunfire rang out inside the Power Ultra Lounge in downtown Little Rock around 2:30 am, local KATV reported. "We do NOT believe this incident was an active shooter or terror related incident," the Little Rock police department wrote on Twitter. "It appears to have been a dispute at a concert." Police later tweeted that "ALL 17 confirmed shooting victims are alive," and that one of the shooting victims "that was critical has been upgraded to STABLE." Police released no names or any information on a suspect or suspects. According to the nightclub website, an artist by the name of Finese 2 Tymes had been scheduled to perform.

Tanker, ship collide

LILLE: An oil tanker and a cargo ship collided yesterday off Britain in one of the world's busiest shipping routes, but no injuries or spills have been reported, authorities said. The tanker had 38,000 tons of petrol on board at the time of the collision with a 220-metre cargo boat in the Strait of Dover, which is where the North Sea and the Channel meet. "Although both vessels have been damaged, there is no water ingress and no pollution," Britain's maritime and coastguard agency said. "There are no injuries and all of the crew are accounted for." Photos released by French maritime authorities showed extensive damage to the side of the tanker "Seafreighter", which had 27 people on board. The "Huyan Endeavour" cargo ship was able to continue on its way. "We don't know the circumstances of the accident," a French maritime authority source said. "The weather conditions were not bad, but the area where the collision happened is relatively narrow, with lots of traffic."

New WHO director

GENEVA: The new director general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom, took over managing the UN health agency yesterday, the WHO said. A specialist in malaria, Tedros served as health minister and later as foreign minister for Ethiopia. The 52-year-old is the first African to head the global health organization and he takes over from Margaret Chan of China, who led the WHO for nearly 10 years. Tedros was elected to the post in May in what was the first time the WHO director-general was chosen by the World Health Assembly from among multiple candidates. Previously a single nominee had been chosen by the executive board. The Geneva-based WHO, with some 8,000 employees worldwide, is responsible for coordinating global action to disease outbreaks and epidemics, such as Ebola, and to set the norms for health systems in all countries.

Militant shot dead

JAKARTA: Indonesian police shot dead a suspected militant after he stabbed two policemen inside a mosque near the national police headquarters in Jakarta, less than a week after an Islamist attack on security forces. The attacker had just finished praying with several policemen and other worshippers Friday night when he stabbed the two officers and screamed 'infidel', said national police spokesman Rikwanto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. The perpetrator immediately ran to a nearby crowded bus terminal and refused to surrender. "He instead threatened to attack (us) with a bayonet. After warning shots were fired, he was killed on the spot...", Rikwanto said. The two police officers were stabbed in the neck and face and are being treated at a local hospital. The motive and identity of the attacker are still being examined, police spokesman Setyo Wasisto said yesterday.

Bomb kills four

PESHAWAR: Four people were killed including a soldier and two paramilitary troops when a bomb concealed in a plastic bag went off in Pakistan's northwestern tribal area near the Afghan border, officials said yesterday. The incident occurred in the Khyber district when security officials spotted a suspicious plastic bag near a security checkpoint. Khyber is one of the seven semi-autonomous tribal areas where the army has for more than a decade been battling militants linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. "As the security officials were inspecting the plastic bag, the bomb concealed in it went off, killing a soldier, two paramilitary troops and a civilian," a local administration official said, requesting anonymity. The incident was confirmed by other local security officials. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Violence across Pakistan has declined in recent years following a series of military offensives against insurgents but the remnants of militant groups are still able to carry out periodic bloody attacks, particularly in the northwest.

4 KILLED AS VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN KASHMIR

INDIAN TROOPS COME UNDER FIRE FROM MILITANTS

SRINAGAR: A woman and a young man were killed and several other people injured during anti-India protests and clashes in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday following a counterinsurgency operation by government forces that killed two rebels in the disputed region, police said. Indian troops came under fire from militants as soldiers laid a cordon around the southern village of Dalgam following a tip that rebels were hiding there, said senior police officer Muneer Ahmed Khan.

After a brief exchange of fire, militants took refuge inside a home where civilians, including women, were also trapped, Khan said. He said that the woman was killed in the crossfire. However, locals said that several men and women rushed to the house where the militants took shelter and asked soldiers to give them safe passage. The residents said troops were not letting some of the women leave.

A police statement accused militants of holding civilians as human shields. Shortly after over a dozen civilians came out of the house, a gunbattle erupted in which two militants were killed, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with department policy. SP Vaid, the region's police chief, said one of the dead militants was a top commander involved in the ambush of a police party last month in which six officers were killed. Earlier, as news of the siege spread, hundreds of people from Dalgam and neighboring villages broke the security lockdown and marched near the site in solidarity with the rebels while demanding an end to Indian rule over the region.

Intense clashes erupted in and around the village as locals threw rocks at the troops, who fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to quell the spiraling protests. A young man was killed and at least 16 people were injured in the clashes. Authorities snapped internet and cell-



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri protesters clash with Indian government forces after in downtown Srinagar. —AFP

phone services in some parts of southern Kashmir following the fighting. In recent years, Kashmiris, mainly youths, have displayed open solidarity with anti-India rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during military operations against the militants.

The anti-India protests and clashes have persisted despite the Indian army chief warning recently that "tough action" would be taken against stone

throwers during counterinsurgency operations. Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety. Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the fighting and the ensuing Indian crackdown.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep among

the region's mostly Muslim population and most people support the rebels' cause against Indian rule despite a decades-long military crackdown to fight the armed rebellion. India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Pakistan denies. Rebel groups have largely been suppressed by Indian forces in recent years and public opposition to Indian rule is now principally expressed through street protests. —AP

CHINESE SCHOLAR BELIEVED DEAD; MAN CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING

ILLINOIS: A man was charged on Friday with kidnapping a visiting University of Illinois scholar from China who authorities believe to be dead after she disappeared three weeks ago. A federal criminal complaint alleges the suspect's phone was used to visit an online forum in April called "Abduction 101." Yingying Zhang, the 26-year-old daughter of a working-class factory driver from China, disappeared on June 9, just weeks after arriving at the Urbana-Champaign campus in central Illinois where she was doing research in agricultural sciences and was expected to begin work on her doctorate in the fall.

Some 5,600 Chinese students are enrolled at the university - more than at any other college in the nation - and Zhang's disappearance fed anxieties of families of Chinese students studying in the US Federal authorities say Brendt Christensen, who turned 28 on Friday, of Champaign, Illinois, is charged in a criminal complaint with abducting Zhang shortly after she stepped off a bus near the university campus. Video shows her getting into the front seat of a black Saturn Astra.

According to the 10-page affidavit filed in federal court by FBI Special Agent Anthony Manganaro, Christensen was under surveillance Thursday when agents overheard him explaining he kidnapped Zhang. Authorities say based on that and other facts uncovered during the investigation, agents believe Zhang is no longer alive. Asked Friday night if authorities had any leads on where Zhang's body might be located, the spokesman for the FBI Springfield office, Bradley Ware, declined comment. Illinois Chancellor Robert Jones said in a statement the campus community is saddened by the news Zhang is believed dead.

"This is a senseless and devastating loss of a promising young woman and a member of our community," Jones said. "There is nothing we can do to ease the sadness or grief for her family and friends, but we can and we will come together to support them in any way we can in these difficult days ahead." The federal charging document says one of the threads on the forum that Christensen's smartphone visited online in April - months before Zhang went missing - was entitled, "Perfect abduction fantasy." Another was about "planning a kidnapping."

According to Manganaro's affidavit, investigators determined there were 18 vehicles similar to the one Zhang got in that were registered in Champaign County. The vehicle belonging to Christensen was first observed in an apartment complex parking lot on June 12 - just days after Zhang went missing - and investigators questioned him. The affidavit stated that investigators noted Christensen couldn't recall what he was doing on the day Zhang disappeared. They searched the vehicle but didn't remove anything. Investigators later determined the car in the video had a sunroof and cracked hubcap, like the vehicle belonging to Christensen, according to the affidavit. When investigators interviewed Christensen again, he admitted to driving around the University of Illinois campus and giving a ride to an Asian woman who said she was late for an appointment. Christensen said the woman panicked after he apparently made a wrong turn and he let her out in a residential area.

The court document indicates a search of Christensen's car indicates the area where Zhang was believed to have been sitting had been cleaned. Christensen was placed under continuous surveillance on June 16, and on Thursday he was captured on an audio recording explaining how he took Zhang to his apartment and held her against her will. The affidavit says the woman remains missing. Friends and family said Zhang dreamed of one day landing a professorship and being able to help her parents financially. She saved some of her income as a researcher to buy items for her mother and father including a microwave and a cellphone.

Those who knew Zhang described her as bright and outgoing. She played guitar and sang in a band called "Cute Horse" in China. One of her favorite songs was "The Rose," a hit in 1980 for American singer Bette Midler. Zhang's boyfriend has said that she was also cautious and wouldn't normally get into a car with a stranger unless duped or forced. Zhang graduated last year with a master's degree in environmental engineering from one of China's elite schools, Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. She had been doing research on crop photosynthesis, which included using drones to study fields, the university's communications office has said. —AP



This undated photo provided by the University of Illinois Police Department shows Yingying Zhang. —AP



DHAKA: Bangladeshis pay their respects to victims on the first anniversary of the deadly hostage crisis at the upscale Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka yesterday. —AP

BANGLADESH MARKS FIRST 'VERSARY OF DEADLY SIEGE

DHAKA: Hundreds of people gathered yesterday at the site of one of the worst Islamist attacks in Bangladesh's history to mark the first anniversary of the deadly attack on an upscale Dhaka cafe. Weeping mourners laid flowers outside the old premises of the Holey Artisan Bakery, the cafe which five young men armed with guns and knives stormed into on July 1, 2016, taking dozens hostage and killing 22 people. Most of the victims were foreigners - mostly Italian and Japanese national and many were brutally hacked to death.

Since then, the lakeside property has been cordoned off first by police and then by the owners - the bakery itself has reopened at a new, more secure, location. Amid heavy police security, the two-storey white-painted house was opened up for four hours yesterday, as top political leaders, the Italian and Japanese ambassadors, and scores of tearful mourners paid tribute to the victims of the siege. "The memories are painful and awful," Monica Chowdhury, the aunt of one of the victims, Faraz Hossain said. "This is not the true face of Bangladesh. We've lost friends. I've lost my

nephew. It hurts deep inside my heart," she said. Bangladesh's cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Nur told reporters that the government had never imagined this kind of attack could occur in the country. "Bangladesh has a long history of rich culture and liberal practices. This attack was also an attack on our heritage," he said. Bangladesh is gradually "overcoming the threat" posed by Islamic extremism, he added. Mourners Husne Ara said that while she had not lost any friends or relatives during the attack, it had shaken her deeply and changed her life.

"The anxiety I feel nowadays when my children go out can't be expressed in words. I pray this kind of incident never repeats," she said. The Islamic State group immediately claimed the attack but the secular government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has repeatedly denied that IS has any presence in the country, instead pinning the blame on homegrown Islamist outfits. Since the attack, the law enforcement officers have gunned down nearly 70 Islamist extremists across the country including the Bangladeshi-origin Canadian "mastermind" of the cafe siege. —AFP

TRUMP-TV HOSTS FEUD ESCALATES

WASHINGTON: A duo of American TV hosts hit back Friday after a deeply personal attack by President Donald Trump, questioning his "unmoored behavior" and fitness to serve in an escalating public feud. Trump's coarse outburst against journalist Mika Brzezinski - the latest salvo in his ongoing war with the media - sparked a major backlash, as well as stern condemnation from within his own Republican party. In a feisty response, Brzezinski and her fiancée and co-host Joe Scarborough, who headline the "Morning Joe" program on the left-leaning MSNBC cable network, penned a Washington Post opinion piece titled "Donald Trump is not well."

"Our concerns about his unmoored behavior go far beyond the personal," they wrote, saying they were "neither shocked nor insulted" by Trump's attack. "America's leaders and allies are asking themselves yet again whether this man is fit to be president. We have our doubts, but

we are both certain that the man is not mentally equipped to continue watching our show, "Morning Joe," they said. Apparently stung by sharply critical coverage on the show, Trump had fired off two tweets Thursday, saying: "I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)."

"Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!" In the Post, the co-hosts described his tweets as "a flurry of falsehoods" and "laughable," saying they went to the Florida resort at Trump's invitation, and chatted pleasantly with the former real estate tycoon and his wife Melania. They also rejected Trump's graphic description of the 50-year-old Brzezinski, while disclosing that she "did have a little skin under her chin tweaked, but this was hardly a state secret." —AFP

SNIPERS, BOMBS, MORTARS - PHILIPPINE TROOPS BATTLE ISLAMISTS

MARAWI CITY: Sprawled on the board-up balcony of a two-storey house, the barrel of his rifle poked into a hole cut in the wood, the Philippine army sniper calls for quiet before taking his shot. "Firing," he says evenly, before the .50 calibre shot rings out, sending tremors through the house. He was firing at a

home less than a kilometer away, believed to be a stronghold of Islamist militants who have been holed up in Marawi City for over five weeks.

A spotter sat next to him, with his scope set into another hole. The two spoke quietly to each other as the sniper took three more shots across the Agus river into the

militant-held commercial district of Marawi, now a battleground strewn with debris from ruined buildings. Scores of bodies are rotting in the area, and the stench mixes with the smell of gunpowder.

Thousands of soldiers are battling to retake the southern Philippine city, where militants loyal to Islamic State launched a lightning strike on May 23. The southern Philippines has been marred for decades by insurgency and banditry. But the intensity of the battle in Marawi and the presence of foreign fighters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Yemen and Chechnya fighting alongside local militants has raised concerns that the region may be becoming a Southeast Asian hub for Islamic State as it loses ground in Iraq and Syria.

As troops poured in to contain the siege, few were expecting a slow, difficult and unfamiliar urban war. "We are used to insurgencies...but a deployment of this magnitude, this kind of conflict is a challenge for our troops," said Lt Col Christopher Tampus, one of the officers commanding ground operations in Marawi. He said progress in clearing the city has been hindered by militant fire and booby traps like gas tanks rigged with grenades.

which has been reduced to charred rubble and hollow structures. Buildings in the military-controlled areas of the city are still standing but deserted after residents fled. Authorities estimate around 100 to 120 fighters, some of them as young as 16 years, remain holed up in the commercial district of the city, down from around 500 at the beginning of the siege. The fighters are holding around 100 hostages, according to the military, who have been forced to act as human shields, take up arms or become sex slaves.

Military aircraft drop bombs on the militant zone almost every day. From the outskirts of the city, mortar teams take aim at what they call "ground zero", the heart of the conflict. "Mortars are designed to target people and smaller areas than the airstrikes," said mortar specialist Sgt. Jeffery Baybayan, as he jotted down coordinates that come crackling over a radio from an observer closer to the conflict area. "Hitting targets accurately can be difficult and we're expending rounds without hitting targets. We are concerned about our own troops that are very close to the enemy area," he added, as the mortars exploded in the city, sending up plumes of thick black smoke.

Surrender now or die

During the day's battle, Tampus received reports that three civilians, trapped for weeks near the fighting, were trying to escape. Several soldiers responded

to help rescue them - moving to the area in two lines along the sides of streets to avoid sniper fire. Three civilians - two men and a woman using a walking stick - came out and sat by the side of the street once they were in the military zone. "The bombs were so frequent coming from both sides," said Jose Locanas, a 53-year-old Christian man trapped with his wife and friend in his house. "We were caught in the middle."

Troops said they received word from their relatives that the three were trapped and managed to escort them out. More than 400 people, including over 300 militants, 82 security forces and 44 civilians are known to have died in Marawi. Some of the bodies of civilians were found decapitated and the military has warned the number of residents killed by rebel "atrocities" could rise sharply as troops retake more ground.

Every day, troops make announcements through loudspeakers for the militants to "surrender now or die". To the trapped civilians, they offer help to get out of the conflict area. Authorities say they believe the militants are running out of supplies and ammunition, but they say there is no deadline to retake the city. Tampus, the officer, said when troops reinforcements come into Marawi, they are initially apprehensive because of the high death toll. "But once they are here, the discipline kicks in and they are focused," he said.—Reuters



MANILA: Photo shows the dead body of Valien Mendoza, a suspected drug dealer, gunned down by unidentified assailants in Manila. —AFP

Reduced to rubble

After weeks of military airstrikes and shelling, Marawi, a lakeside city of around 200,000 is now a ghost town, the centre of

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE RIDES HIGH AFTER 'A ROUGH' YEAR

CRACKDOWN ON DRUGS CLAIMED THOUSANDS OF LIVES

MANILA: Rodrigo Duterte ends his first year as Philippine president on Friday as a hugely popular leader, after taking Filipinos on a promised "rough ride" of drug war killings and foreign policy U-turns. Duterte has been heavily criticized for his unprecedented crackdown on drugs, which has claimed thousands of lives,

the past 12 months, with the most recent one showing 75 percent were satisfied with his administration's performance.

"People like the man," Ricardo Abad, head of sociology and anthropology at Ateneo University in Manila, told AFP, referring to Duterte's decisive leadership style. "People may disagree

emphatically with their struggles and is willing to take extreme actions to make dramatic change across all sectors of society. "He brought an entirely new style of leadership, which people probably thought we needed," Edmund Tayao, a political science professor at the University of Santo Tomas, told AFP.

crimes, while there were 8,200 more murders with no known motive, according to the police.

Rights groups and other critics warned Duterte may be orchestrating a crime against humanity, alleging he had unleashed corrupt police and vigilante death squads on a campaign of mass murder. Duterte had made the drug war the top focus of his presidency until May 23, when gunmen rampaged through the southern city of Marawi flying black flags of the Islamic State group.

He immediately imposed martial law across the southern third of the Philippines, home to roughly 20 million people, to quell what he said was an IS bid to establish a local caliphate. But despite a relentless bombing campaign backed by the United States, Duterte's military has been unable to dislodge the militants. The fighting has claimed more than 400 lives, according to the government, and it shows no signs of ending.

Super majority

Another example of Duterte's popularity is his "super majority" in the lower house of congress, where there are just seven opposition members in the 296-member chamber. Even one of the opposition lawmakers, Edcel Lagman, offered grudging praise this week. "Despite his unrepresentative demeanor, profane language, abusive rhetoric and flawed policy statements, President Rodrigo Duterte, in his own inscrutable way, has held the nation together," he said.

But Lagman said, with Duterte's promises of "change" yet to become reality, his popularity had started to slide. If that is happening, Duterte's "super majority" could fall apart. In the Philippines, lawmakers from parties across the political spectrum typically flock to a popular president in the early stages of his or her term. But the politicians, driven by self-interest rather than ideology, have also in the past quickly jumped off the bandwagon when approval ratings dropped.—AFP



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte checks the scope of a Chinese-made CS/LR4A sniper rifle during the ceremonial presentation of rifles and ammunition by China to the Philippines at Clark Airbase in northern Philippines. —AP

and he marks 12 months in office enduring the biggest crisis of his rule as Islamist militants occupy parts of a southern city.

The 72-year-old has also upended decades of foreign policy stability, launching verbal bombs against traditional ally the United States while steering the Philippines closer to authoritarian regimes in China and Russia. Yet an overwhelming majority of Filipinos support him, according to a series of surveys by pollsters over

with his policies, or are maybe ambivalent towards them, but because they like him, people will tend to give him the benefit of the doubt." Many people overseas know Duterte for his apparent joy in prosecuting his drug war—he said he was "happy to slaughter" millions of addicts—as well as gutter language in which critics are frequently called "sons of whores".

But many Filipinos look past the crass talk and see a down-to-earth, anti-establishment figure who

Rough ride

In his inauguration speech, Duterte typically sought not to sugarcoat his plans for the Philippines. "The ride will be rough. But come join me just the same," Duterte said. The roughest part of the ride had for most of the past year been his crackdown on drugs. Police killed 3,171 drug suspects, according to official figures. Unknown assailants killed another 2,098 people in drug-related



HONG KONG: Hong Kong's new Chief Executive Carrie Lam (right) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping as he prepares to depart from Hong Kong's international airport yesterday. —AFP

HONG KONG'S FIRST FEMALE LEADER A 'TILTED BRIDGE' OVER TROUBLED WATER

HONG KONG: Carrie Lam, who was sworn in as Hong Kong's first female leader yesterday, is a former student activist who climbed the rungs of the civil service over 36 years, and a tough, capable and possibly divisive Beijing-backed leader. Lam, most recently Hong Kong's number two official, has to unify the Chinese-ruled city as public resentment swells at Beijing's growing interference in its affairs despite being promised a high degree of autonomy.

She also has to reinvigorate the economy and address growing social inequalities and high property prices, issues Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted at her swearing-in ceremony. Several sources who have worked with Lam say she's intelligent, hard-working and able to push controversial government policies, earning her the trust of Beijing factions who strongly lobbied for votes on her behalf when she was chosen in March.

But her hardline and pro-Beijing tendencies, say critics and opposition democrats, risk sowing further social divisions in the former British colony that returned to China 20 years ago under a "one country, two systems" formula that guarantees it wide-ranging freedoms. "Carrie Lam ... is a nightmare for Hong Kong," said student activist Joshua Wong in March, one of the leaders of the student-led "Umbrella

Movement" protests in 2014 which blocked the streets for 79 days demanding full democracy.

"Theoretically, the chief executive is a bridge between the central government and the Hong Kong people. But Lam will be a tilted bridge. She will only tell us what Beijing wants, and won't reflect what the people want in the communist regime." Lam, dubbed "the fighter" by media, was once the most popular official in the cabinet of staunchly pro-Beijing former chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, who in 2012 won a similar election restricted to just 1,200 voters. "Picking Carrie as chief secretary was Leung's best appointment," said a senior government official who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. But she could also sometimes be a "bully," he added.

Lam's popularity began to slip just as a younger generation of protesters rose to prominence, and tumbled further during the course of her election campaign this year. Her attempt to push through a planned Palace Museum in Hong Kong, showing artefacts from the museum in Beijing's Forbidden City, was criticised for being presented as a done deal without public consultation, highlighting what some describe as her "autocratic" style, according to a source who knows her.—Reuters

US RENEWS PRESSURE ON CHINA AMID THREAT FROM NORTH KOREA

WASHINGTON: Less than three months after President Donald Trump and China's leader strolled the manicured lawns at Mar-a-Lago, the White House is suddenly engaged in a multipronged pressure campaign against Beijing, born of frustration with the limited results of their much-touted cooperation on ending North Korea's nuclear threat. Delivering a one-two punch to China on Thursday, the Trump administration approved a \$1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan and blacklisted a small Chinese bank over its business ties with North Korea.

The State Department earlier in the week gave Beijing a dismal grade in a new human trafficking report that was endorsed by Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and senior adviser. The actions culminated days of increased irritation among the president and his top aides over China's reluctance to tighten the economic screws on Pyongyang. Until recently, American officials had been hailing the improved coordination with China and describing it as the centerpiece of their strategy for preventing North Korea's isolated totalitarian government from being able to strike the US homeland with nuclear weapons.

Trump hinted at his loss of patience last week,

tweeting that his bid to secure a tougher Chinese approach "has not worked out." China represents about 90 percent of North Korea's trade. After a meeting Friday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that focused heavily on North Korea, Trump made no reference to Beijing. The shifts in Trump's China policy in some way reflect the natural ebbs and flows that are to be expected in great power relations. The US and China have the world's two biggest economies, with all the commercial opportunities and headaches such a dynamic entails.

While America's military is by far the strongest, the gap with China is rapidly narrowing. On security, diplomacy, foreign investment and other matters, it's only natural that US and Chinese interests will collide. But Trump's rapid flip-flops on China are a departure from the practice of past US presidents, who found persistent behind-the-scenes pressure and engagement of Beijing more likely than headline-grabbing confrontations to produce deals on everything from carbon emissions to currency exchange rates.

Trump was blisteringly critical of China as a candidate, saying he would not allow the Chinese "to rape our country." He also fielded a call from Taiwan's president weeks after his election victory. Trump's tone

drastically shifted in the run-up to the summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Florida. He toned down threats to upend the US "One China" policy, which acknowledges Beijing's claim to Taiwan. And he said China doesn't manipulate its currency.

Amid the unpredictability, China's government has relied heavily on a close relationship that has developed between its US ambassador, Cui Tiankai, and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser. Kushner, who is heavily involved in foreign policy, speaks frequently with the ambassador. "I think that channel has not provided them with the correct understanding with what they need to do on a range of issues," said Bonnie Glaser, a senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"On North Korea, they just didn't hit the mark." The White House insisted that its actions this week were not aimed at punishing China for its reluctance to ramp up pressure on North Korea. The State Department said the arms sale to Taiwan was approved under a long-standing US policy to help the self-governing island's self-defense. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who announced the sanctions on the Chinese bank, said that "we are in no way targeting China." —AP

THAILAND BACKTRACKS ON LABOR LAW AS MIGRANT WORKERS FLEE

BANGKOK: Thailand's military government said it will delay enforcing new labor regulations after thousands of migrant workers fled home to neighboring countries this week fearing arrest and heavy fines under the new decree. The scramble is the latest chaos triggered by Thailand's efforts to regulate the millions of foreign workers who prop up its economy with jobs in factories, fishing boats and other low-paid work.

The junta has trumpeted a flurry of campaigns aimed at registering migrant workers and cracking down on illegal smuggling routes, but the efforts are often ad-hoc and short-lived. As a result, much of the migrant work force remains undocumented and vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers and unscrupulous employers. On Friday the junta said it would suspend parts of a new foreign labor law, which came into effect on June 23, for 120 days after the regulations sparked a panic among migrant workers and their employers.

"During this window there will be no arrests or crackdown on illegal workers except for those who violate human trafficking laws," Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters. The reprieve comes after thousands of laborers fled home to neighboring Myanmar and Cambodia fearing arrest and fines of up to \$3,000 under the law which punishes migrant workers lacking valid work permits. Employers

can also be fined up to 800,000 baht (\$24,000) for each undocumented worker they hire.

In Samut Sakhon, a seafood industry hub known as "Little Burma" for its concentration of Myanmar migrant workers, around 500 laborers have been returning home daily during the past week, said Suthasinee Kaewlekai from the Migrant Worker Rights Network (MWRN). "These workers don't have any documents and have to return to Myanmar as they fear needing to pay a heavy fine," she said. The advocacy group also warned that traffickers frequently profit from such mass movements of migrants, with smugglers and border agents exacting fees from undocumented workers looking for a safe passage home. A police chief in Myanmar's Karen state said around 6,000 migrant workers had returned home from Thailand since Thursday.

Meanwhile on the Cambodian border, the number of migrants streaming home has been increasing daily since the new law came into effect, said Thai immigration officer Benjapol Robsawad. Since Wednesday nearly 2,000 workers have crossed back to Cambodia through the Poipet checkpoint, he said. In 2014 some 250,000 Cambodians fled Thailand after fears that the newly-installed junta government would arrest and deport undocumented workers. They slowly trickled back in the following weeks.—AFP



JAKARTA: Former US President Barack Obama delivers his speech during the 4th Congress of the Indonesian Diaspora yesterday. — AP

OBAMA CALLS FOR TOLERANCE, RESPECT IN CHILDHOOD HOME

JAKARTA: Following another week of dust-ups between the media and President Donald Trump, his predecessor shared a bit of wisdom yesterday from the other side of the world about tolerance and taking the daily news cycle in stride. "I wasn't worried about what was in the newspapers today," former President Barack Obama said during a nostalgic visit to Indonesia's capital, his childhood home. "What I was worried about was, 'What are they going to write about me 20 years from now when I look back?'"

Obama was greeted by a crowd of thousands, including leaders, students and businesspeople, in Jakarta, where he opened the Fourth Congress of Indonesian Diaspora. He is wildly popular in Indonesia, where many view him as an adopted son. A statue of the boy still remembered as "Barry" stands outside his old elementary school. He reminisced about moving to Jakarta in 1967 when he was just 6 years old, shouting, "Indonesia bagian dari diri!" - or "Indonesia is part of me!" He said he had been gorging on the local food since arriving.

"If the rainy season came, the floods were coming and we had to clean out the floors in our house and then chase the chickens because they had gone someplace else," he said to roaring laughter. "Today, Jakarta is a thriving center of commerce marked by highways and high-rises. So much has changed, so much progress has been made."

Obama lived in the country with his mother, an anthropologist, and his Indonesian stepfather. The couple split up after having his half-sister, and Obama moved back to Hawaii when he was 10 to live with his grandparents. But he said he has never forgotten the years he spent in Indonesia. "My time here made me cherish respect for people's differences," he said, noting how he and his family had just visited two of the most treasured ancient temples - Borobudur, a Buddhist complex, and the Hindu compound of Prambanan - in the world's most populous Muslim country.

The speech came on the final leg of Obama's 10-day vacation in Indonesia. In addition to visiting the temples in the city of Yogyakarta on the island of Java, he and his wife, Michelle, and daughters, Sasha and Malia, also went rafting and toured the resort island of Bali. On Friday, he met Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo at the grand Bogor Palace in West Java, just outside Jakarta.

Obama largely stayed away from US politics and the Trump administration, but he did tout one of his accomplishments while in office. "In Paris, we came together around the most ambitious agreement in history about climate change, an agreement that even with the temporary absence of American leadership, can still give our children a fighting chance" he said.

Trump shocked many countries last month by announcing he was pulling out of the accord. He has also had a difficult relationship with members of the press and was recently condemned by Democrats and Republicans for a tweet that attacked a female MSNBC host. Obama stressed the importance of stepping away from news sites where only like-minded views are shared, and warned about social media giving rise to resentment of minorities and bad treatment of people.

The Indonesian visit marked Obama's first trip to Asia since leaving office. He urged the country to be a light of democracy and to never stop embracing differences. It has faced a rise in radicalism, anti-gay attacks and was recently condemned by rights groups for jailing Jakarta's former governor, an ethnic Chinese Christian, for blasphemy. "The spirit of this country has to be one of tolerance. It's enshrined in Indonesia's constitution, it's symbolized by mosques and temples and churches beside each other," Obama said. "That spirit is one of the defining things about Indonesia. It is one of the most important characteristics to set as an example for other Muslim countries around the world." — AP

TURKEY REMAINS HOPEFUL OF SOLUTION...

Continued from Page 1

Turkey criticized the ultimatum but has also taken care not to directly target Saudi Arabia, the key protagonist in the crisis. On Friday, US president Donald Trump

spoke with Erdogan to discuss the dispute. Trump and Erdogan discussed ways to resolve the dispute "while ensuring that all countries work together to stop terrorist funding and to combat extremist ideology", the White House said in a statement. — Agencies

AMERICAN MUSLIMS DECRY TRUMP TRAVEL BAN

Continued from Page 1

Convention attendee Arishaa Khan said even those who are not directly affected by the ban - because they are not from the six targeted countries - are nevertheless affected by its broader implications. "This ban has been tumultuous," the 27-year-old American citizen from Pakistan said, adding that she sees friends and family "posting on Facebook before they go on international flights, asking for lawyers to be on standby".

Several participants said they had been heartened by the show of support by Americans of many religious denominations, with members of Catholic, Lutheran and Jewish faiths set to attend the three-day convention. They pointed to the protesters who showed up at US airports, along with lawyers offering pro-bono legal help, as the new ban took effect. "We had a lot of people come to visit in the mosque... to show support. And it was very nice," said Muhammad Abdellatif, who was

attending the convention from Houston.

But others pointed to recent incidents of attacks against Muslims as evidence of increased Islamophobia, and accused far-right groups, and the US president himself, of fanning tensions. "This Ramadan, in particular, was a very difficult one for many in the community," said Asra Ali, a Chicago-area dentist and convention organizer, referring to the Muslim holiday of fasting which ended last Saturday.

In May, a man who had gone on an anti-Muslim rant fatally stabbed two people who came to the defense of two girls on a train in Portland, Oregon. And earlier this month, Nabra Hassanen, a 17-year-old Virginia girl, was beaten to death after she left late-night prayers at a mosque. A 22-year-old man was charged in that attack, which police said was an act of road-rage not a hate crime, but many Muslims remain convinced she was targeted over her faith. There was a special prayer planned for Hassanen during the convention. —AFP

TRUMP SLAMS CNN, NBC, 'DUMB AS A ROCK' JOURNALIST

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday fired off another volley in his escalating feud with the US media, aiming a Twitter tirade at CNN, NBC and a morning show host he taunted as "dumb as a rock". The outburst came at the end of a week during which the US leader railed against major news organizations as "fake news", before launching a crude personal attack on Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, who headline the "Morning Joe" program on the left-leaning MSNBC cable network.

"Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses. Too bad!" he wrote, seemingly trying to get in the final word in his clash with the journalists. Apparently stung by critical coverage on the show, Trump on Thursday had tweeted: "I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch any-

more). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

The comments sparked a major backlash, as well as condemnation from within Trump's own Republican party. The TV hosts responded on Friday with an opinion piece in the Washington Post titled "Donald Trump is not well", questioning his "unmoored behavior" and fitness to serve. Trump yesterday also targeted CNN, a frequent punching bag for the president. "I am extremely pleased to see that @CNN has finally been exposed as #FakeNews and garbage journalism. It's about time!" he tweeted, referring to an article that the cable news channel retracted, which claimed Congress was investigating links between Trump's administration and a Russian investment fund. — AFP

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Washington Watch

WHAT A US-ITALIAN
LEADER DID FOR
US-ARABS AND ME

By Dr James J Zogby

Fred Rotondaro, an Italian American leader, died on June 26. He was, by every measure, a remarkable man. On hearing of his passing, my brother John commented, "Fred was a creation God would be proud of. He was a smart, elegant man who never forgot where he came from". To this I would add that I feel fortunate, because for nearly four decades Fred was my friend and my mentor.

When, in the 1970s and 1980s, many in Washington refused to work with Arab Americans, Fred took me under his wing and taught me, often by example, the nuts and bolts of ethnic politics, he also provided me with political access that would otherwise have been denied to me.

When I first came to Washington in the late '70s, I was running the Palestinian Human Rights Campaign - a cause that some found taboo. I remember being invited to an ethnic leaders meeting at the White House with Vice President Walter Mondale. Three days after the meeting, I was called and told by the representative at the White House, "I'm so sorry, but we're not going to be able to invite you back again. We had objections that a pro-Palestinian Arab was at the meeting."

She was a very good person, and later became a close friend. She was also a friend of Fred's and was associated with his National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs (NCUEA). When Fred learned about this episode, he was deeply troubled by the way I had been treated and took it upon himself to include me in efforts he organized - conferences, group meetings, and, most importantly, lunches with leading writers, activists, and politicians.

At one point, when he was working to build a multi-ethnic coalition Fred invited me, as a representative of the Arab American community, to be a part of the group. The coalition convened a special meeting on the role media played in ethnic stereotyping and Fred asked me, as the Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, to lead the session. Once again, there were some who complained about my involvement, saying "You can't trust Zogby. He's an Arab with an agenda and doesn't really care about these issues. He's trying to be disruptive." Fred defended my role, telling my detractors: "No, he knows and cares about this stuff and his community has a lot to offer to this discussion."

On another occasion, when Fred organized a conference on the role played by immigration and the children of immigrants in defining what it meant to be an American, he made sure to invite me and other Arab Americans to be a part of the discussion. Quite simply, Fred gave me and my community a boost at a time when other people were not interested in including Arab Americans.

Fred was also the master of the power lunch before there was such a thing. He was a great convener and he used it for good. Many of the restaurants in this city had a table that was "Fred's table," and he would invite us and just sit back and let conversation flow. He brought together journalists, politicians, organizational heads, and religious leaders - four or five people, at a time. It was a privilege and a great learning experience just to be a part of these luncheons. I used to love being at the table and listening to the conversation and, then, being a part of it.

Empowering

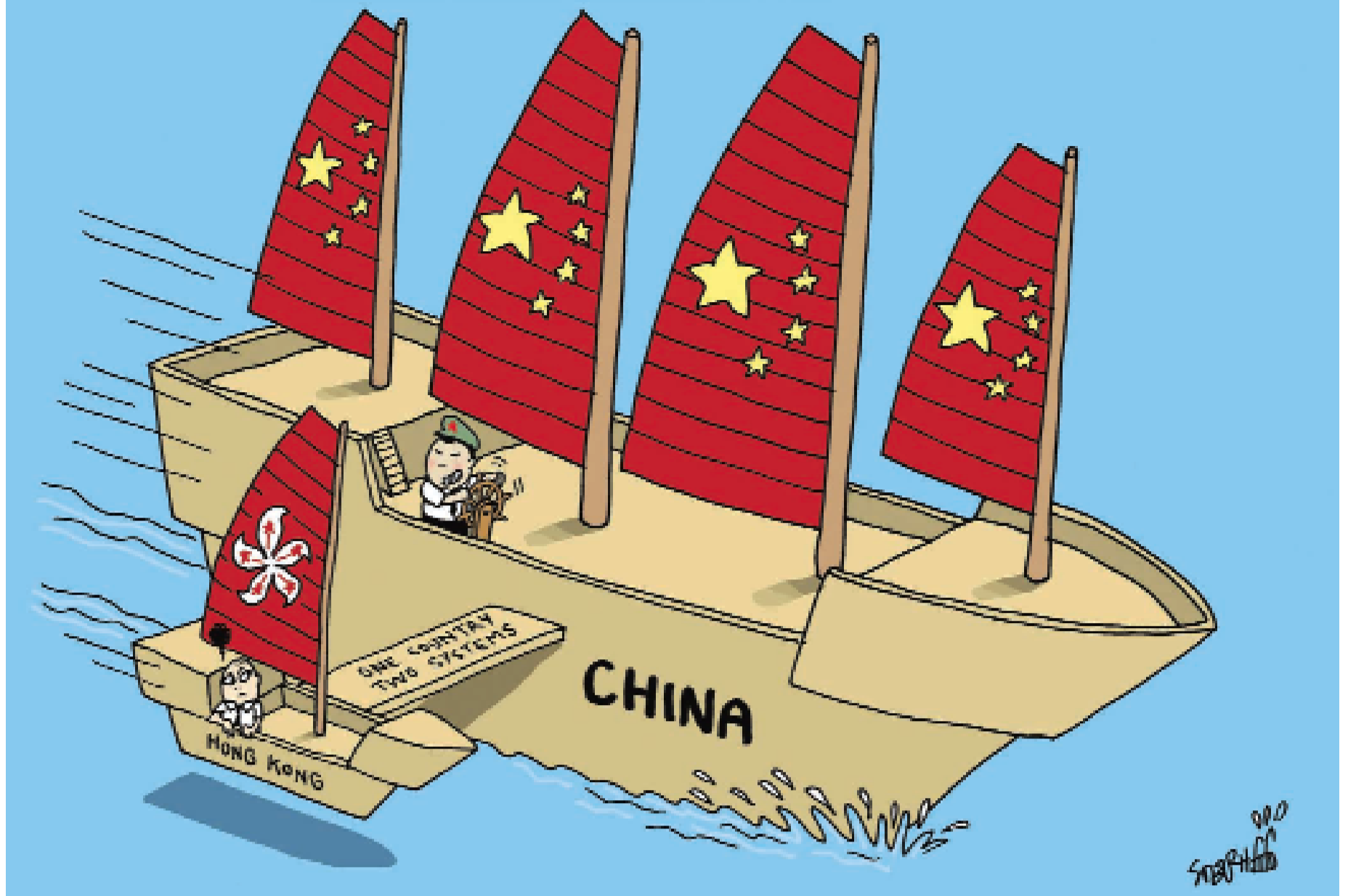
What I didn't realize, at the time, was that I wasn't just being invited as a witness. Fred actually saw me as a part of the group. He normalized my role as an Arab American who could be an equal participant in political and policy discussions. It was empowering.

Fred never sat me down and taught me lessons about ethnic politics. Instead he taught by example. From watching him operate, I learned how sharing a common heritage mattered and how by coming together to support one another, an ethnic group could become a political force.

When we launched the Arab American Institute, Fred came and led a panel discussion together with Joe Ventura, who had been an Italian American city councilman from Cleveland. They spoke about how ethnic groups can get involved in local politics and how a community could organize to gain respect and political influence. These were important lessons I had learned from Fred's work with the NCUEA and his National Italian American Foundation (NAIF) and I was so pleased that we were able to share them with leaders from the Arab American community. In this way, Fred helped to shape our work at the AAI.

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20th ANNIVERSARY OF HONG KONG'S HANDOVER



TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN A FAR CRY FROM ORIGINAL

With US President Donald Trump's travel ban taking effect Thursday, the White House declared victory on the first major policy push of his presidency. But it could not have been the win Trump imagined. What was once described as a blanket ban on Muslims, then became a temporary ban on visitors from seven majority-Muslim countries, is now a list of confusing new visa restrictions. Trump's eye-popping campaign promise to deliver security by limiting entry into the US has become the incredible shrinking travel ban, a plan rewritten, tweaked, watered down and litigated nearly beyond recognition.

All but lost in the five-month editing process and court fight is the president's stated aim: Keeping dangerous people out of the US. Trump initially billed the temporary ban on visitors from certain countries and refugees as an urgent and necessary tool to keep out would-be terrorists while the government crafted new "extreme vetting" procedures. But five months and no ban later, the administration has made little effort to build a stronger case and offered scant new evidence to back up its claims.

The restrictions that took effect Thursday evening, reinstated temporarily by the Supreme Court, are a far cry from Trump's initial executive order, which sparked protests, chaos at airports and legal challenges in his administration's earliest days. That order was withdrawn after being replaced with a version that Trump himself described as "watered down" and "politically correct".

"What the Supreme Court did was watered it down even further," Kari Hong, an immigration law expert at Boston College Law School, said of the version that took effect. The justices' ruling exempts people if they can prove a "bona fide relationship" with a US person or enti-

ty. Under State Department guidelines, visa applicants from six Muslim-majority countries for the next 90 days need to show close family or business ties to the United States. Citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen with a parent, spouse, fiancée, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States could be allowed to enter.

Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid, formal invitations or employment contracts in the US are exempt from the ban. The same requirements, with some exceptions, apply for the next 120 days to refugees from all nations who are still awaiting approval. Experts aren't expecting large numbers of people to be immediately affected. Temple University law professor Peter Spiro, an immigration law expert, noted the numbers are difficult to predict because of likely legal challenges over the interpretation of the term "bona fide", which the court did not define.

Security Merits

While Trump declared the court ruling a "win", his administration did not lay out a clear case for the national security merits of the plan. In a conference call with reporters Thursday, only one of five administration officials - one representing the White House - couched the Supreme Court order as a step that will have a marked impact on improving national security. The other four officials, from the departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security, described the actions more narrowly.

Asked specifically how the measures would improve security, a State Department official said only, "The guidance we have from the president is to put a pause on certain travel while we review our security posture." The

officials all spoke on condition of anonymity despite describing a public executive order.

The White House sees the Supreme Court decision as a temporary measure, and is confident it will win on the merits when the court hears the case later this year. John Malcolm, a vice president at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said the Supreme Court's decision to allow parts of the ban to take effect and to hear the case was a good sign for those who support the ban. "I think it sends a strong signal that the president is likely to prevail. As I think he should," Malcolm said, adding that he believed the court was allowing "90 percent" of what the president initially set out to do to take effect.

But it remains unclear whether even the original ban would have improved security. National security experts have warned that the proposal alienated moderate Muslims and turned off allies who the US relies on in the fight against extremist groups. The Homeland Security Department's intelligence arm found in February that citizenship is an "unlikely indicator" for a terrorism threat to the United States. A draft report obtained by AP said few people from the six countries affected by the ban have carried out attacks or been involved in terrorism-related activities in the US since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011. The government said the draft report was "from a single intelligence source versus an official, robust document" and said it was incomplete.

Spiro said the travel ban has been "absurd from the get-go and it's no less absurd now". He argued that any national security ends could be accomplished with a much narrower focus on people who have historically posed a risk. "It's all about politics. It has nothing to do with security and counter-terrorism activities," he said. —AP

CAN IS BE OUSTED WITHOUT ASSAD'S HELP?

As the US-led coalition tightens the noose around the Islamic State group in Syria, President Bashar Assad's Iranian-backed troops are also seizing back territory from the militants with little protest from Washington, a sign of how American options are limited without a powerful ally on the ground.

Washington is loath to cooperate with Assad's internationally ostracized government. But it will be difficult to uproot IS militants and keep them out with only the Kurdish and Arab militias backed by the US - and a coalition spokesman pointed out that Assad's gains ease the burden on those forces. Letting Assad grab IS territory, however, risks being seen as the US legitimizing his continued rule and would likely strengthen his hand in his war against the already struggling rebellion. It also threatens to further empower Assad's allies, Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, which both have forces alongside his troops in the assault into IS-held territory.

Within the Trump administration, there is a split over whether to aggressively try to stem Assad's advances, said a senior US official, who wasn't authorized to speak to reporters and requested anonymity. Army Col Ryan Dillon, the spokesman for the anti-IS coalition, said Syrian government forces are welcome to reclaim IS-held territory and fill the vacuum once the extremist group is gone. The statement was startling - even more so because soon after President Donald Trump this week warned Assad he would pay "a heavy price," claiming "potential" evidence that Syria was preparing for another chemical weapons attack.

The mixed messages reveal a discomfiting fact that most policy makers would rather not spell out: Assad is a pariah but he is also a convenient tool to secure and govern territory in majority-Arab cities in a complex terrain. The situation in Syria is a contrast to Iraq, where the coalition and the Iraqi government, working hand in glove, appear to be on the verge of retaking the main IS redoubt in city of Mosul. The Syrian government has repeatedly suggested that everyone is welcome to work with it to defeat IS.

'Animal'

Mohammad Kheir Akkam, a Syrian lawmaker, questioned US support for the Kurdish-led forces "despite the fact that the Syrian-Russian cooperation has achieved more results in combating terrorism," while US efforts have "had the opposite result". The US so far has shunned any cooperation with the Syrian leader, whom Trump described as an "animal". Instead, it has partnered with local Kurdish and Arab forces known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF.

Those fighters are currently spearheading the assault on the Islamic State group's self-declared capital, Raqqa in northern Syria, and then face the prospect of assaulting the group's final major stronghold to the southeast, in Deir el-Zour. But US support for the Kurdish-led group has angered Turkey, which views it as an extension of a Kurdish insurgency within its own territory. The SDF is also viewed with suspicion by the predominantly Arab residents of Raqqa and Deir el-Zour.

Furthermore, the SDF, numbering around 50,000 fighters, is already risking overstretch and is in no way ready for the more challenging battle in Deir el-Zour. Assad and his Iranian allies, on the other hand, have steadily posi-

tioned themselves in key areas on the flanks of the US-led war against IS, grabbing territory on several fronts, including on the outskirts of Raqqa and Deir el-Zour. With Russian and Iranian support, Assad has made steady gains and now controls almost all of Syria's major cities except those held by IS.

Symbolism

The symbolism was striking this week as a smiling Assad paid a visit to central Hama, driving his own car, and to a Russian air base in western Syria, where he posed alongside Russian generals and inside the cockpit of a Russian SU-35 fighter jet. Syrian troops have positioned themselves on Raqqa's southwestern flanks, and officials have vowed to retake the city eventually. The US has insisted that the city should be handed over to a local council that would handle its administration post-liberation - and it has made clear it will not tolerate the Syrian government and its allies cashing in on the fight. US forces recently shot down a Syrian aircraft as well as drones believed connected to Iranian-supported forces as tensions escalated near a base where the coalition trains Syrian rebels.

But the senior American official said there was significant disagreement about how aggressively the US should try to prevent Assad from reclaiming the territory IS vacates, with some in the White House pushing a more forceful approach while the State Department and the Pentagon warn of the risks. Keeping Assad's territory to a minimum would ensure his hand isn't strengthened in an eventual political deal to end the conflict, making it more likely the US could deliver on its longstanding desire to see him leave power. Limiting his control in eastern Syria would also prevent Iranian-backed forces from securing a wide corridor through Iraq to Syria and all the way into Lebanon.

The more risk-averse voices in Trump's administration are wary about letting the US slip into a more direct fight with Assad, the official said. Dillon, the coalition spokesman, told reporters at the Pentagon that the US goal is to defeat IS wherever it exists. If others, including the Syrian government and its Iranian and Russian allies, want to fight the extremists, "we absolutely have no problem with that." Frederic C Hof, director of the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, said the comments reflect the narrow US view of the Syria war, focused very specifically on the neutralization of IS. In the coalition view, "it is all about killing ISIS in Raqqa." Hof wrote in an article this week. "Creating conditions that would keep it dead? That, presumably, would be someone else's job." —AP



In this June 27, 2017 photo, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad climbs into the cockpit of a Russian SU-35 fighter jet as he inspects the Russian Hmeimim air base in the province of Latakia. —AP

SAUL NIQUEZ EXTENDS ATLETICO DEAL UNTIL 2026

MADRID: Atletico Madrid midfielder Saul Niguez yesterday signed a contract extension that will keep him at the La Liga outfit for another nine years. The 22-year-old joined Atletico's academy in 2007, and extended his stay in the capital by a further five seasons, despite reported interest from other European clubs. "I am very happy because at Atleti we are a family and there is no better place to be," Saul said in a statement on the club's website. "I will work my full potential on the field as always to pay back the trust that the club is giving to me. I'd like to thank all my teammates and the coaching staff for their help day by day so that I can be the player I am today." Saul has scored 22 goals in 148 appearances for the Atletico senior team, helping them reach the Champions League final in 2016. The Spaniard has also been capped three times at full international level, and won the golden boot with five goals as Spain reached the final of the European Under-21 Championship, before losing 1-0 to Germany on Friday. —AFP



CYCLING

DOPING DRUG GIVES NO EDGE TO SERIOUS CYCLISTS IN STUDY

NEW YORK: The blood booster at the heart of the Lance Armstrong doping scandal does not improve real-world cycling performance, according to the most rigorous study yet of how the protein EPO affects athletes. The results, published Thursday in the journal *Lancet Haematology*, may convince some to pay more attention to the harms of supposed performance-enhancing drugs by punching holes in the myths surrounding them, researchers said.

Dutch scientists staged a bike race up a mountain to study whether erythropoietin (EPO) lives up to its reputation, transporting a large group of avid cyclists to southern France in a tour bus and putting on a grueling day of cycling for them.

"It was hectic and stressful, but also a lot of fun and exhilarating," said Jules Heuberger of the Centre for Human Drug Research in Leiden, Netherlands, who led the effort and describes himself as "an active, fanatic cyclist."

Previous studies of EPO in sports have been flawed, Heuberger said. Participants weren't trained athletes, knew they were getting EPO, or testing was limited to short bursts of strength and endurance.

EPO is among more than 300 substances banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency. Cycling's anti-doping unit is again gearing up for comprehensive testing at this year's Tour de France, planning an average of eight tests per day, always including the race leader and winner of each stage, plus six others. The race starts Saturday in Dusseldorf, Germany.

One support rider already has been dropped from his team after an out-of-competition test was positive for EPO. In 2012, Armstrong was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for doping and he later admitted to using EPO and other banned substances.

The anti-doping agency's science director, Olivier Rabin, said he would read the study with interest, but doubted it would change the group's ban on EPO.

"We would need much more than this," Rabin said. "The scientific community will receive this with a lot of skepticism."

EPO, produced naturally in the body, enhances the ability to carry oxygen to the muscles and is thought to increase endurance. Doctors use a manufactured version to treat anemia related to cancer or kidney disease. It thickens blood, too, which can raise the risk for heart disease and stroke.

For the test, the Dutch scientists used gold-standard methods as if they were studying a new drug for a medical condition. "The medicine is EPO and the disease is slow cycling," Heuberger said. "Can you really improve cycling performance with EPO?" Professional athletes were impossible to study because they're barred from taking EPO. Instead, the scientists recruited 48 amateur, but well-trained male cyclists willing to take shots for eight weeks then race up a mountain in southern France.

None knew whether he was getting the real stuff or dummy injections. Researchers gave the EPO group enough to increase their levels of hemoglobin, the part of blood that carries oxygen.

To nobody's surprise, the EPO group did better on a short, high-intensity test in the lab where they pedaled on an incline until they were exhausted. But the two groups performed equally on a 45-minute endurance test inside.

Researchers and cyclists traveled from the Netherlands to France for the main event. On race day, the cyclists rode for 110 kilometers (68 miles) together, then raced for 21.5 kilometers (13 miles) up Mont Ventoux, a peak that's often part of the Tour de France.

Those who'd had EPO injections were 17 seconds slower on average compared to cyclists who got dummy injections. Most of them guessed wrongly that they got the fake shots. "They couldn't feel the effect and we couldn't measure it either," Heuberger said. —AP

GOLF

LINGMERTH SHOOTS ANOTHER 65, LEADS QUICKEN LOANS BY 2 SHOTS

POTOMAC: David Lingmerth knows he won't have to shoot 20-under par for the week to win at tricky TPC Potomac. After two near-flawless rounds in the Quicken Loans National, he was halfway there.

The 29-year-old Swede, the winner of a Web.com Tour event on the punishing Washington-area layout in 2012, shot his second straight 5-under 65 on Friday to extend his lead to two shots over Geoff Ogilvy.

Lingmerth used his reliable fade off the tee to avoid trouble and set up birdie opportunities. He has gone 34 straight holes without a bogey. His final fade of the day was possibly his best, a 6-iron from 177 yards that he held up against the wind on the par-4 18th. It finished 7 feet from the hole, leading to birdie.

Several players said before the tournament that 10 under might be good enough to win. Lingmerth's winning score five years ago was 8 under. "It's definitely as tough as advertised," he said. "It happens quite a bit actually that (the) two-round score ends up being pretty close to the final winning score. That's not necessarily always the case. So I'm hoping to keep plugging away, making more birdies over the weekend."

Lingmerth hit 12 of 14 fairways on Thursday and 10 of 14 on Friday, and he hit all but five greens in regulation each day. His short game was sharp, too. After his approach came up short on the uphill par-3 12th, he hit a bump-and-run into a steep slope that trick-

led onto the green and settled inside 2 feet.

The former University of Arkansas player won the 2015 Memorial for his lone PGA Tour title. Ogilvy played in the first group off the 10th tee and also shot 65. Daniel Summerhays shot 68 and was alone in third, four shots back. Sung Kang, who shot 69 amid tougher conditions in the afternoon, was five shots back along with Arjun Atwal (67). Ogilvy took advantage of calm morning conditions and flawless greens to birdie three of his first four holes. He added birdies from 6 feet on No. 1 and inside 2 feet on Nos. 2 and 4. He finished with an 8-footer for par.

"That 7:15 (tee time) is pretty early. You've got to get out of bed pretty early, but once you get out here it's always nice. It was the perfect morning to play golf," Ogilvy said. "It's always nice to be under before you're over on a course this hard."

JOB DONE

The 2006 US Open champion, who was once ranked No. 3 in the world, now sits at 232 and had to take a one-time exemption for being in the top 50 in career earnings to maintain his PGA Tour playing privileges this season. He missed the US Open for the first time in more than a decade and isn't in the British Open, either, although that could change this week. The top four players in the Quicken Loans National field who aren't already exempt will qualify for the British Open, provided that they finish inside the top 12. —AP



POTOMAC: David Lingmerth of Sweden plays his shot from the eighth tee during the second round of the Quicken Loans National on Friday TPC Potomac in Potomac, Maryland. —AFP

THERMAL CAMERAS BACK AT TOUR TO CATCH CHEATS

DUSSELDORF: Thermal cameras aimed at catching out technological cheats will again be used at the Tour de France this year, the French Sports Ministry said yesterday as the world's biggest bike race began in Dusseldorf. Cycling's world governing body the UCI will carry out unannounced checks on riders' bicycles using technology developed by the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA). The technology was first used at the Tour last year when no bikes failed a test. That Tour was also noticeable for there being no devastating performances that could have aroused suspicion, unlike some from previous years. Authorities had decided to clamp down on technological fraud last season after years of rumours that some riders might be using motorised bicycles. To date only one such bike has been found at an official race, when Belgian teenager Femke Van den Driessche was caught with a motorised bicycle at the Cyclo-cross World Championships 18 months ago. She was subsequently banned for six years. —AFP

ANCIC TO JOIN DJOKOVIC'S COACHING TEAM AT WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Novak Djokovic will reinforce his coaching team for next week's Wimbledon by adding former world number seven Mario Ancic alongside American great Andre Agassi. The arrangement was revealed by Croatian newspaper Sportske Novosti yesterday. Ancic, 33, gave up tennis due to injury in 2011 to pursue a banking career in the United States and will work with Agassi to try and help Djokovic rediscover his best form. Eight-time Grand Slam champion Agassi began his collaboration with former world number one Djokovic at the French Open. Croatian Ancic won the 2005 Davis Cup, a year after reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals. He retired at the age of 26 after a prolonged battle with illness and injury. Ancic is only expected to come on board with Djokovic temporarily as he could not set aside more time due to other work commitments. Djokovic, who hasn't won a title since January, is through to the Eastbourne final against French second seed Gael Monfils. —AFP



INDIANAPOLIS: Katie Ledecky swims on her way to winning the women's 400-meter freestyle at the US swimming national championships in Indianapolis, Friday. — AP

SWIMMING

LEDECKY RACES TO THIRD TITLE AT US NATIONALS

INDIANAPOLIS: Katie Ledecky and Lilly King spent Friday night cleaning up at the US Nationals swim meet in Indianapolis. Now the two American stars can start planning their next major project - sweeping the world championships.

On a night Kevin Cordes reclaimed his national record in the men's 100-meter breaststroke and 32-year-old Matt Grevers regained a spot on the US team, the two 20-year-old women each closed out their US National Championships with a third victory and even bigger plans next month in Budapest, Hungary.

"This is faster than I was last summer and I was elated then," King said after winning the 100 breaststroke in a championship record of 1 minute, 4.95 seconds. "I think it sets me up pretty well."

King won all three American breaststroke titles in Indianapolis. Next up: The daunting prospect of three possible head-to-head matchups with Russian rival Yulia Efimova, who King dubbed a drug cheat at last summer's Olympics. Efimova and King currently are ranked one-two in the world in each event, with Efimova holding the best times at the 100 and 200 distances. King is seeded No. 1 in the 50.

King just held off the hard-charging Katie Meili, who went 1:05.51 on Friday. But Ledecky will have the more grueling challenge in Budapest. Two years after becoming the first swimmer in history to win the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyle at the worlds, the Stanford star could replicate the feat.

After winning the 800 and 200 free earlier this week, Ledecky came back from a rare day off and broke her own US Open record in the 400 with a 3:58.44. For the third time this week, Leah Smith wound up a distant second to Ledecky with a time of 4:03.77.

QUALIFY

The winners of each event automatically qualify for the US Runner-ups are likely to make the team but must wait for the selection process to end. Ledecky's earlier win in the 800 means she can skip today's 1,500 and still compete in the event at worlds.

"The 3:58 is my third-best ever and it took me some time to get from 3:58 back to 3:58," she said. "I'm just coming off the first year after the Olympics and have been building into the quad, so I'm happy to see what I can do."

While the success of Ledecky and King con-

tinued to be the biggest splash at nationals, Cordes and Grevers produced two of the most emotional stories all week.

Ten months after Cordes saw Cody Miller take Olympic gold with an American record of 58.87, Miller couldn't do anything to prevent Cordes from retaking it in Indy. Cordes touched in 58.74 while Miller, in the lane next to Cordes, settled for second in 59.11.

"It was in the back of my mind," Cordes said after claiming his third national title in four days. "But, really, I'm just happy to get a chance to swim in Budapest." Nobody was happier than Grevers. After failing to make the Olympic team last year, losing his records to Ryan Murphy, questioning whether he would still be competitive internationally and facing retirement if he didn't qualify Friday, Grevers broke through with a performance that had the entire pool deck cheering him. He beat Murphy with a time of 52.71 to keep his career going. Murphy was second in 52.302. Olympic gold medalist Kathleen Baker broke Missy Franklin's 4-year-old championship record to win the women's 100 backstroke. Olivia Smoliga was second in 59.17. And Zane Grothe took the men's 400 free title in 3:44.43. Clark Smith was second in 3:45.91. — AP

KANG LEADS IN HUNT FOR FIRST PRO WIN

OLYMPIA FIELDS: Danielle Kang won back-to-back majors as an amateur yet she's never cracked the winner's circle in her half-dozen years as a pro. The 24-year-old Californian took a big step in the right direction, grabbing a share of the second-round lead in the morning wave Thursday at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. Her biggest hurdle could well be co-leader Sei Young Kim, the LPGA Tour's 2015 Rookie of the Year and already a six-time winner on tour.

Kang and Kim each shot 5-under 66 to reach 7-under 135. First-round leader Amy Yang (71) and Jodi Ewart Shadoff (66) were another stroke back. So Yeon Ryu (68), who climbed to No. 1 in the world ranking after a victory last week and won the LPGA Tour's first major of the season, was in the clubhouse at 5 under along with Moriya Jutanugarn (68) and Sarah Jane Smith (67). Lydia Ko shot 68 to put herself back in contention at 4 under.

Kang, the US Women's Amateur champion in 2010-11, conceded she didn't have a game plan after her last practice round at Olympia Fields Country Club, one of several venues that previously hosted men's majors now being tested by the women.

"I kind of was super-overwhelmed and didn't know what to do," she said. "So I called my brother, Alex, of course."

Alex Kang, who plies his trade on the Web.com Tour, was familiar with Olympia Fields and its bunkers, and he gave her some simple advice. "He goes, 'Just blast it down,'" she recalled. The plan worked as Kang, relying on her driver, hit 11 of 14 fairways and hasn't made a bogey through 36 holes. Kim carved her path up the leader-

board with a closing flourish, making three birdies in her last five holes. They came on the tougher front-nine side, though players caught a break as the swirling wind that made club selection dicey Thursday subsided in round two.

"Fortunately, when I tee off a little less windy," Kim said, "so I was able to attack the pin." The KPMG kicks off a stretch of three majors in six weeks and Ryu could cement her new No. 1 status by adding a second major to the one she claimed in May by beating Lexi Thompson in a playoff at the ANA Inspiration. The LPGA Tour staged a brief celebration as she teed off Thursday, draping her caddie, Tom Watson, in a special green bib. "The ceremony made me more nervous," Ryu said. "No. 1, I thought it's a lot of responsibility and it just gave me a lot of pressure. I finally got relaxed a bit more and just played as normal."

Yang was on the 18th fairway a day earlier when play was suspended because of lightning. She returned just before 8 am to complete her first round and made a birdie for a 65. Although she got to 7 under, she couldn't hold it.

Defending champion Brooke Henderson and 2014 US Women's Open champion Michelle Wie played in the afternoon. Kelly Shon, who opened with a 77, notched the low round of the tournament and tied a competitive course record with a 63. The former Princeton player made six birdies and an eagle without a bogey, placing her name in the Olympia Fields record book alongside Patty Sheehan and Meg Mallon and Rickie Fowler and Vijay Singh (who played the course with a par of 70). —AP



OLYMPIA FIELDS: Danielle Kang reacts to her birdie attempt on the 10th green during the second round of the Women's PGA Championship golf tournament at Olympia Fields Country Club Friday, in Olympia Fields, Ill. — AP

ENDANGERED KINGS PILE MORE MISERY ON JAGUARES

BUENOS AIRES: A Southern Kings team facing the Super Rugby axe next week triumphed 31-30 in Buenos Aires Friday as a horror run by the Jaguares continued. It was the fourth win in six matches for the one-time South African whipping boys, and the seventh loss in eight games for an Argentine outfit who began the season promisingly.

Jaguares led 20-14 at half-time in an often scrappy, error-strewn round 15 tussle in which only pride was at stake in Estadio Jose Amalfitani as neither team can reach the knockout phase.

The decisive score came nine minutes from time when Kings winger Wandile Mjekevu scored a try which skipper and

fly-half Lionel Cronje converted for a six-point advantage.

Jaguares fullback Joaquin Tuculet scored in the corner to trim the gap to one point, but substitute fly-half Joaquin Diaz Bonilla missed a conversion that would have given his side the lead.

Poor goal-kicking cost the Jaguares dearly as fly-half Nicolas Sanchez fluffed four of six shots at the posts and Bonilla was wide with his two attempts.

TEAM CULL NEXT WEEK

Cronje was much more successful, succeeding with five of six kicks at goal as Kings triumphed in what could be their last Super Rugby match outside

South Africa. Dwindling crowds, shrinking TV audiences and a format that many followers of the competition find confusing are among the reasons why Super Rugby will reduce from 18 teams to 15 next year. South Africa have to cull two of their six teams and one Australian side among five-either Melbourne Rebels or Western Force-will also drop out. The South African rugby board plan to announce the two casualties next Friday and the media favourites for the chop are Kings and the Bloemfontein-based Central Cheetahs.

They have the poorest overall records and lowest crowds among the South African sides, but the recent form of the

star-less Kings has been impressive with two of the four wins on the road.

Kings were always competitive against a team packed with Argentine internationals, but who lacked inspirational skipper and hooker Agustin Creevy due to an injury.

As the second half progressed, the South Africans scrummed superbly and a powerful surge from one set-piece led to the Mjekevu try.

Kings trailed once and led twice before a Sanchez try and conversion two minutes from half-time delivered a six-point advantage to his side by the break.

An early second-half try from Tuculet stretched the lead to 25-14 — the widest

gap between the teams during the match. Cronje kicked a penalty and converted a Makazole Mapimpi try to leave the Kings just one point behind and Mjekevu then struck the decisive blow.

Centre Luzuko Vulindlu, Mapimpi (two) and Mjekevu scored tries for Kings and Cronje kicked four conversions and a penalty.

Loose forward Juan Manuel Leguizamon, winger Emiliano Boffelli, Sanchez and Tuculet (two) were Jaguares' try scorers. Sanchez, the leading points scorer at the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England where Argentina finished fourth, kicked one conversion and one penalty. — AFP



WELLINGTON: British and Irish Lions' Jonathan Davies is tackled by New Zealand All Blacks' Jerome Kaino (L), Sonny Bill Williams (2nd L) and Beauden Barrett (R) during their second rugby union Test between the British and Irish Lions and the New Zealand All Blacks in Wellington yesterday. — AFP

RUGBY

LATE OWEN FARRELL KICK KEEPS LIONS SERIES ALIVE

WELLINGTON: A late Owen Farrell penalty earned the British and Irish Lions a pulsating 24-21 second-Test victory over the 14-man All Blacks yesterday to send the three-game series to a decider.

After All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams was sent off for a shoulder-charge on 25 minutes, the Lions came back from 18-9 down in the second half with two tries, before Farrell kicked the winning points on 77 minutes.

The All Blacks' first home defeat since 2009, when they lost 29-32 to South Africa in Hamilton, leaves the series on a knife-edge ahead of next week's third Test in Auckland.

"Give them a lot of credit for staying in the game, taking it all the way to the wire with 14 men—they did extremely well," said Lions captain Sam Warburton.

"We're glad that we got the win, and now we've got the finale that everybody wants." The

Lions scored the only tries of the match with Taulupe Faletau and Conor Murray crossing in a tense second half as they recovered from being nine points down with 20 minutes to play.

New Zealand went a man down on 25 minutes after Williams' shoulder crunched into the head of Anthony Watson—the All Blacks' first red card in 50 years, since the legendary Colin "Pinetree" Meads was sent off against Scotland in 1967. In the heated encounter, a must-win for the Lions after last week's 30-15 defeat, the visitors also went a player down in the second half when prop Mako Vunipola was yellow-carded for a late challenge. When the final whistle blew and the smoke cleared, the Lions celebrated to a roar from the sea of red-clad fans in the stand, while the All Blacks went into a close-knit huddle. "You never want to turn up and play with 14 men but I thought the effort was there," said All Blacks captain Kieran Read. "We'll turn up next week and look forward to it."

LIONS CLAW BACK

Just as the All Blacks out-foxed the Lions in the first Test with a tactical switch to play close to the ruck, it was the Lions this time who opened up with the close forward game where Warburton, restored as captain, relished the intensely physical battle.

Yet for all their dominance in the opening 15 minutes, the Lions managed to engineer their own misfortune through a knock-on by Maro Itoje, a dropped pass by Jonathan Davies and a forward pass from Johnny Sexton, all at times when the All Blacks were scrambling to defend.

It was left to Kickers Barrett and Farrell to provide the early points from penalties.

After a tight first 25 minutes the game pivoted when Williams, singled out before the Test by the Lions as the All Blacks' dangerman, was given his marching orders by French referee Jerome Garces. When Williams departed the score was 3-3 in the rain and swirling wind at Westpac Stadium. The All Blacks were forced to sacrifice blindside flanker Jerome Kaino for debutant Ngani Laumape to maintain a full backline.

By half-time, with Barrett and Farrell trading further penalties, the score remained delicately poised at 9-9. But as the game progressed in the second half the All Blacks took the direct approach, running from depth on to the ball as they cranked up the physicality to crash head-long into the Lions. It did not bring tries, but it drew enough penalties that even though Barrett had an off-night with the boot he was able to push the All Blacks out to an 18-9 lead, before the effort of playing with a man down began to show. The Lions' opening try came from skilful use of the dual fly-half combination of Farrell and Sexton to create space and send Faletau over in the corner. Farrell and Sexton were also instrumental in the build-up to Murray's try to lock the score at 21-21, before Farrell kicked the match-winning penalty with three minutes remaining. — AFP

HANSEN NOT 'WHINING' OVER RARE RED CARD

WELLINGTON: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen yesterday said there would be no "whining" from the New Zealanders over the Sonny Bill Williams red card that proved pivotal in his side's dramatic loss to the British and Irish Lions.

Star centre Williams became the first All Black to be sent off in 50 years after a shoulder-charge on Anthony Watson, giving the Lions a one-man advantage for 55 minutes in their 24-21 win in Wellington.

It was the All Blacks' first loss on home soil since September 2009, and only the fifth defeat of the Hansen's five-and-a-half year tenure. Hansen said he was proud of the way his team "gutted it out" despite the disadvantage, and held off the Lions until the final minutes. But he said the courageous performance by 14 men did not ease the pain of defeat, which levels the

series at 1-1 and sets up a decider in Auckland next week.

"Losing sucks whether you've got 15, 25 or two. It sucks," he said. "But tonight is our turn to take it on the chin. It's all very well being gracious winners but we've got to accept that we got beaten by a team that played better than us."

Hansen refused to criticise referee Jerome Garces. He said he accepted Garces' decision to send Williams off for a shoulder charge, although he argued "it could have been a yellow or a red". "There's no point whining about it," he said.

"Sonny didn't use his arms so he put himself at risk and unfortunately collected young Anthony's head. You don't want that and the referee deemed it a red card."

Captain Kieran Read also said he could not fault the red card, only the third ever given to a New Zealand international and the first handed to an All Black in a home Test.

"I didn't have a great look (at the incident) but that's how it is these days," he said. "If it's to the head you just have to cop it don't you?" Hansen said he did not believe Williams intended to hurt Watson, saying the player committed a spur-of-the-moment action in the midst of an intense Test match. "Things happen in the heat of the moment and players end up getting on the wrong side of the law," he said.

He said the Lions had a similar problem when Mako Vunipola was sin-binned after two dangerous tackles on Beauden Barrett. The All Blacks coach was also philosophical about the late penalty that Charlie Faumuina conceded for tackling Kyle Sinckler in the air, which allowed Owen Farrell to kick the winning points.

"It's tough but the law's the law," the former policeman said. "A guy like Charlie's about to make his tackle, he's big boy about 130kg he hasn't got the ability to stop half way through."

He said he was excited about the Auckland showdown, which will see the Lions attempt to win their first series in New Zealand since 1971. "We have to go away now and prepare better work harder and come tout to try and win the series next week." — AFP



WELLINGTON: New Zealand All Blacks' Sonny Bill Williams reacts after being sent off for a dangerous tackle on British and Irish Lions' Anthony Watson during the second rugby union Test between the British and Irish Lions and the New Zealand All Blacks. — AFP

BASKETBALL

CURRY INKS \$200M DEAL WITH WARRIORS

LOS ANGELES: Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry has clinched a new five-year deal worth \$201 million, the richest contract in NBA history, ESPN reported on Friday. Curry, who recently helped the Warriors to their second NBA Finals crown in three years, is the first player to break the \$200 million barrier, ESPN said, citing the player's agent Jeff Austin. News of the agreement wipes away any uncertainty concerning the future of Curry, who had been on a four-year contract worth a relatively modest \$44 million until his new deal.

Despite being one of the league's highest profile stars, Curry had languished way down the pecking order of the NBA's best-paid players. According to the basketball-reference.com website, Curry had been the 82nd best-paid player in the league, earning just over \$12.1 million last season. That figure is dwarfed by the league's highest-earner, LeBron James, who stands to earn \$33.3 million next season and \$35.6 million in 2018-2019. According to a survey of the world's best paid athletes released earlier this month by Forbes, Curry had earned an additional \$35 million in endorsements to go alongside his \$12 million salary. However, his new deal would make him the world's fourth highest paid athlete in terms of annual salary and winnings placing him behind Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo (\$58 million), Barcelona's Lionel Messi (\$53 million) and the NFL's Andrew Luck (\$47 million) on Forbes' 2017 list.

'NEVER COUNT ANOTHER MAN'S MONEY'

Curry's existing contract had been

agreed when there were still doubts about his long-term fitness, with the player thought to have issues concerning the durability of his ankles.

However, those doubts have been obliterated during a series of dazzling seasons for the Warriors that have helped him become a four-time All-Star. He was named NBA Most Valuable Player during the Warriors' championship winning run in 2014-2015 and the following season became the first player in history to win the award in a unanimous vote. He averaged 25.3 points per game this regular season and has led the league in three-point field goals for five straight seasons. That remarkable run of scoring included 402 three-pointers in 2015-2016 — a single-season record. No other player had passed 300 threes in a season before Curry.

In an interview earlier this year, Curry had shrugged off his disparity in earnings with the NBA's best-paid players.

"One thing my pops always told me is you never count another man's money," Curry told The San Jose Mercury News.

"It's what you've got and how you take care of it. And if I'm complaining about \$44 million over four years, then I've got other issues in my life," he said, referring to his current deal.

Curry also revealed he had been aware he was way down the list of NBA high-earners when he signed the deal in 2012, but was happy simply to have the security of a long-term contract. "My perspective was, 'Man, I'll be able to take care of my family with this. Blessed to be able to know I'll be playing at least in the NBA for four years and see where it goes from there,'" he said. — AFP



SALT LAKE CITY: In this May 8, 2017 file photo, Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives as Utah Jazz guard Shelvin Mack (8) defends in the first half during Game 4. — AP



HOUSTON: New York Yankees' Brett Gardner, right, hits an RBI-single to score Ronald Torreyes as Houston Astros catcher Brian McCann reaches for the pitch during the sixth inning of a baseball game Friday, in Houston. — AP

BASEBALL

YANKEES BEAT ASTROS AS AOKI PITCHES

HOUSTON: Brett Gardner tied a career high with six RBIs and his seventh-inning grand slam helped New York to a 13-4 win over Houston, whose veteran Japanese outfielder Nori Aoki pitched for the first time in Major League Baseball. The Yankees started off slow, and trailed by two entering the sixth inning, after arriving at their hotel in Houston about 6 a.m. following an almost three-hour rain delay before the start of their game at the Chicago White Sox on Thursday night. They finally broke through in that inning, hitting five singles and sending 10 batters to the plate to take a 6-3 lead. Gardner, who finished a triple shy of the cycle, drove in the go-ahead run in that inning and connected off James Hoyt an inning later on his two-out, two-strike shot to make it 10-3. Michael Pineda (8-4) yielded seven hits and three runs - two earned - in six innings for his first win since June 8. Bryan Mitchell allowed two hits and one run in three innings for his first save. Michael Feliz (4-2) allowed four hits and three runs in a third of an inning for the loss. Aoki made his first career pitching appearance in the ninth. The 35-year-old allowed one hit with two walks and three runs while throwing mostly in the high 70s.

BRAVES 3, ATHLETICS 1

Atlanta's Mike Foltynewicz lost his no-hit bid when Matt Olson clobbered a full-count pitch into the elevated right-field seats leading off the ninth inning of the Braves' inter-league victory over the Athletics. Trying for just the major leagues' second no-hitter of the season, Foltynewicz (6-5) struck out eight and walked four while pitching into the ninth for the first time and outdueling Sonny Gray. The Braves have 14 no-hitters, the last by Kent Mercker at the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 8, 1994. Foltynewicz, the 19th overall pick in the 2010 draft, capped baseball's home-run heavy June with a career-best 119-pitch gem. He baffled the A's with fast-

balls at up to 97 mph. And there wasn't even a close defensive play on this night for the 25-year-old right-hander, a four-year veteran making his 52nd big league start. Gray (3-4) retired his final 14 batters.

REDS 5, CUBS 0

Scott Feldman held the Chicago Cubs' depleted lineup to two singles over seven innings and Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer, powering the Cincinnati Reds to victory. The Reds won for only the sixth time in their last 29 games against their NL Central rival. Feldman (7-5) didn't allow a hit until Ian Happ singled with two outs in the sixth. Addison Russell singled in the seventh. Feldman walked two, struck out seven and threw 108 pitches. Michael Lorenzen and Wandy Peralta each pitched an inning, completing a combined three hitter. Duvall connected for his third homer in four games off left-hander Mike Montgomery (1-5) in the fourth inning. The Reds also scored on Jose Peraza's squeeze bunt for a single in the sixth, and again on catcher Victor Caratini's throwing error in the eighth. The defending World Series champions were missing third baseman Kris Bryant for the second straight game, sidelined by a sprained right ankle. Jayson Heyward and Ben Zobrist remain on the disabled list.

METS 2, PHILLIES 1

Jacob deGrom struck out 12 in seven dominant innings to win his fourth consecutive start, leading New York past Philadelphia. Curtis Granderson and Travis d'Arnaud each had an RBI single for the Mets, who have won six of seven since getting swept in four games at Dodger Stadium. They returned from a 5-5 trip and managed just enough offense against the worst team in the majors to earn their third consecutive victory. DeGrom (8-3) has permitted only three earned runs over 32 innings for a 0.84 ERA in his last four out-

ings. He held the Phillies hitless until Granderson lost a routine fly in the darkening sky at dusk, giving catcher Andrew Knapp his first career triple with two outs in the fifth. Jerry Blevins and Paul Sewald combined on a scoreless eighth, and Addison Reed got three quick outs for his 13th save. Philadelphia rookie Ben Lively (1-3) was the loser.

RAYS 6, ORIOLES 4, 10 INNINGS

Adeiny Hechavarria hit a tying single in the ninth inning and Steven Souza followed with a three-run homer in the 10th to carry Tampa Bay past Baltimore. Hechavarria went 4 for 4 and Wilson Ramos hit his first homer with the Rays. They had nobody on with two outs in the ninth before rallying from a 3-2 deficit against closer Brad Brach. After issuing a two-out walk to pinch-hitter Shane Peterson, Brach committed a balk and threw a wild pitch Hechavarria singled to left. It was the fourth blown save for Brach, who's filling in for the injured Zach Britton. In the 10th, Darren O'Day (1-2) issued two walks, the second one intentionally, before Souza homered. Jumbo Diaz (1-3) worked the ninth and Alex Colome gave up a homer to Mark Trumbo in the 10th but got three outs for his 21st save. Baltimore's Joey Rickard hit an RBI double in the third inning and made it 2-all with a solo shot in the sixth.

ROYALS 8, TWINS 1

Jason Vargas picked up his American League-leading 12th victory and Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer to help Kansas City beat Minnesota. Vargas (12-3) tied Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers for the major league lead in wins and lowered his ERA to 2.22, which tops the American League. He allowed two hits and one run over seven innings. Ervin Santana (10-5) took the loss, yielding seven runs, five earned, and eight hits. It was the second time since 1990 that two pitchers with at least 10 wins and an ERA of less than 3.00 matched up. The previous was June 16, 2002, with Boston's Derek Lowe (10 wins, 1.89 ERA) and Atlanta's Tom Glavine (11 wins, 1.53 ERA) squared off in an interleague game. Santana's throwing error in the fourth opened the floodgates for a five-run inning. After Jorge Bonifacio opened the inning with a single, Lorenzo Cain hit a sharp grounder to Santana for a probable double play. Santana's throw sailed wide right of second baseman Brian Dozier and into center field.

GIANTS 13, PIRATES 5

Hunter Pence drove in four runs and San Francisco pounced on Pittsburgh starter Gerrit Cole for seven runs then added six more against the bullpen. Leadoff man Denard Span went 4 for 5 with a home run and scored four times, Joe Panik went 3 for 5 with a run and an RBI, and Pence was 3 for 4. Trailing by a run entering the fourth, the Giants rattled off five straight hits in the

inning to score three runs, then added five more on four hits in the sixth. Buster Posey and Brandon Belt each had two-run doubles. Belt added a solo homer in the eighth and finished with four RBIs. Johnny Cueto (6-7) was the winner. Cole (6-7) had seven strikeouts but gave up 10 hits.

CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 1

Mike Leake pitched eight strong innings and Yadier Molina drove in four runs to help St. Louis beat Washington. The Cardinals have won five of their past six, while the Nationals have dropped four of six. Leake (6-6) got his first win since he last went eight innings in a victory over Los Angeles on May 24. He pitched eight innings, giving up one run on five hits, striking out four and walking three. Tanner Roark (6-6) took the loss, lasting just three innings. He gave up four hits and walked a season-high five, the final two of which resulted in the Cardinals' first two runs. Molina extended his hitting streak to 15 games with a two-run single in the third and added another two-run hit as the Cardinals scored five times in the fourth off reliever Jacob Turner.

BREWERS 3 MARLINS 2

Stephen Vogt, claimed off waivers this week from Oakland, hit two home runs as Milwaukee held off Miami. The game was delayed in the fourth inning after a baseball apparently thrown from the stands struck first-base umpire Joe West in the back of the head. The 64-year-old West remained in the game. He worked his 5,000th career regular-season game last week, and has spent a record 40 seasons in the majors. Vogt hit a solo home run in the fifth off Miami starter Edinson Volquez and a two-run shot in the seventh off reliever David Phelps (2-4). Carlos Torres (4-4) got the win with two scoreless innings of relief. Corey Knebel earned his 13th save in 16 chances.

RED SOX 7, BLUE JAYS 4, 11 INNINGS

Xander Bogaerts hit a tiebreaking single in the 11th inning as Boston beat Toronto. Hanley Ramirez doubled off Aaron Loup (2-2) to begin the 11th and moved to third on Jackie Bradley Jr.'s single. One out later, Bogaerts singled through the drawn-in infield. Deven Marrero had two hits and three RBIs for the AL East-leading Red Sox. Bogaerts was held out of the starting lineup for the first time since April 21. He came on as a defensive replacement in the 10th. Blaine Boyer (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings and Craig Kimbrel finished for his 23rd save. Justin Smoak hit a three-run home run, his 22nd, and Troy Tulowitzki added a solo blast for the Blue Jays. They have lost six of eight.

WHITE SOX 8, RANGERS 7

Melky Cabrera hit a two-run double against closer Matt Bush to cap a three-run ninth inning and lift Chicago past Texas. Todd Frazier hit two homers. Jose Abreu finally connected at home after setting a

club record by hitting his first 13 on the road, and Chicago rallied for its fourth win in 12 games. Bush (2-4) came in with a 7-5 lead to start the ninth. Singles by Adam Engel and Willy Garcia put runners on first and second with one out before Alen Hanson drove an RBI single to center. Cabrera followed with a two-run double down the right-field line, with Hanson diving headfirst across the plate with the winning run. Anthony Swarzak (4-2) pitched an inning for victory.

DODGERS 10, PADRES 4

Austin Barnes hit two homers and drove in seven runs to help the Dodgers to a victory over the Padres. Barnes hit his first career grand slam and a three-run shot. The two managers weren't around to see it as Dave Roberts and Andy Green got into an altercation and were ejected between the first and second innings. Justin Turner was 3-for-3 with a two-run home run as the Dodgers finished June with 53 home runs, a franchise record for any month. Alex Wood (9-0) exited with one run allowed in six innings to lower his ERA to 1.83 - but not before yelling at Padres baserunner Jose Pirela in the first inning and later joining a stand-off after the tiff between managers. Plate umpire Greg Gibson issued a warning to both teams following the Wood-Pirela exchange.

ROCKIES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Jon Gray struck out 10 over six innings in his first start since April and rookie Raimel Tapia hit his first career home run, helping the Rockies end an eight-game skid with a win over the Diamondbacks. Gray, making his first start since April 13, allowed two runs on seven hits for his first victory of the season. Colorado's opening day starter, Gray broke a bone in his left foot in the fourth inning of his third start of the season and went on the disabled list. Diamondbacks starter Robbie Ray (8-4) lasted six innings and threw a career high 122 pitches. He allowed four runs on five hits with nine strikeouts and walked five, tying a season high.

MARINERS 10, ANGELS 0

Robinson Cano hit two home runs while Ariel Miranda allowed only two hits in seven innings as the Mariners snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over the Angels. Cano's 15th and 16th home runs of the season gave him five RBIs. Miranda (7-4) threw his finest game of the season. The only hits he allowed were a bloop single to Kory Calhoun in the fourth and a double to Andrelton Simmons in the fifth. He walked two and struck out four. Los Angeles' Parker Bridwell (2-1) was hit hard all night in his first career loss, surrendering 11 hits and three home runs. Catcher Mike Zunino started Seattle's scoring with a solo home run in the third. Kyle Seager added a solo shot in the ninth, his 10th on the season. Ben Gamel and Seager each had four hits, while Cano had three.—AP

MLB results/standings

LA Dodgers 10, San Diego 4; Seattle 10, LA Angels 0; Atlanta 3, Oakland 1; Colorado 6, Arizona 3; Kansas City 8, Minnesota 1; St. Louis 8, Washington 1; Milwaukee 3, Miami 2; NY Yankees 13, Houston 4; Chicago White Sox 8, Texas 7; Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 0; NY Mets 2, Philadelphia 1; Boston 7, Toronto 4 (11 innings); San Francisco 13, Pittsburgh 5; Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 4 (10 innings).

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	47	33	.588
Boston	45	35	.563	Atlanta	38	41	.481
NY Yankees	43	35	.551	NY Mets	37	42	.468
Tampa Bay	42	40	.512	Miami	35	43	.449
Baltimore	39	40	.494	Philadelphia	26	52	.333
Toronto	37	42	.468				
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	42	36	.538	Milwaukee	43	39	.524
Minnesota	40	38	.513	Chicago Cubs	40	40	.500
Kansas City	39	39	.500	St. Louis	38	41	.481
Detroit	35	43	.449	Pittsburgh	37	43	.463
Chicago White Sox	35	44	.443	Cincinnati	34	45	.430
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	54	27	.667	LA Dodgers	54	28	.659
LA Angels	42	42	.500	Arizona	50	31	.617
Seattle	40	41	.494	Colorado	48	34	.585
Texas	39	41	.488	San Diego	33	47	.413
Oakland	35	45	.438	San Francisco	31	51	.378

MOTORCYCLING

MARQUEZ CLAIMS EIGHTH STRAIGHT SACHSENRING POLE

HOHENSTEIN-ERNSTHAL: World MotoGP champion Marc Marquez stormed to an incredible eighth successive German Grand Prix pole yesterday, as he looks to give his title defence a boost. The Spaniard, who has also won his last seven races across all three classes at the Sachsenring circuit, snatched the fastest time from Danilo Petrucci with just two minutes remaining of qualifying in wet conditions. Italian Petrucci will line up second on the grid for

Sunday's race, with Marquez's Honda team-mate Dani Pedrosa completing the front row. Marquez is fourth in the riders' standings, trailing leader Andrea Dovizioso, who qualified 10th, by 11 points.

"It was quite difficult to understand when to push," Marquez said. "I tried to be calm at the start. I was trying to take care and improve the lap time step-by-step. Then at the end I really pushed. I'm happy because it's always very tricky in

wet conditions." Petrucci, who finished second last week in Assen behind legendary compatriot Valentino Rossi, laid down the gauntlet early on in the second and final qualifying session.

But five-time world champion Marquez edged in front on his penultimate lap, before further extending his advantage to end up 0.16 seconds faster with his third pole of the season. "I did my best lap when Marc was behind. He was able to improve again. Anyway, he

was faster," Petrucci said. "In the dry, we're a bit more in trouble compared to the wet. Tomorrow we don't know which weather it will be."

Yamaha's Maverick Vinales, who lost the world championship lead when he crashed out last Sunday, had a difficult day and had to settle for 11th alongside Dovizioso.

The 22-year-old also had a slight bump with Marquez, and although both riders stayed upright, Vinales was furious

with his fellow Spaniard. Briton Cal Crutchlow, home hope Jonas Folger and Dovizioso's Ducati team-mate Jorge Lorenzo make up the second row on the grid. The 38-year-old Rossi has had a difficult week, and he could only qualify in ninth position behind Espargaro brothers Pol and Aleix.

The nine-time world champion is third in the world championship, seven points behind Dovizioso and three behind second-placed Vinales. —AFP

PLAYERS CONSIDER S AFRICA TOUR BOYCOTT OVER TALKS BREAKDOWN

SYDNEY: The Australian Cricketers' Association executive meets today to decide whether players will boycott this month's Australia A tour to South Africa after a failure to strike a new pay deal with Cricket Australia.

CA and the players' union both confirmed they had failed to reach an agreement on a new Memorandum of Understanding before Friday's deadline, leaving players unemployed and threatening fixtures including this year's Ashes series. The ACA likened the rancorous split in Australian cricket as the worst since the tempestuous days of Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket revolution of the 1970s.

Leading fast bowler Josh Hazlewood said the breakdown in pay negotiations has left a bitter taste with the players, adding "we are, obviously, willing to do what we need to."

The players' union said it will meet in Sydney today to discuss a more detailed response to the contract standoff.

Among the issues that will be canvassed will be the availability of players for the Australia A tour to South Africa scheduled to begin on July 8, the ACA said and the employment rights for the more than 200 players now out of contract and unemployed as of yesterday.

ACA Chief Executive Alistair Nicholson said the union had planned for the possibility that no deal would be reached and had put in place a number of measures to deal with the associated contingencies. Among them have been the establishment of a players' support fund to lend direct financial assistance to those out-of-contract

men and women. Nicholson said the availability of players for the upcoming Australia A Tour of South Africa would also be discussed at the meeting. Hazlewood said waking up effectively unemployed on Saturday was "a different feel".

"To be contracted for the best part of 10 years, nearly for me, it's going to be a different stage and we'll see how it pans out," Hazlewood told Fairfax Media.

Along with the players, fixtures are also at risk including Australia's Test tour to Bangladesh from August, the one-day international series in India in September and the home Ashes series against England later this year. CA and the players' union have hit an impasse after the board attempted to scrap the 20-year-old arrangement of giving players a fixed share of revenues, in favour of dividing surpluses amongst elite players and offering a pay rise. Leading players hit out at the move to scrap revenue-sharing, with Australia batsman David Warner insisting they "won't budge" and threatening strike action during the Ashes.

Following the missed deadline, players who are on multi-year contracts that go beyond June 30 will continue to be paid, and will be required to play and train as before.

Players were due to assemble in Brisbane for training tomorrow ahead of the South Africa trip. The first tour match is supposed to start on July 12. Australia's women's team are currently competing in the World Cup in England, but they have a special contract that will run until the tournament is complete. — AFP



ANTIGUA: West Indies' Jason Mohammed plays a shot during the third One Day International (ODI) match between West Indies and India, at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in St John's, Antigua, on Friday. —AFP

CRICKET

SPINNERS ON SONG AS INDIA DOWN WINDIES

MALINGA FALLS ILL

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's controversial fast bowler Lasith Malinga has been diagnosed with a viral influenza and will sit out the second one-day international against Zimbabwe today, the cricket board said. Malinga, who was slapped with a suspended six-month match ban earlier this week, has been told to take two days of rest after coming down with the bug. "Medical reports have ruled him out of the next game and recommended a rest period of 48 hours," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement. It added that Lakshan Sandakan did not play in the first ODI on Friday at Galle

because he had the same virus. Malinga, 33, took one wicket on Friday, giving away 51 runs in the game which Zimbabwe won by six wickets. The 80-kilo (176-pound) bowler was disciplined after he pleaded guilty to comparing the country's sports minister Dayasiri Jayasekera to a monkey for saying national cricket players were too fat and unfit. Jayasekera has given national players three months to improve their level of fitness or get booted out. He said the entire team selected to play against Zimbabwe were below the internationally accepted fitness level. — AFP



Lasith Malinga

NORTH SOUND: Effective spin bowling and indiscreet shot selection combined to give India an ultimately comfortable 93-run victory over the West Indies in a low-scoring third fixture of a five-match One-Day International series on Friday. Set a target of 252 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua to prevent the visitors taking an unbeatable 2-0 series lead, the hosts were on course with Jason Mohammed and Rowman Powell in full flow in a 54-run sixth-wicket partnership.

But then India's frontline spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin swung the match decisively in their team's favour.

From a promising position of 141 for five in the 33rd over, the Caribbean side crashed to 158 all out within the next five overs. Yadav and Ashwin took three wickets each in engineering the capitulation that was finished off by Kedar Jadhav as he yorked last man Kesrick Williams with his first ball of the match.

Powell had looked dangerous in getting to 30 before a top-edged sweep off Yadav resulted in the pivotal dismissal via a catch at deep backward square leg.

Mohammed, who managed a top score of 40, became another victim of the left-arm wrist-spinner, trapped leg-before to effectively end the contest. Earlier it was Jadhav who triggered a late run explosion in partnership with Mahendra Singh Dhoni as India reached 251 for four batting first on a sluggish pitch affected by prolonged, torrential rains the day before.

Dhoni top-scored with an unbeaten 78 off 79 balls and was named man of the match, but the real impetus came from Jadhav, who blazed 40 off 26 balls in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 81 runs off just 46 deliveries.

Ajinkya Rahane held the innings together after the loss of early wickets, the opener extending his excellent run of form in the series with 72, his third consecutive score over 50.

"I thought the pitch got easier for batting as the day went along so I was really pleased with the fight we showed towards the end of our innings and then from our bowlers," said India captain Virat Kohli.

"We may now be looking at giving some of our other players in the squad an opportunity to show how they can perform in these conditions."

'SATISFYING' FOR DHONI

Comprehensively beaten by 105 runs in the second match in Trinidad five days earlier following a rain-ruined no-result to start the series, West Indies took early advantage of the pitch conditions.

Miguel Cummins removed Shikhar Dhawan in just the third over while Jason Holder justified his decision to bat first on winning the toss when he claimed the prized scalp of Kohli, who was brilliantly caught by debutant Kyle Hope at gully. Rahane found a reliable partner in Yuvraj Singh, the pair putting on 66 for the third wicket before Devendra Bishoo trapped Yuvraj lbw for 39. Dhoni then joined Rahane in another important stand of 70, although both found the spinners especially hard to get away on the turgid surface. "Our batting has been performing so

SCOREBOARD

NORTH SOUND, Antigua and Barbuda: Scoreboard of the third fixture of a five-match One-Day International series between India and the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Friday.

India	West Indies
A. Rahane c Bishoo b Cummins 72	K. Hope c Jadhav b Pandya 19
S. Dhawan c Chase b Cummins 2	S. Hope c and b Pandya 24
V. Kohli c K. Hope b Holder 11	R. Chase b K. Yadav 2
Y. Singh lbw Bishoo 39	J. Mohammed lbw K. Yadav 40
M.S. Dhoni not out 78	J. Holder stpd wkpr Dhoni b Ashwin 6
K. Jadhav not out 40	A. Nurse c U. Yadav b Ashwin 6
Extras (lb-1, w-8) 9	D. Bishoo not out 4
Total (4 wks, 50 overs) 251	M. Cummins lbw Ashwin 1
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Dhawan), 2-34 (Kohli), 3-100 (Yuvraj Singh), 4-170 (Rahane)	K. Williams b Jadhav 1
Did not bat: H. Pandya, K. Yadav, R. Ashwin, B. Kumar, U. Yadav	Extras (lb-6, w-17) 23
Bowling: M. Cummins 10-0-56-2 (2w), J. Holder 10-1-53-1 (2w), K. Williams 10-0-69-0 (1w), A. Nurse 10-0-34-0 (1w), D. Bishoo 10-0-38-1 (2w).	Total (all out, 38.1 overs) 158
	Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Lewis), 2-54 (K. Hope), 3-58 (Chase), 4-69 (S. Hope), 5-87 (Holder), 6-141 (Powell), 7-148 (Nurse), 8-156 (Mohammed), 9-157 (Cummins)
	Bowling: B. Kumar 5-0-19-0, U. Yadav 7-0-32-1 (5w), H. Pandya 6-0-32-2 (3w), K. Yadav 10-1-41-3, R. Ashwin 10-1-28-3 (3w), K. Jadhav 0.1-0-0-1.
	Result: India won by 93 runs

well for the last year and a half that I haven't had too many opportunities to spend time in the middle in ODIs so this was very satisfying," said Dhoni.

"I am continuing to enjoy my cricket and it's good to see the hunger and desire from all the players." It was the arrival of Jadhav at the crease in the 43rd over, when Rahane became Cummins' second wicket of the innings, that

shot the score upward. "We started well with the ball but let things get away from us towards the end of their innings," said Holder. "Yet again the batting didn't deliver and that continues to be a problem." West Indies need to win the fourth match at the same venue today to have a chance of squaring the series going into the final match on July 6 in Kingston. —AFP



GALLE: Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza (right) reacts after their victory on the first one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle on Friday. — AFP

ENGLAND RECALL BALLANCE FOR SOUTH AFRICA OPENER

LONDON: Batsman Gary Ballance has been given a chance to revive his England Test career after being named in the squad for next Thursday's first Test against South Africa.

The Zimbabwe-born 27-year-old has battled his way back into contention with a superb season for Yorkshire in the County Championship after being dropped following a torrid series against Bangladesh last October.

"Gary Ballance could play his first Test since October," said England national selector James Whitaker. "He has been in fantastic touch with the bat in the Championship averaging over 100. He deserves to be included and we feel that he will add maturity and experience to our middle-order."

Ballance's county team-mate Joe Root will lead the side for the first time since replacing Alastair Cook as skipper in February, although the Essex opener retains his place in the squad.

Senior bowler Stuart Broad was included after shaking off a heel problem, while uncapped Middlesex seamer Toby Roland-Jones could make his Test debut at his home ground with Chris Woakes and Jake

Ball ruled out through injury. Roland-Jones, 29, made his one-day international debut last month at Lord's against Ireland and is joined by Mark Wood, who earns a recall after almost a two-year hiatus. "There is great excitement around the first Test of the summer and with the start of a new era under the captaincy of Joe Root this is an exciting time for English cricket," said Whitaker.

"Toby Roland-Jones is a player we have been monitoring for quite some time and deserves his chance after a strong couple of seasons with Middlesex in red ball cricket. "He came close last year when he was named in the Test squad against Pakistan in July. "Toby has been in good form this campaign and his ability to seam the ball along with the fact that he can score useful runs down the order gives us a number of options."

Squad:

Joe Root (capt), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Gary Ballance, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Liam Dawson, Keaton Jennings, Toby Roland-Jones, Ben Stokes, Mark Wood. — AFP

PREVIEW

PORTUGAL WITHOUT RONALDO
FOR MEXICO PLAY-OFF

MOSCOW: European champions Portugal will have to make do without captain Cristiano Ronaldo as they seek the consolation of a third-place finish in today's Confederations Cup play-off against Mexico.

The Real Madrid star was excused from the squad following Wednesday's penalty shootout defeat to Chile in the semi-finals, returning home to meet his newborn twins. The 32-year-old, who already has a seven-year-old son, Cristiano Ronaldo Jr, from a previous relationship, is believed to have fathered the twins with a surrogate mother in the United States.

"We knew he was having family matters at home," Portugal manager Fernando Santos told a news conference yesterday. "Obviously it was an important moment in his life to have these children, whom he hasn't seen yet."

"And as we failed to reach the final here the president of our football federation and me decided that it will be a nice gesture to give him a chance to be with his family."

Portugal are often accused of relying heavily on Ronaldo, but they claimed their first major title without their injured talisman when they beat France 1-0 after extra-time in last year's Euro 2016 final.

Borussia Dortmund's Raphael Guerreiro is also missing for Portugal through injury, but veteran defender Pepe returns after he was suspended for the Chile clash.

"It will be a game with the same commitment with the same willingness to win from both sides, I believe," said Santos. "None of us wanted to play this game as our main goal was to reach the final. But as we failed to get that result we have to be motivated for Sunday's encounter."

"We have the same objective as we have had in the last two and a half years to play for the win in every game." Mexico's Hector Moreno headed a late equaliser in a 2-2 draw with Portugal in the group stage, and Santos is well aware of the threat posed by the Gold Cup holders.

"Mexico had an excellent tournament in the group stage, and even in the game against Germany they looked a very dynamic team that always tries to win the game they're playing."

"They're a team with a lot of determination. But I hope that tomorrow my team will be able to score while not conceding any goals, unlike in our first meeting here."

Mexico are appearing at their seventh Confederations Cup and are hoping to restore their pride after Thursday's 4-1 semi-final defeat against world champions Germany.

Mexico, who won the tournament in 1999, have fallen behind in each of their four matches in Russia but will welcome back captain Andres Guardado, who was banned for the Germany game. —AFP

BOXING

MANNY PACQUIAO'S TITLE ON THE
LINE IN 'BATTLE OF BRISBANE'

BRISBANE: Manny Pacquiao has ducked and weaved, has been accused of being late and rude, and of thinking more about a Floyd Mayweather rematch than his WBO welterweight world title defense against Jeff Horn.

After week of fine-tuning in Australia, Pacquiao and Horn easily made weight at the Saturday morning weigh-in. The Filipino senator did a quick TV interview before making a swift exit to eat.

Locals have grumbled that Pacquiao only attended a formal pre-fight function for a few minutes on Friday, and Horn's camp accused Pacquiao earlier in the week of being late for the official news conference and then constantly texting on his cell phone through the event. What nobody can complain about is the pulling power of the 11-time world champion. More than 50,000 tickets have been sold for the outdoor bout today afternoon at Suncorp Stadium, and the so-called "Battle of Brisbane" is expected to set records for pay-per-view in Australia.

For the first time since 2005, a Pacquiao fight hasn't been restricted to pay-per-view in America. ESPN will broadcast the fight to an estimated 95 million US homes in prime time Saturday night.

"This is the time that I give back to the fans," Pacquiao said, adding that he'd suggested "let's do free TV for the fans," to Top Rank promoter Bob Arum. "I have to give a good show for them," he added. "This is it. I'm excited." Pacquiao (59-6-2, 38 knockouts) is defending the WBO title he won on points against Jessie Vargas last November. That was one of the two fights he's had - the other was a points win over Tim Brady in April of last year - since he lost the 2015 mega fight to Mayweather.

Legendary trainer Freddie Roach has predicted a knockout against Horn, saying Pacquiao is perfectly prepared and the fight should be "short and sweet."

Pacquiao hasn't won by knockout since 2009, but Roach said the 38-year-old eight-division champ has knocked down sparring partners and is in vintage form.

SNAP IS BACK

"Freddie is very happy because that snap is back, the power is there," Pacquiao said in an interview with ESPN after the weigh-in. "I feel good. Weight is not a problem. Let's get it on." Roach believes Pacquiao's boxing future depends on how the fight goes against Horn. If he were to lose, Roach said he'd likely recommend retirement. A comfortable win would add ammunition for a rematch with Mayweather.

Pacquiao has more than a decade of experience in this environment, and said he likes to take on a boxer who has hometown advantage because he enjoys the extra buzz. Horn (16-0-1, 11 knockouts) is unbeaten in his 17 fights since turning pro in 2013, but has never confronted anyone of Pacquiao's caliber.

Experience, "is my advantage," Pacquiao said. "But I want to make sure that I ... use it properly and maximize it."

Pacquiao tipped the scales at 66.1 kilograms (146 pounds) on Saturday, and Horn weighed in at 63.35 kilograms (147 pounds) after shedding 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) in recent days.

Horn, a former school teacher and Olympic quarterfinalist before turning pro, said he had the reach and weight advantages over Pacquiao, and had the range of punches that could cause the Filipino great some trouble. During the week, he has talked about being disrespected amid talk of another Pacquiao-Mayweather fight, and said he had the weapons to knock out Pacquiao.

"Game face is on. School is out," Horn said. "I just keep that in my mind, what I'm going to have to do in the ring, which will upset Manny." — AP

INFANTINO HAILS VAR 'GREAT
SUCCESS' AT CONFED CUP

SAINT PETERSBURG: FIFA president Gianni Infantino hailed the video assistant referee (VAR) system as a "great success" at the Confederations Cup, but admitted it still needs improving.

World football's governing body is testing the system in Russia and Infantino said the six game-changing decisions the VAR has so far picked up meant "more justice and fair play".

The best example of the system's impact came when Portugal were denied a goal in their 2-2 group stage draw against Mexico after the video assistant spotted four players were offside before Nani scored from a rebound. And in Germany's 3-1 win over Cameroon, the referee initially sent off the wrong player before the VAR overruled the decision and Ernest Mabouka was correctly dismissed for fouling Germany's Emre Can.

"The VAR has been a great success in Russia," said Infantino. "The video refs had the chance to intervene and there were six game-changing decisions, where they actually cor-

rected the decision or mistake, made by the ref. "Without the VAR, we would have had a different tournament and it would have been a little less fair."

"Thanks to VAR we have achieved a great thing—those big mistakes will not happen any longer. "It will always be the referee who decides and there will always be discussions, but big mistakes will be corrected and that is a great achievement after it was asked for for so many years."

Long delays while the VAR makes a decision and communicates it to the referee on the pitch have held up matches on several occasions, with Infantino conceding there is still room for improvement.

"Of course it's a test, we still need to work on the details, the speed of the decisions being taken, for example."

FIFA plan to further test and fine-tune the system in the German and Portuguese leagues next season, while Infantino in April said the technology will be used at the 2018 World Cup. Pierluigi Collina, the chairman of the FIFA refereeing committee, said Confederations Cup officials were telling him that the VAR system gave them more confidence. "The VAR is a very positive tool to help refs avoid making mistakes, it is a very positive outcome so far," said Collina.

"It's a work in progress with the VAR system—we have only used it at 74 matches, at (last December's) Club World Cup, the Under-20 World Cup (in June) and here.

"It's not a big number and it would be a surprise if everything was perfect after so few matches. "When we train someone without match pressure, it's very different. "They need to be in that match situation when you know you have a very short time to get the correct interpretation to make the right decision. "We want to avoid mistakes which are remembered for years which affected the final outcome of the match or a competition." — AFP



KRAKOW: Germany's team celebrate 1-0 victory with the trophy after the UEFA U-21 European Championship football final match Germany v Spain in Krakow, Poland, on Friday. —AFP

SOCCER

GERMANY BEAT SPAIN
TO WIN UNDER-21 EURO

KRAKOW: Mitchell Weiser scored with a looping first-half header to hand Germany the under-21 European Championship title after a 1-0 win over Spain in the southern Polish city of Krakow on Friday.

It is Germany's second title in the age group following their triumph in 2009, while Spain failed to expand their collection of four titles. Hertha Berlin winger Weiser sent a header arcing over Spanish keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and into the far corner on 40 minutes for his first goal of the tournament following a cross from right-back Jeremy Toljan. "The goal made everything very difficult," said Spanish coach Albert Celades, a former defensive midfielder with Real Madrid and Barcelona. "The first half was key for us, we tried to do everything in the second half but time was running out for us."

"Of course we're sad, this was the final (but) Germany is a fabulous team... playing very good football." Spain came into the final having claimed four wins in as many games at the tournament and Celades went with the same team that started in the 3-1 semi-final victory over Italy.

Opposing coach Stefan Kuntz lost his leading

striker Davie Selke to injury but welcomed back defender Niklas Stark, who had missed the semi-final drama against England when Germany won on penalties. Spain started in high spirits, but Germany soon regained their composure to outplay their rivals in the first half, with their defence close to the half-way line and forwards never missing an opportunity to attack. Max Meyer headed against the post early on and Germany deserved the breakthrough when it arrived with the interval approaching, with Jesus Vallejo not getting close enough to Weiser as he met Toljan's cross. "We trusted that in the final all players can bring again close to 100 percent of their performance and that was right," said Kuntz. "We had to bring our best technical game today with a lot of courage. "We had a plan and they did it really, really good. It's not easy to play against our team when they have so much courage." Spain came out of the changing room more determined to attack in the second half, but the closest they came to equalising was a left-footed curler from Saul Niguez that was saved by Julian Pollersbeck. At the other end, Meyer put through Serge Gnabry who failed to beat Arrizabalaga with a low shot.

Dani Ceballos then blasted a shot just past the post while Gerard Deulofeu's shot was cleared by the German defence which easily survived the inefficient Spanish pressure of the final minutes. With the exception of 2015 when Sweden lifted the trophy in the Czech Republic, Germany and Spain have dominated the competition since 2009 with Spain earning the honours in 2011 and 2013. — AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

FIFA CONFEDERATIONS CUP

Portugal v Mexico 15:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1

Chile v Germany 21:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1
beIN SPORTS HD



SAINT PETERSBURG: Chile's national football team take part in a training session in Saint Petersburg yesterday on the eve of their 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup final football match against Germany. World Cup winners Germany will face Copa America champions Chile in the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup final in Saint Petersburg today. — AFP

CHILE CAN PROVE THEY'RE
BEST IN THE WORLD: VIDAL

SAINT PETERSBURG: Midfielder Arturo Vidal said Chile can prove they are the world's best team and throw down a marker for next year's World Cup by beating Germany in today's Confederations Cup final.

Copa America champions Chile take on world champions Germany in St Petersburg with the teams having already drawn 1-1 in the group stages. Alexis Sanchez's early strike for Chile was cancelled out by Lars Stindl when the teams met in Kazan ten days ago.

Chile are looking for their third international trophy in three years after winning both the 2015 and 2016 Copa America titles-beating Argentina in the final on penalties on both occasions. Having knocked Euro 2016 winners Portugal out of the Confed Cup in Wednesday's semi-final, Vidal says beating Germany's young guns will prove Chile are the best.

"We have proven our value, we have beaten Argentina and Portugal, the European champions," said Vidal.

"If we win tomorrow, we will prove we are the best team in the world. "We have reached this final with our spirit and attitude—this is a waiting room for the World Cup—and if we win tomorrow, that will show where we are. "We still have to qualify for the World Cup, but we have a lot of energy and want to prove ourselves."

Chile showed their penalty shoot-out pedigree again in Kazan, as goalkeeper Claudio Bravo saved all three Portugal spot-kicks after it finished goalless after extra-time.

While Chile played 120 minutes, Germany will be slightly fresher having beaten Mexico 4-1 in normal time in Thursday's semi-final.

A German is set to finish as the tourna-

ment's top scorer with Leon Goretzka and Timo Werner both on three goals, while Stindl has netted twice. Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi says Joachim Loew's side - the youngest Confed Cup squad with an average age of just over 24 - have proven youth is no obstacle to success.

"They have a set of players with a lot of experience, despite being very young," said Pizzi, using Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich, 22, and 25-year-old Arsenal defender Shkodran Mustafi as examples.

"(Joshua) Kimmich is a central pillar at one of the best teams in the world. "Mustafi was part of the 2014 World Cup winning team and plays in the Premier League, it makes them a formidable opponent. "We are ready to face them on that level and will try to make sure our work-rate is higher than theirs." — AFP



Pierluigi Collina

Sports

Ledecky races to third title at US nationals



Germany beat Spain to win under-21 Euro



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LATE OWEN FARRELL KICK KEEPS LIONS SERIES ALIVE

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EASTBOURNE: Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova, left, holds the trophy after winning against Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, right, in the Women's Singles Final at the AEGON International tennis tournament at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, (inset) Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the trophy after victory over France's Gael Monfils at the ATP Aegon International tennis tournament in Eastbourne. — AP

DJOKOVIC, PLISKOVA CLAIM EASTBOURNE TITLES

EASTBOURNE: Novak Djokovic clinched his first title since January with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Gael Monfils in yesterday's Eastbourne final, while Karolina Pliskova lifted the women's trophy after defeating Caroline Wozniacki. Djokovic, playing the week before Wimbledon for the first time since 2010, captured his 68th career title—but just the second this year—after downing Monfils for the 14th time in as many meetings. "It's been a while now that I have been trying to find my best game and kind of consistency with the performance level of tennis," the Serb, whose form has dramatically tailed off since completing the career Grand Slam at last year's French Open, said.

"It hasn't been the case for me in the last 12 months to win many big tournaments. "But not to get into too deep, it's the way it is, and life throws certain challenges

at us when we expect the least. You've got to go out and face the adversities and learn from these experiences and try to evolve, try to grow." The world number four will face Slovakia's Martin Klizan in the first round at Wimbledon, where he is a three-time former champion. "It (his Eastbourne campaign) was just a phenomenal experience that I will definitely take with me to Wimbledon," Djokovic added. "I will not rule out coming back to Eastbourne next year or the following years."

"It was a great buildup, and hopefully I'll be able to take the confidence from here, good level of performance, into London." The Serb, who will have former players Andre Agassi and Mario Ancic on his Wimbledon coaching team, spent only an hour and a quarter in taming the French second seed. Djokovic has now won 19 consecutive matches against French players and 56

of 57 dating back to the 2010 Davis Cup final. He didn't drop serve, while breaking Monfils three times en route to his first grass-court title outside of Wimbledon.

PLISKOVA UNDERLINES WIMBLEDON CREDENTIALS

Earlier, third seed Pliskova beat Danish sixth seed Wozniacki 6-4, 6-4 to underline her status as a Wimbledon title contender. The Czech secured her third title of the season after breaking Wozniacki once in both sets, leaving the Dane still searching for a first trophy since her win in Hong Kong last October.

"I just wanted to play some matches and to see how it goes and to have some hits on grass, especially when I came from Czech (Republic), I didn't practise much on grass," Pliskova said.

"That's what happened, and it came out that I got the title. I didn't really expect this start of the grass-court season, but it gave me a lot of confidence coming to London." Pliskova needed 80 minutes to win the trophy and become the first top-10 player to win the event since former Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli in 2011. The world number three was clinical in going one better than when she lost to Dominika Cibulkova in last year's final, becoming the first Czech to win the Eastbourne title since Jana Novotna in 1998.

The 25-year-old fired ten aces in an impressive serving display, as Wozniacki was unsuccessful on four break-point chances.

Pliskova will go into Wimbledon as one of the favourites for the title, having also reached the French Open semi-finals at Roland Garros last month. — AFP



ROSARIO: Argentine football star Lionel Messi and bride Antonella Rocuzzo pose for photographers just after their wedding at the City Centre Complex in Rosario, Santa Fe province, Argentina on Friday. — AFP

FOOTBALL STAR MESSI WEDS CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART

ROSARIO: Lionel Messi said "I do" to childhood sweetheart and mother of their two children Antonella Rocuzzo on Friday in his Argentine hometown Rosario, where footballers and celebrities gathered for the "wedding of the century."

Following the private ceremony, the couple appeared happy and relaxed as they walked a red carpet before hundreds of journalists at a hotel and casino complex, Rocuzzo donning a tight, mermaid-style gown by Spanish designer Rosa Clara.

The couple's children Thiago, four, and Mateo, one, had front seats at the ceremony attended by some 260 guests, including Shakira and her husband, Messi's teammate Gerard Pique, and numerous footballers such as Messi's Barcelona strike partners Neymar and Luis Suarez. Argentine media called it the "wedding of the century" for Rosario, the gritty northern port city where Messi, 30, and his bride, 29, met when the player was nine years old.

Former Barca and current Chelsea star Cesc Fabregas was in attendance, along with Argentina and Manchester City striker Sergio Aguiero.

ROAST GIZZARDS

The party was to be a respite for Messi from his legal woes. A Spanish court last month rejected his appeal against a tax fraud conviction. Brunette bride Rocuzzo wore a white, curve-hugging dress with a deep sweetheart neckline and embroidered straps by Rosa Clara—a Spanish designer who has dressed actress Eva Longoria and Spain's Queen Letizia. The wedding was held at 2200 GMT in the City Center casino, which stands right next to a crime-ridden slum run by drug gangs. The civil wedding ceremony and party were all slated to take place inside the venue, and the guests will be lodged there too. The feast will reportedly feature Argentine delicacies such as roast gizzards.

Uruguayan pop bands Rombai and Marama plus singer Karina, Aguiero's wife, will perform at the reception. There were also rumors that there would be singing by Shakira, the Colombian diva famous for "Hips

Don't Lie" and "Whenever, Wherever." Shakira had recently denied rumors that she would miss the wedding due to a quarrel with Rocuzzo.

HUMBLE COUPLE

Messi and Rocuzzo live in Barcelona where he plays, but still return regularly to Rosario for vacations.

He moved to Spain when he was 13 to join FC Barcelona, but the couple kept in touch. Messi has gone on to win the top Ballon d'Or award five times and is widely regarded as the world's best footballer.

But various old friends of the couple in their home city said the bride and groom are humble folk who have never forgotten where they come from. "They are the love of each other's lives," Messi's childhood friend Diego Vallejos told AFP.

Instead of wedding presents, they have asked for donations to a children's charity.

'LEO AND ANTO'

The couple have reportedly spent the past two weeks in Rosario with family, but have kept out of sight of the reporters who have invaded the city. Rumors circulated of bachelor and bachelorette parties, but the only evidence that emerged was a photo, posted by ex-Barca goalkeeper Jose Pinto, of Messi enjoying a barbecue with a few friends.

Some friends of Rocuzzo have shared pictures of her relaxing with relatives. On the eve of the wedding, a festive atmosphere reigned in the Las Heras neighborhood where Messi grew up.

"We will celebrate," said Damian Lugoni, 27, a local sausage sandwich vendor.

"I wish good luck to Leo and Anto, who is just as simple and nice as him." "We are all happy for them," said Lisandro Urteaga, an artist who was called in to paint a mural of Messi in the neighborhood for the occasion.

"Let him celebrate the way someone like him deserves. He is a real example as a human being—although when he plays football he doesn't seem to be from this planet." — AFP

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Nevada launches sales of recreational marijuana

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Companies hobble from fearsome cyberattack

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MIXED PERFORMANCE ENDS BOURSA'S WEEK

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ALLAHABAD: This photo taken on June 30, 2017 shows Indian traders shouting slogans as they burn an effigy of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during a protest against the new Goods and Services Tax (GST). — AFP

INDIA LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE TAX REVOLUTION

GOVT PROMISES STRONGER ECONOMY • BUSINESS DOUBTS LINGER

NEW DELHI: India yesterday launched its biggest ever fiscal reform with the government promising that a new nationwide tax would make the economy stronger and less corrupt, but businesses are nervous about the revolution. The new goods and services tax (GST) replaces more than a dozen levies imposed nationally and by the 29 states. It aims to transform the nation of 1.3 billion people and its \$2 trillion economy into a single market.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a special midnight session of parliament to launch GST which he called "a good and simple tax." "With GST, the dream of one India, great India, will come true," the prime minister said. "GST is a simple, transparent system which prevents generation of black money and curbs corruption," said Modi, who jolted the country last year by withdrawing more than 85 percent of India's bank notes from circulation in a clampdown on under-the-table dealings. But the prime minister, who has put huge efforts into the economy as he targets re-election in 2019,

acknowledged there would be teething troubles. Jammu and Kashmir state has refused to sign onto the one tax regime. GST has sparked protests by traders, while the main opposition Congress Party boycotted the launch ceremony.

Cinemas close

Businesses are nervous about GST, which sets out four different rates of between five and 28 percent instead of the one originally envisioned. The GST rule book runs to more than 200 pages and last-minute changes were still being made late Friday. It allows local authorities to impose some taxes. The first fallout was seen yesterday when the southern state of Tamil Nadu announced a 30 percent levy on movie tickets, in addition to the 28 percent GST fee.

All 969 movie cinemas in the state will close from Monday in protest, M Subramanian, president of a regional theatre owners association, told AFP. "Because of this we will lose customers and it will encourage illegal downloads

of movies," he said. "We will continue the strike till this 30 percent tax is removed." "That's the risk you have when you don't subsume all the taxes," said Pratik Jain, Partner and Leader Indirect Tax, PwC India. "It defeats the purpose of one tax."

Other sectors were hit as well with a higher tax rate. Lighting store Kherati Lall Sons in central Delhi was empty yesterday afternoon. "Taxes have gone up for us from 12.5 percent to 28 percent," company director Shanti Kumar Rakyam told AFP. "This is a huge change and it's really going to hit our sales." But business was booming for the transport companies.

Strikes abound

An executive for logistics company Rivigo in Mumbai, who declined to be named, told AFP clients had asked them to ensure that the goods reached their warehouses before midnight when the new tax would kick in. Textile traders and

other sectors went on strike ahead of the launch and many businesses say they are unclear about what to charge. Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal, a national traders association that claims 60 million members, called a one-day strike Friday to protest the GST.

Many are worried because while returns have to be filed by computer, they do not have or do not understand the technology. "Since August last year we have put forward our demands on GST but the government has never responded," national secretary general Vijay Prakash Jain told AFP. "We told the government, either fix this, or we will strike."

Most economists agree the reform-first proposed in 2006 -- is long overdue, but warn of an initial shock to the economy as businesses adjust. Credit Suisse managing director in India Neelkanth Mishra warned that "the next few months will be a period of uncertainty in which no company would want to invest, that slows down the investment cycle and acts as a drag on the economy." — AFP

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES CAUGHT IN QATAR CROSSFIRE

DUBAI/DOHA: International businesses are being caught in the crossfire of Qatar's dispute with its Arab neighbors as it delays shipments, lengthens travel times and prompts contingency plans in case the crisis deepens. The feud between Arab powers threatens to undermine the region's progress in positioning itself as business friendly and raises concerns that some firms may be forced to pick sides.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5 and imposed economic sanctions, accusing it of funding terrorism, a claim Qatar rejects. Many multinational businesses, from builders to law firms and banks, have a base in Dubai from where they serve the region, including Qatar. "Qatar is a valuable market for us and we want to continue here but it has become difficult and if there's no improvement we will have to review our strategy [in Qatar]," said a commercial manager at a European construction services company with a regional head office in UAE.

The company may be forced to stop bidding for new contracts in Qatar or wind down its operations altogether if sanctions intensify, the manager, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, said. Global banks are also in a bind. Some have joined lenders from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in curtailing new business in Qatar, while others including a few large Asian, European and US banks are still providing financing.

Crisis response

Many of the big international banks have strong relations with both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. HSBC, JPMorgan and Deutsche Bank were involved in sovereign bond issues by both Qatar and Saudi Arabia last year. The three banks declined to comment on how they are responding to the crisis. Suspended land, sea and air links with Qatar have had the most immediate impact on businesses. For William Grieve, a Bahrain-based businessman with consulting work in Manama and Doha, his weekly 40-minute flight to Qatar is now a 10-hour journey via Kuwait.

"When two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers and that's what's happening now," said Grieve. A Doha-based executive at an international engineering firm said the situation had already forced his company to delay some projects. "As a satellite office in

Qatar we rely on being able to bring staff across from UAE regularly. Several jobs have had to be postponed due to building materials being held up in Jebel Ali port (in UAE)," he said.

"Where necessary, employees have had to travel for seven hours via Oman to get to Qatar." One construction firm in Doha has been forced to bypass the port of Jebel Ali and import raw materials either directly or via Oman - and discovered that it has actually lowered costs in doing so, a sales manager at the firm said. Risks to businesses, however, could increase as the four countries that cut ties with Qatar are now stepping up pressure. Last week they issued 13 demands to Doha, including closing Al Jazeera television, curbing relations with Iran and shutting a Turkish military base. Qatar is reviewing the list but has said the demands are not reasonable or actionable.

Opportunities and risks

Governments dominate the commercial landscape of the region but they have worked hard to cultivate a business friendly

image and are keen to attract foreign capital. Qatar attracted 133 billion riyals (\$36 billion) in foreign investment in 2015, the latest available figure. Opportunities in the region include oil giant Saudi Aramco's planned initial public offering in 2018, potentially the world's biggest IPO ever; the 2022 World Cup in Qatar; and the Dubai World Expo 2020.

A Qatari official downplayed concerns about the rift making life harder for businesses and said it was an opportunity for new firms to enter a lucrative market. "Don't believe all the hype about business being affected. Qatar can weather the storm. It is business as usual for us here," said the official who declined to be named under government briefing rules.

Still, the CEO of the Qatar Stock Exchange, Rashid al-Mansoori, said the bourse may look to Asia or Europe for new consultants as transport costs for its current Dubai-based advisers have soared. And the dispute has left some companies worried about the political risks attached to commercial deals. On June 20, Attorney General Ali al-Marri said Qatar would pursue legal action against firms and individuals that caused harm to Qatar.

"Nobody is being asked to pick sides and I don't know if it will come to that, but if it did there would be some uncomfortable and potentially costly decisions to be made," said an Australian businessman working for a multinational with interests in Doha, Dubai and Riyadh. Some companies are already turning down business for fear of being accused of a conflict of interest. Law firms, for example, are being approached by Qatari individuals and businesses about potential class action law suits in the United States relating to the embargo.

"We have been approached to represent those who have been damaged by the crisis but we are not in a position to accept as we are conflicted," one lawyer said. "Although we have business in Qatar, we also have clients in UAE and Saudi Arabia. All the law firms do." For businesses the drying up of financial flows between Qatar and its neighbors has made it trickier to make payments. One executive at a global engineering company, with a regional headquarters in Dubai, said his firm was making contingency plans to pay Qatar-based staff salaries through its European office if the dispute stops payments being made between Doha and Dubai. — Reuters



WASHINGTON, DC: Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani speaks during a luncheon hosted by the Arab Center of Washington, DC. — AFP

THAILAND RETRACTS LABOR LAW AFTER MIGRANT WORKERS FLEE

BANGKOK: Thailand's military government said it will delay enforcing new labor regulations after thousands of migrant workers fled home to neighboring countries this week fearing arrest and heavy fines under the new decree. The scramble is the latest chaos triggered by Thailand's efforts to regulate the millions of foreign workers who prop up its economy with jobs in factories, fishing boats and other low-paid work. The junta has trumpeted a flurry of campaigns aimed at registering migrant workers and cracking down on illegal smuggling routes, but the efforts are often ad-hoc and short-lived.

As a result, much of the migrant work force remains undocumented and vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers and unscrupulous employers. On Friday the junta said it would suspend parts of a new foreign labor law, which came into effect on June 23, for 120 days after the regulations sparked a panic among migrant workers and their employers. "During this window there will be no arrests or crackdown on illegal workers except for those who violate human trafficking laws," Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters. The reprieve comes after thousands of laborers fled home to neighboring Myanmar and Cambodia fearing arrest and fines of up to \$3,000 under the law which punishes migrant workers lacking valid work permits.

Employers can also be fined up to 800,000 baht (\$24,000) for each undocumented worker they hire. In Samut Sakhon, a seafood industry hub known as "Little Burma" for its concentration of Myanmar migrant workers, around 500 laborers have been returning home daily during the past week, said Suthasinee Kaewlekai from the Migrant Worker Rights Network (MWRN). "These workers don't have any documents and have to return to Myanmar as they fear needing to pay a heavy fine," she told AFP. The advocacy group also warned that traffickers frequently profit from such mass movements of migrants, with smugglers and border agents exacting fees from undocumented workers looking for a safe passage home. A police chief in Myanmar's Karen state said around 6,000 migrant workers had returned home from Thailand since Thursday. — AFP

CAREER OPTIONS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY-OBSSESSED

In this day and age, technology is embedded in our everyday life. The internet has become a life necessity and not just for entertainment. Most work tasks have become digitized. Smartphones have become indispensable. So unless you're spending the entire day doing absolutely nothing, it's kind of impossible to avoid technology.

While most of us cannot deny the role of technology in every little task that we undertake, some of us look at technology with googly eyes. Those of us who have a great affinity for technology immerse themselves in that world, following all news of technology advancements no matter what field it is connected to. Whether it's a medical advancement or a consumer product launch, tech-fans are always keen to find new ways to utilize technology for improving the life of the average person. For those who are obsessed with technology and want to pursue IT careers, we have compiled a list of jobs that are available on Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, and will satisfy your love for everything tech-based.

1. App Developer

When was the last time you met someone who

does not carry a smartphone? You probably will remember them well, as such people are now considered the rarity. The world of smartphones has created its own platform for apps to flourish, and many companies are jumping on this wagon. This means that the need for app developers is skyrocketing. If you're into making mobile experiences, this is the path you should be going for.

2. Security Engineer

Just because time has progressed doesn't mean that the cyber world has become safer. In fact, ever since the world had become interconnected, hackers have had "easier" access to sensitive information. And since everything is becoming digital and the amount of data that is generated and placed online is enormous, the main concern of any company has become the security of its information. If you're intrigued not only by technology but also by data security, then being a security engineer might be right up your alley!

3. Legal IT Manager

The fact that technology has infiltrated our lives in every single aspect means that IT companies exist in

abundance. What those companies need nowadays is legal advice from law firms that are specialized in the IT field. Think, for instance, about the new streaming platforms that have contributed to a whole new experience for listening and watching all kinds of movies, TV shows, etc. Such service providers are often battling copy-right and fair use issues that they must overcome. This is where you can combine your passion for law and IT in the same place.

4. UI/UX Designer

The great thing about modern jobs is that they blur the lines between different fields and can combine your skills and passions no matter how diverse they may be. UI/UX designers are the perfect example of that. It is impossible to categorize such job as pure IT or pure design. It's a mixture of both, and it doesn't work any other way. If you're obsessed with IT and have design sensibilities, then this is what you've been looking for.

5. Programmer

Do you like languages? What about computer languages? Good, because working as a program-

mer allows you to speak those latter languages fluently. The scope of work is huge, which means whichever project you take on can provide its own exciting experience and challenges to overcome. Being a programmer is kind of like being in your own little world of creating new things using a secret language that not everyone is fluent at. If this sounds appealing to you then you have stumbled upon your career path.

6. Quality Assurance

Working in quality assurance needs perfectionists who are able to nitpick every small detail and have an eye for anything that seems off. This is vital for any product or service to create the best experience possible. Again, this is a job that will require more than a love for technology. You will be able to mold a far-reaching experience and an impressive list of skills if this is the job you decide to pursue. Of course, there are many more jobs that are related to technology. In a sense, nearly every job that is created today ties to technology in one way or another. Check out over 10,000 jobs that are available on Bayt.com and find your perfect career option. — Courtesy Bayt.com



BANGKOK: In this Oct 27, 1997, file photo, a taxi driver walks through hundreds of taxis taken out of service to save operating costs. —AP

20 YEARS ON, SCARS FROM ASIAN FINANCIAL MELTDOWN LINGER

BANGKOK: It's been 20 years since a financial meltdown spread through much of Asia, wrecking economies and bringing down governments. They've long since recovered and, analysts say, are now stronger for the experience. But in Thailand - the epicenter of the crisis - the anniversary brings back painful memories for those who lived through it, and lost everything. "It was like there was no way out for many of us," said Supop Pavanan. Today he makes a comfortable living selling Buddhist amulets at his Bangkok shop and over the internet, but two decades ago he was among millions of victims of the great Asian crash.

Thailand's boom of the mid-1990s, fueled by unrestrained borrowing and a corrupt, lax finance system, collapsed on July 2, 1997, when the government devalued the baht. The currency sank, ruining companies and individuals almost overnight and starting a chain reaction that spread across borders. Soon, many of Asia's tiger economies were skinned alive. Recessions struck from South Korea to Indonesia and millions were thrown out of work as investment and real estate bubbles burst, roiling global markets.

'No one was buying'

Bangkok came to resemble a giant flea market. Wealthy Thais sold their luxury goods at knock-down prices in parking lots. Cars, jewelry, vintage wine - even personal aircraft - all had to go. "The worst thing was not knowing what would happen to you," said Supop, who had been an overseas tour guide but was laid off. He ended up selling fish balls from a street stall and his income fell from \$3,000 in a good month to \$200, if he was lucky. He stuck at it for a year before beginning a slow climb back out of the economic depths.

"You couldn't apply for a job because no one would give you one," he said. "You couldn't sell goods because no one was buying. You couldn't get a loan for an

investment because no one was giving them." Anger grew as unemployment soared. The government fell. Thailand ended up taking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. An exhibition at Bangkok's Museum Siam recalls those grim days. Artifacts convey the pain of ordinary people: A Buddha statue that a businessman confided in because he couldn't face telling his family of his ruin. An office phone over which a woman learned that her bankrupt boss had killed himself.

"I experienced it but wasn't severely affected because I was still in school," said Taweesak Woraritruengaurai, the exhibition's curator. "But when I got to see all these things that are full of stories, I could feel how real it was and how much it affected many aspects of life. It affected people very deeply." Today, Thailand's banking and finance sector seems more secure. Experts say crucial lessons were learned in 1997. The chances of a rerun, they say, are slim.

Global crisis

When the global crisis struck a decade later, Asia's financial systems were relatively insulated, with less direct exposure to the toxic subprime mortgages that wreaked havoc on US and European markets. "I don't think there will be another financial crisis," said economics professor Apichart Satitniramai of Thammasat University. "Firstly, there's a high capital adequacy ratio, which can support more risk," he said, referring to the reserves banks must keep dealing with possible crises.

"Secondly, banks and financial institutions have changed their behavior drastically, compared to the time before the financial crisis occurred," Apichart said. Thailand and other Asian countries also have bulked up their foreign currency reserves, a key buffer for a country facing economic turmoil because they can be used to defend its currency, provide liquidity and generally shore up financial systems. —AP

HOW VACATIONING BUSINESS OWNERS MANAGE WITH BEING UNREACHABLE

'IT'S WORTH MAYBE LOSING A BIT OF BUSINESS'

NEW YORK: While hiking in the Himalayas for three weeks, Mike Scanlin had no cellphone service much of the time and no way to charge his phone. Running his business - a one-man operation - became a very sporadic proposition. It was a calculated risk. "I felt I was going to lose customers, lose some business if they couldn't get a response for three days," says Scanlin, owner of Born to Sell, a business software company based in Las Vegas. "But it's worth maybe losing a bit of business to accomplish the items on your bucket list."

Changes in technology have made it possible for vacationing small business owners to never be out of touch - unless they decide to go to a part of the world without enough cellphone towers, bandwidth or electricity. Sometimes they find out by surprise. But many understand that they're losing their tether to their companies. Some leave the business in the hands of trusted employees, or have projects and pressing matters dealt with so being out of contact won't be a problem.

Scanlin was able to check emails when the hiking group made it to the top of inclines during his 2012 trip. But in valleys where they camped, there was no service. And even when Scanlin could get a connection, he couldn't download documents or photos, and the nine hour-plus time difference with the US meant a lag between emails and replies. He couldn't go online to fix any problems that might come up with his website, and there was no one back home who could do it. It did make Scanlin, whose company was a year-and-a-half-old when he made the trek, a little uneasy. Born to Sell survived, however, and he has since visited places like Peru and Easter Island, located nearly 2,200 miles off the coast of Chile, where cellphone and internet service were often unavailable.

Checking in

Checking in is the norm for most owners. With tablets or smartphones in hand, many set aside time on a trip to at least read important emails or touch base with employees and important clients. In a recent survey of 700 small business owners and managers released by American Express, the vast majority said they check in by phone or email while on vacation. More than half of those do so at least once a day. But nearly a quarter don't check in.

Aaron Hockel knew before he left on his two-week honeymoon to Peru last summer he would have minimal access to a cellphone network or the internet. So he decided to just be offline and leave the digital marketing company, AltaVista Strategic Partners, in the care of his three business partners and 15 staffers. They would deal with customers and issues that were his domain. "It was a scary proposition at first because two weeks is a long time to disconnect," says Hockel, whose company is based in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

At places like Machu Picchu, the historic Incan mountain fortress, there wasn't any connectivity. But even at a hotel with Wi-Fi, Hockel ignored his email inbox. "I knew, if I open this, I'm opening a Pandora's box," Hockel says. When

he returned home, he found he'd made the right choice: "Our staff did an incredible job communicating and tackling issues."

Corey Kupfer, an attorney for 30 years who also has a speaking and consulting business, called his office several times a day from vacations in the early years of his practice. By about 15 years ago, he was calling just once a day, and Kupfer realized the problems his staff talked to him about were things they could handle on their own. He told them he wouldn't call in on his next vacation. "People figure things out when they don't have you as a crutch. It empowers them and helps your team to grow," says Kupfer, who's based in New York. Kupfer has traveled in recent years to Ecuador, the Utah desert and the West Bank, had no cellphone service and no worries because his staff and partners can handle the business without him. His mantra: "I'm not that important."

'Not much energy left'

Owners of brand-new companies are less likely to disconnect. In May, Brad Weber was ready to leave his laptop home and his 10-year-

recalls Chris Brantner about his Rocky Mountain backpacking trip this spring when he had virtually no cellphone service. His brothers, who work with him at his Houston-based company, CutCableToday.com, were doing their jobs, but "I'm the guy who gets the call at 8 pm if the website's down. That was probably the most worrisome part, if things stopped functioning."

Brantner, whose website provides information about cable TV alternatives, was able to give one brother a heads-up that he wouldn't be able to access the website if needed. After that, with nothing more he could do, he went back to hiking. "It was nice to get away for a few days and turn off my brain," Brantner says. When he reconnected, he found the website hadn't crashed and no harm was done.

Dale Janee was caught by surprise during a weekend trip to a rural part of Poland in 2014, discovering there was no way to go online or connect with customers as she expected. Janee, the owner of a pillowcase maker called Savvy Sleepers that sells to beauty salons and retailers, worried that clients who wanted to place orders



In this Sept 23, 2015, photo, provided by small business owner Mike Scanlin, Scanlin poses for a photo on Easter Island in the South Pacific, a Chilean territory. — AP

old mobile app development company in the hands of his 15 staffers. "The business had matured to a point and the team jelled to a point where I felt comfortable doing it. I knew they'd be able to handle whatever came up," says Weber, owner of Boulder, Colorado-based InspiringApps. He went on a weeklong sailboat trip off Grenada where he had to focus on the sailing. "There was not much energy left to think about the office," he says.

Still, for some owners, being out of touch isn't part of the plan. "There was a bit of a gulp,"

or had questions would turn to another supplier when they were unable to reach her. "It felt like an eternity to be disconnected from my business," Janee says. While at the airport to head home, she logged in and found all was well. Since then, the Dallas-based company has grown to the point where Janee has hired an assistant who can keep an eye on the business when she's away. And, she realizes, she walks she took and books she read on her trip provided a needed respite. "At some point, you have to disconnect on vacation," she says. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.727
Indian Rupees	4.729
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.985
Nepali Rupees	2.955
Singapore Dollar	220.650
Hongkong Dollar	39.043
Bangladesh Taka	3.765
Philippine Peso	6.084
Thai Baht	8.990

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.254
Qatari Riyal	83.688
Omani Riyal	791.320
Bahraini Dinar	809.090
UAE Dirham	82.959

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.350
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.760
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.223
Tunisian Dinar	125.050
Jordanian Dinar	429.540
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.030
Syrian Lira	2.171
Morocco Dirham	31.719

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.500
Euro	341.340
Sterling Pound	389.760
Canadian dollar	231.210
Turkish lira	87.250

Swiss Franc	313.920
Australian Dollar	233.090
US Dollar Buying	303.300

GOLD	
20 Gram	254.110
10 Gram	129.970
5 Gram	65.830

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.150
Canadian Dolla	230.815
Sterling Pound	389.365
Euro	340.715
Swiss Frank	298.260
Bahrain Dinar	806.705
UAE Dirhams	83.205
Qatari Riyals	84.425
Saudi Riyals	82.000
Jordanian Dinar	428.895
Egyptian Pound	16.937
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.986
Indian Rupees	4.720
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Bangladesh Taka	3.771
Philippines Peso	6.077
Cyprus pound	167.850
Japanese Yen	3.720
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.953
Malaysian Ringgit	71.970

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.975
Thai Bhat	9.945
Turkish Lira	86.795

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.389793	0.399793
Czech Korune	0.005277	0.017277
Danish Krone	0.042663	0.047663
Euro	0.342319	0.351319
Norwegian Krone	0.032365	0.037585
Romanian Leu	0.084208	0.084208
Slovakia	0.009074	0.019074
Swedish Krona	0.032023	0.037023
Swiss Franc	0.311103	0.322103
Turkish Lira	0.081312	0.091612
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.228305	0.240305
New Zealand Dollar	0.216967	0.226467
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.229183	0.238183
Georgina Lari	0.137234	0.137234
US Dollars	0.299750	0.304170
US Dollars Mint	0.300250	0.304170
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003426	0.004010
Chinese Yuan	0.043378	0.046878
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037066	0.039816

Indian Rupee	0.004208	0.004896
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002634	0.002814
Kenyan Shilling	0.002988	0.002988
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067329	0.073329
Nepalese Rupee	0.002972	0.003142
Pakistan Rupee	0.002711	0.003001
Philippine Peso	0.000594	0.006284
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.215633	0.225633
South African Rand	0.017391	0.025891
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001605	0.002185
Taiwan	0.009727	0.009727
Thai Baht	0.008634	0.009184
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798548	0.807046
Egyptian Pound	0.015184	0.021092
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000189	0.000249
Jordanian Dinar	0.423957	0.432957
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019743	0.043743
Nigerian Naira	0.001255	0.001890
Omani Riyal	0.782800	0.788480
Qatar Riyal	0.079170	0.084110
Saudi Riyal	0.079940	0.081240
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.122374	0.130374
Turkish Lira	0.081312	0.091612
UAE Dirhams	0.081302	0.083002
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

S AFRICA MAY NEED OUTSIDE HELP TO GET ECONOMY GOING

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa may need outside financial assistance to get out of its economic spiral, Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba said on Friday, calling for "drastic measures" to revive growth. At the same time, embattled President Jacob Zuma admitted that the economy may not hit the forecast 1.3 percent growth target set by his government, and urged political allies to discuss policies, including land redistribution, to revamp the economy. He called for "radical solutions"—albeit within the constitution—to redistribute land to the country's black majority.

Both men were speaking at a conference of the ruling African National Congress (ANC), which will be looking for a new leader to replace Zuma in December. South Africa is in recession and has an unemployment rate of close to 28 percent. It is also immersed in political rows over Zuma's abilities and over how independent the central bank should be. Gigaba, who was appointed as finance minister in March after Zuma sacked internationally respected Pravin Gordhan, said South Africa may need to get outside financial help.

"Should the main indicators continue to disappoint any further we may have to seek assistance from quarters we have thus far avoided," Gigaba added, without elaborating. Asked by Reuters if he was referring to the International Monetary

Fund, Gigaba smiled and said "Any." The rand extended its losses against the dollar as much as 0.7 percent lower, while bonds weakened after Gigaba's comments on the possibility of seeking outside assistance.

Isaac Mashego, senior economist at Nedbank, said with slow economic growth, the government is going to have to borrow more. "This might mean going to multilateral institutions like the IMF. This is the worst case scenario," he said. The fund's senior resident representative in South Africa Montfort Mlachila was not immediately available to comment. A senior ANC member said Gigaba might have been talking about the IMF but it could also be China or other sources.

With their economies floundering and currencies sinking, African states from Nigeria to Zambia have been seeking IMF assistance to fund infrastructure and plug budget deficits. African nations broadly see China as a healthy counterbalance to Western donors, and Beijing has ploughed billions of dollars into agriculture, roads, ports and railways projects. Credit downgrades by two of the top three ratings agencies, based on the economic and political turmoil, have dented business and consumer confidence in South Africa, which has just suffered two quarters of contraction.

Touching on the political row over the central bank, Gigaba accused the coun-

try's anti-corruption agency of overstepping the mark in suggesting changes to the way the central bank works. A call by South Africa's public protector for an overhaul of Reserve Bank's mandate-to focus on growth rather than inflation and the currency-rattled investors this month, hitting the rand. The Reserve Bank has filed a court challenge to quash the recommendation.

"The public protector does not have the power to direct parliament to amend the constitution," Gigaba told business leaders at the start of a six-day policy conference. "These recommendations should have been directed at the finance ministry. We should all insist on the independence of the South African Reserve Bank."

Land ownership

The row also exposed worsening divisions between state institutions just as Zuma is embroiled in a net of scandals. Zuma has drawn unprecedented criticism from senior ruling party members in recent weeks. A shock cabinet reshuffle prompted in March ratings agencies to downgrade South Africa to "junk" status and unemployment is at a 14-year high.

The parliament said Zuma would face a no-confidence vote brought by the opposition on August 3. Zuma's critics see the public protector's comments as

an attempt to undermine the bank's authority as part of a broader attack on state institutions, including the finance ministry, the tax authorities and the public protector's office. The president rejects such criticism.

Zuma will be replaced as ANC leader at a national conference in December. Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and former African Union chair Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the incumbent's ex-wife,

widely viewed as frontrunners. The conference should offer clues to who may be in the ascendant. Gareth Newham, a governance specialist at Pretoria-based think tank Institute for Security Studies said although the conference will focus on policy, the leadership battle to succeed Zuma would be at the heart of the discussions. "The way policy is spoken about and framed is going to be a proxy for leadership battle," he said. —Reuters



JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's ruling party president Jacob Zuma, left, greets Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and his deputy Cyril Ramaphosa, during the African national Congress policy conference. —AP



LAS VEGAS: Customers buy cannabis products at Essence Vegas Cannabis Dispensary after the start of recreational marijuana sales began yesterday. —AFP

NEVADA LAUNCHES SALES OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

LAS VEGAS: Nevada became the fifth state in the US with stores selling marijuana for recreational purposes, opening a market early yesterday that is eventually expected to outpace any other in the nation thanks to the millions of tourists who flock to Las Vegas. People began purchasing marijuana shortly after midnight, just months after voters approved legalization in November and marking the fastest turnaround from the ballot box to retail sales in the country.

Hundreds of people lined up at Essence Cannabis Dispensary on the Las Vegas Strip. People were excited and well-behaved as a lone security guard looked on. A valet was available to park the cars of customers. A cheer erupted when the doors opened. Those 21 and older with a valid ID can buy up to an ounce of pot. Tourists are expected to make nearly two of every three recreational pot purchases in Nevada, but people can only use the drug in a private home.

It remains illegal to light up in public areas, including the Las Vegas Strip, casinos, bars, restaurants, parks, convention centers and concert halls - places frequently visited by tourists. Violators face a \$600 fine. And driving under the influence of marijuana is still illegal. Despite the limits on where people can get high and restric-

tions on where the industry can advertise, dispensaries worked furiously to prepare for the launch. They stamped labels on pot products, stocked up their shelves, added security and checkout stations, and announced specials.

Desert Grown Farms hired about 60 additional employees. Workers in scrubs, hair nets and surgical masks slapped stickers on sealed jars this week as others checked on marijuana plants or carefully weighed buds. "It would be a good problem to have if I couldn't meet my demand," said CEO Armen Yemendjian, whose Desert Grown Farms owns the only dispensary that is selling recreational pot on the Las Vegas Strip, across the street from the Stratosphere hotel.

Some dispensaries took to social media to spread the word or tried to draw in buyers with special events. Some planned to give away free marijuana to their first 100 customers or throw parties with barbecues and food trucks later in the afternoon. Some facilities are in strip malls, while others, in stereotypical Las Vegas fashion, are in neighborhoods shared by strip clubs. Nevada joins Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in allowing adults to buy the drug that's still banned by the federal government. —AP

COMPANIES STILL HOBBLING FROM ANOTHER FEARSOME CYBERATTACK

'IT HIT THEIR BACKUPS, SERVERS, WORKSTATIONS, EVERYTHING'

HOUSTON: Many businesses still struggled Friday to recover hopelessly scrambled computer networks, collateral damage from a massive cyberattack that targeted Ukraine three days ago. The Heritage Valley Health System couldn't offer lab and diagnostic imaging services at 14 community and neighborhood offices in western Pennsylvania. DLA Piper, a London-based law firm with offices in 40 countries, said on its website that email systems were down; a receptionist said email hadn't been restored by the close of business day.

Dave Kennedy, a former Marine cyberwarrior who is now CEO of the security company TrustedSec, said one US company he is helping is rebuilding its entire network of more than 5,000 computers. "It hit everything, their backups, servers, their workstations, everything," he said. "Everything was just nuked and wiped." Kennedy added, "Some of these companies are actually using pieces of paper to write down credit card numbers. It's crazy."

The cyberattack that began Tuesday brought even some Fortune 1000 companies to their knees, experts say. Kennedy said a lot more "isn't being reported by companies who don't want to say that they are hit." The malware, which security experts are calling NotPetya, was unleashed through Ukraine tax software, called MeDoc. Customers' networks became infected downloading automatic updates from its maker's website. Many customers are multinationals with offices in the eastern European nation.

Nearly unstoppable

The malware spread so quickly, worming its way automatically through interconnected private networks, as to be nearly unstoppable. What saved the world from digital mayhem, experts say, was its limited business-to-business connectivity with

Ukrainian enterprises, the intended target. Had those direct connections been extensive - on the level of a major industrial nation - "you are talking about a catastrophic failure of all of our systems and environments across the globe. I mean it could have been absolutely terrifying," Kennedy said.

Microsoft said NotPetya hit compa-

ny said operations had been restored in Spain, Morocco, India, Brazil, Argentina and Lima, Peru, but problems lingered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Elizabeth, New Jersey; and Los Angeles.

An employee at an international transit company at Lima's port of Callao told The Associated Press that Maersk employees' telephone system and email

branches remain closed as information-technology professionals scrambled to rebuild networks from scratch. One government employee told the AP she was still relying on her iPhone because her office's computers were "collapsed." She, too, was not authorized to talk to journalists.

Security researchers now concur that



BUCHAREST: A woman looks at a computer monitor back dropped by a real time cyber-attacks world map, at the headquarters of Bitdefender. —AP

had been knocked out by the virus - so they were "stuck using their personal cellphones." The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to speak to reporters.

Back in Ukraine, the pain continued. Officials assured the public that the outbreak was under control, and service has been restored to cash machines and at the airport. But some bank

while NotPetya was wrapped in the guise of extortionate "ransomware" - which encrypts files and demands payment - it was really designed to exact maximum destruction and disruption, with Ukraine the clear target. Computers were disabled there at banks, government agencies, energy companies, supermarkets, railways and telecommunications providers. —AP

US LABOR DEPT WANTS SALARY TO COUNT ON OVERTIME RULE

WASHINGTON: The Labor Department said Friday it wants salary level to count in deciding who is eligible for overtime pay. But it's holding off setting the maximum pay a worker can get and still qualify. That's according to a brief filed by the Trump administration in federal court in New Orleans in a case over whether President Barack Obama's administration had the right to double the threshold to around \$47,000. A federal court last year blocked the Obama administration rule, and Labor Secretary Alex Acosta has suggested the decision may have called into question whether his agency could use a salary level at all.

He told a Senate panel this year that he'd consider raising the maximum salary level from nearly \$24,000 to a bit more than \$30,000 to keep up with inflation. The idea is that workers making less than the threshold would be eligible for time-and-a-half pay when they work more than 40 hours a week. Obama's salary level would have made 4 million more Americans eligible for overtime pay. In Friday's brief, the Labor Department did not endorse the Obama administration's salary maximum and is seeking public information on a new threshold.

Impact on regulations

Instead, the administration asked the court to "address only the threshold legal question of the department's statutory authority to set a salary level, without addressing the specific salary level set by the 2016 final rule." That was good news for employers that had opposed the Obama administration's overtime policy. "It's great to see a Department of Labor finally

taking the time to fully evaluate the impact its regulations will have on businesses," said Angelo Amador, executive director of the Restaurant Law Center.

Democrats rejected the notion that the government needs more time to consider the salary cap and suggested anything lower than Obama's roughly \$47,000 would especially affect minorities. "Most employees are not even aware that they're losing out on the pay or the time with their families they have earned" when they work more than 40 hours a week, said Rep. Mark Takano of California, the senior Democrat on the House's panel on workforce protections. Trump, he said, "is refusing to fight for the American workers who he repeatedly promised to protect." In issuing the rule in May 2016, the Labor Department said it would "go a long way toward realizing President Obama's commitment to ensuring every worker is compensated fairly for their hard work."

The concern was that workers might feel compelled to cover for absent co-workers and display passion for their jobs by putting in far more than 40 hours a week, effectively at a lower pay rate - or for free. Advocacy groups say that's time employees they could be spending with their families or advancing their education to get better-paying jobs. Businesses said the rules would have created an overly restrictive environment that would have penalized younger and slower workers. Trump, a real estate mogul, said during the 2016 campaign that he hoped small businesses would get an exemption to the overtime rule. —AP

ILLINOIS' BUDGET DISASTER AS IMPASSE HITS 3RD YEAR

CHICAGO: Illinois started its third straight fiscal year without a state budget yesterday, territory that could mean some universities won't be able to offer federal financial aid, road construction and Powerball ticket sales will halt, and the state's credit rating will be downgraded to "junk." While a spending plan got early approval in the House on Friday, the chamber later adjourned for the day, with House Speaker Michael Madigan saying they would return Saturday - the first day of the new fiscal year.

Lawmakers are trying to end an impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats who control the Legislature that started when the first-term governor took office in 2015 promising change. Rauner has said he'll keep legislators at work in Springfield until they can reach an agreement, continuing a special session that is costing taxpayers up to \$48,000 per day. Comptroller Susana Mendoza, who controls the state's checkbook, warned that without a budget: "Derailment is imminent."

How bad is it?

No other state has come close to the mess that Illinois is in. Some states have gone months without a budget - Pennsylvania had a nine-month impasse that ended last year. But Illinois' stalemate has been unprecedented since it reached a full year. Illinois already has the lowest credit rating of any U.S. state, and it owes more than \$15 billion in late payments to vendors - including doctors who provide health care to state employees and social service agencies that care for disabled people. Some homeless and

domestic violence shelters have been forced to close or reduce services, and some medical offices are no longer seeing patients on state insurance unless they pay cash up front. Universities have laid off thousands of employees. Illinois also owes school districts millions of dollars for transportation, special education and other expenses.

What are the consequences?

S&P Global Ratings said earlier this month it would likely downgrade Illinois' credit rating to below investment grade if lawmakers didn't approve a budget by Saturday. The agency didn't say when it would act, other than that it would be "around" July 1. A downgrade would make Illinois the first US state to be assigned "junk" status, and increase the cost to taxpayers when the state borrows money.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has said nearly 700 roadwork projects would stop, putting an estimated 25,000 people out of work, because the state can't spend money collected through the gas tax without the Legislature approving an appropriation. The Higher Learning Commission, which accredits schools in the Midwest, has warned the ongoing lack of funding could cause some universities to lose their accreditation. Southern Illinois University President Randy Dunn said that would mean the colleges wouldn't be able to offer federal loans and grants to students, causing more to choose colleges in other states. "We're going into very dangerous territory," Dunn said. —AP

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

Duplex & Triplex Villas

3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms
+Big Salon + Separate pool
All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby
Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas

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GLOBAL STOCKS PRESSURED BY BANKER TALK

NEW YORK: US stocks finished mostly higher Friday, bucking the trend in most global equity markets as worries about tightening monetary policy pressured sentiment. The Dow and S&P 500 ended modestly higher, but the Nasdaq faded into negative territory at the end of the session. London, Paris and Frankfurt all ended down, having abandoned early attempts at a modest rebound. Tokyo and Hong Kong also fell.

After an exhausting week dominated by intense speculation on the future of interest rates there was also much portfolio-shuffling at the end of the quarter. Some bargain-hunting propped up Wall Street stocks. "A buy-the-dip

mentality has been an incessant mindset for years now, so it is fair to say that there will be an assumption that it will come into play again," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare in a note published before Friday's session.

The euro declined Friday but held above \$1.14, after talk of tighter ECB rates pushed the euro to more than one-year highs this week. "The jawboning by the heads of the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Bank of Canada this week suggested the period of divergent monetary policy between the Fed and other major central banks around the world, a pillar of the dollar's broad rally since 2014, may

be nearing its final chapter," said Omer Esiner, an analyst at Commonwealth FX. "Such a scenario could remove a key source of support for the dollar going forward."

Grappling with rallies

London, Paris and Frankfurt all ended down, having abandoned early attempts at a modest rebound. After an exhausting week dominated by intense speculation on the future of interest rates there was also much portfolio-shuffling at the end of the quarter. ECB chief Mario Draghi this week hinted at a possible end to easy monetary policy in the eurozone in remarks that boosted

the euro, created rate hike expectations and plunged equity investors into uncertainty, undermining stock valuations. A strong currency hurts exporters, while higher interest rates raise corporate financing costs.

The pound rose on similar expectations for British monetary policy and bond yields rose across the continent. "European equities have turned lower in late-day action possibly due to some quarter-end posturing with the markets continuing to grapple with the recent rallies in the euro and British pound and bond yields in the region," said analysts at the Charles Schwab brokerage. Sentiment in the British capital was also clouded as official data confirmed the economy slowed to 0.2-percent growth in the first quarter, as weak consumer spending started to bite.

Both Frankfurt and Paris had closed down almost two percent Thursday on concerns that central banks are preparing to scale back stimulus measures, such as record-low interest rates, in reaction to solid economic growth and high inflation. For

years the greenback has benefited from a divergence between the Federal Reserve's move to higher rates — including hikes this year — and other regions. Rising interest rates make currencies more attractive because they offer a higher rate of return.

Major US indices won solid gains over the first half of 2017 amid improving economic data, better earnings and optimism that President Donald Trump would win passage of tax cuts and other growth measures. However, analysts are more cautious about the second half of the year, pointing to the recent lurches in technology stocks as a potential harbinger of broader volatility. Other challenges include moves by the Federal Reserve and other global central banks to tighten monetary policy and the fading prospects of Trump's growth agenda. Wells Fargo predicted that the S&P 500 would end the year between 2,230 and 2,330, down 100-200 points from current levels. Other dampening factors include lofty valuations and worries about inflation, Wells Fargo said in a note this week. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Thursday 29 June 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price index	▼ -6.24	6,762.82	6,769.06
Weighted Index	▼ -2.82	399.33	402.15
KSX 15	▼ -10.16	910.10	920.26

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
34,761,678	6,738,806	1,886

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	80	70	238938	17,090	38	72 ▲ 2.0
IPG	360	349	46,149	16,243	4	360 ▲ 11.0
NAPESCO	1,367	1,100	64,240	75,532	53	1,355 ▼ -4.0
ENERGYH	38.9	38.9	500	19	1	38.9 ▼ -1.0
GPI	38.6	37.8	41,801	1,585	7	38.6 ▲ 0.1
ABAR	83	80	2,850	230	8	83 ▼ -2.0
Oil & Gas			394,478	110,698	111	968.80 ▲ 3.80
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290 — 0.0
BPCO	577	571	210,317	120,458	25	572 ▼ -3.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590 — 0.0
ALQURAIN	342	340	184,090	62,818	18	342 ▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			394,407	183,276	43	1256.49 ▲ 1.30
KCEM	460	460	100	46	1	460 ▼ -10.0
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	415 — 0.0
SHIP	216	216	10	2	1	216 — 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	940 — 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300 — 0.0
MRC	87	72	1,209	105	4	87 ▼ -2.0
ACICO	256	256	400	102	1	256 ▼ -4.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208 — 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136 — 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190 — 0.0
EQUIPMENT	49.0	49.0	50	2	1	49.0 ▲ 1.9
NCII	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108 — 0.0
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95 — 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59 — 0.0
AGLTY	827	820	884,805	729,502	139	820 ▼ -4.0
EDU	379	370	2,162,874	811,268	144	373 ▼ -4.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.5 — 0.0
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60 — 0.0
KPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165 — 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,200	4,200	53,350	224,070	8	4,200 ▲ 1.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150 — 0.0
GFC	75	65	46,320	3,114	10	65 ▼ -15.0
MAYADEEN	26.9	26.0	372,348	9,715	9	26.2 ▼ -1.6
CGC	615	597	9,030	5,553	3	614 ▼ -5.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56 — 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	851 — 0.0
ALAFCO	315	315	1,000	315	1	315 — 0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77 — 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51 — 0.0
SCHEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83 — 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74 — 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78 — 0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83 — 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 — 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89 — 0.0
Industrials			3,531,496	1,783,796	322	1901.65 ▼ -4.50
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100 — 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220 — 0.0
DANAH	72	72	33,100	2,383	3	72 — 0.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,450 — 0.0
Consumer Goods			33,100	2,383	3	1084.21 ▲ 8.70
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	453 — 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100 — 0.0
YIACO	155	154	13,600	2,098	2	155 ▼ -30
Health Care			13,600	2,098	2	1605.16 ▼ -30.40
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,390 — 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 — 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67 — 0.0
CABLETV	30.0	28.0	29,040	824	14	29.0 ▲ 1
IFAYS	1,000	802	77,010	73,930	15	950 ▼ -50
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210 — 0.0
OULAFUEL	122	120	165,641	20,025	12	120 ▼ -1
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 — 0.0
JAZEERA	474	474	8,300	3,934	1	474 ▲ 4
SOOR	120	120	8,861	1,063	7	120 — 0.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	107 — 0.0
ALRAI	124	123	14,951	1,839	3	124 ▲ 2
ZIMAH	51	47.5	56,500	2,790	5	51 ▲ 1
Mezzan	948	940	10,000	9,447	3	948 ▲ 37
Consumer Services			370,303	113,853	60	1055.63 ▼ -14.60
ZAIN	423	420	1,433,301	603,835	143	420 ▼ -4
OOREDOO	1,120	1,041	351,299	386,264	26	1,082 ▲ 22
HITSTELEC	47.0	39.6	4,687,610	203,130	69	47.0 ▲ 6
VIVA	820	816	18,182	14,889	21	816 ▼ -4
Telecommunications			6,490,392	1,208,119	259	603.50 ▲ 14.20
NBK	695	675	753,726	515,747	73	675 ▼ -23
GBK	248	247	395,636	98,095	19	247 ▼ -1
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	311 — 0.0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	327 — 0.0
ALMUTAHED	416	410	128,080	53,080	10	410 ▼ -10
KIB	245	244	58,129	14,242	6	244 ▼ -2
BURG	330	325	188,328	54,821	30	325 ▼ -5
KFIN	485	483	1,252,316	605,953	92	483 ▼ -2
BOUBYAN	408	405	363,219	147,604	30	405 ▼ -5
AUB	209	206	1,284,831	266,202	53	206 ▼ -1
ITHMR	46.3	45.1	276,300	12,608	44	46.0 ▼ 0
WARBANK	259	258	187,133	48,283	55	258 — 0
Banks			4,867,698	1,816,634	412	916.62 ▼ -8.10
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250 — 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	530 — 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	480 — 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99 — 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196 — 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60 — 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56 — 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 — 0.0
Insurance			0	0	0	1071.21 — 0.00



TOKYO: A cyclist waits for a green light in front of a stock quotation board flashing the Nikkei 225 key index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in front of a securities company. —AFP

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	21,454.61	21,287.03	-167.58	▼	-0.78
NASDAQ	6,234.42	6,144.35	-90.07	▼	-1.44
S&P 500	2,440.69	2,419.70	-20.99	▼	-0.86
Financial Times	7,350.32	7,370.30	19.98	▲	0.27
DAX	12,416.19	12,442.22	26.03	▲	0.21
CAC 40	5,154.35	5,182.74	28.39	▲	0.55
Swiss	8,944.04	8,984.47	40.43	▲	0.45
Nikkei 225	20,220.30	20,033.43	-186.87	▼	-0.92
Topix	1,624.07	1,611.90	-12.17	▼	-0.75
Hang Seng	25,965.42	25,764.58	-200.84	▼	-0.77
Straits Times	3,258.65	3,226.48	-32.17	▼	-0.99

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,769.06	6,762.82	-6.24	▼	-0.09
Saudi Arabia	7,334.87	7,425.72	90.85	▲	1.24
Dubai	3,379.01	3,392.00	12.99	▲	0.38
Abu Dhabi	4,449.68	4,425.40	-24.28	▼	-0.55
Bahrain	1,310.04	1,310.04	0.00	▲	0.00
Qatar	8,777.73	9,030.44	252.71	▲	2.88
Oman	5,121.47	5,118.31	-3.16	▼	-0.06
Lebanon	1,146.04	1,150.35	4.31	▲	0.38
Jordan	2,160.00	2,167.40	7.40	▲	0.34
Egypt	13,417.14	13,395.81	-21.33	▼	-0.16
Morocco	12,051.96	12,011.93	-40.03	▼	-0.33
Tunisia	5,986.16	6,042.14	55.98	▲	0.94

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2620	3.2835	2.8790	2.5295	3.1456	367.66	4.2721
Saudi Riyal	0.08155		0.2678	0.2348	0.2063	0.2565	29.98	0.3484
US Dollar	0.30455	3.7344		0.8768	0.7704	0.9580	111.97	1.3011
Euro	0.34734	4.2591	1.1405		0.8789	1.0929	127.72	1.4844
Sterling Pound	0.39534	4.8476	1.2981	1.1378		1.2438	145.37	1.6900
Swiss Franc	0.31790	3.8981	1.0438	0.9150	0.8040		116.91	1.3581
Japanese Yen	0.00272	0.0334	0.0089	0.0078	0.0069	0.0086		0.0116
Australian Dollar	0.23408	2.8703	0.7686	0.6737	0.5917	0.7363	86.06	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30455	3.73					

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	5,694,665	2.29%	255,292	0.42%
BASIC MATERIALS	3,026,715	1.22%	1,643,745	2.70%
INDUSTRIALS	20,632,108	8.28%	15,947,119	26.21%
CONSUMER GOODS	975,640	0.39%	659,091	1.08%
HEALTH CARE	69,341	0.03%	12,642	0.0208%
CONSUMER SERVICES	2,064,423	0.83%	604,285	0.99%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	11,826,389	4.75%	3,707,853	6.09%
BANKS	74,879,794	30.06%	27,079,999	44.50%
INSURANCE	47,496	0.02%	19,755	0.03%
REAL ESTATE	50,453,334	20.26%	3,620,300	5.95%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	79,276,212	31.83%	7,278,824	11.96%
TECHNOLOGY	142,274	0.06%	20,099	0.03%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	969.37	1,041.85	-6.96%	24.17%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,254.03	1,243.35	0.86%	24.80%
INDUSTRIALS	1,887.07	1,820.76	3.64%	40.40%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,082.06	1,100.25	-1.65%	-3.82%
HEALTH CARE	1,635.51	1,451.70	12.66%	31.43%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,084.19	1,201.17	-9.74%	17.27%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	590.14	606.02	-2.62%	-7.23%
BANKS	925.99	918.81	0.78%	10.60%
INSURANCE	1,077.95	1,082.16	-0.39%	8.41%
REAL ESTATE	942.50	947.38	-0.52%	8.31%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	677.79	689.85	-1.75%	13.52%
TECHNOLOGY	669.39	664.45	0.74%	10.25%

MIXED PERFORMANCE ENDS BOURSA'S WEEK

BOURSA KUWAIT WEEKLY REPORT

Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 6,772.09 points, down by 0.57% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.80% after closing at 402.97 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 920.21 points up by 2.10%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 103.91%, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 12.17 million, whereas trading volume average was 49.82 million shares, recording an increase by 63.71%. Boursa Kuwait witnessed a mixed closing to the three indices, whereas the Weighted and KXS-15 indices recorded growth, while the Price Index could not realize gain, to end the week in the red zone, amid a fluctuated performance, and in light of a continued control of the speculation methodology over the trading behavior in the market, which is mainly concentrated on the small-cap stocks.

The market witnessed such performance in light of a noticeable growth in the trading activity during most of the daily sessions, which caused the total value and volume to grow by the end of the week, where it increased by 103.91% and 63.71% respectively. Also, the profit collection operations were not absent from influencing the trading activity of the market during the week, as the three market indices decreased in some daily sessions, affected by such operations, which pushed the Price Index to end the week's trading in the red zone, and limited the Weighted and KXS-15 indices' gains to a certain point.

The Boursa Kuwait added around KD 163 million in gains to its market

cap in the last five sessions of the holy month of Ramadan, whereas the market capitalization reached by the end of the week, before the holiday, around KD 26.74 billion, up by 0.61% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 26.57 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in the market recorded a growth of 5.23% from its value at end of 2016, where it was then KD 25.41 billion.

As per the daily trading activity, the market witnessed in the first session of the last week of Ramadan a good performance that enabled it to record increases to its three indices, in light of the support received by the strong purchasing operations that targeted many listed stocks, mainly the leading ones, and especially in the Banks sector. Such performance came amid a good growth in the cash liquidity compared to its level with the previous session, whereas the value reached at end of Sunday's session KD 12.20 million, up by about 29%.

Also, the Boursa witnessed in the next session a mixed closings for the three indices, whereas the Weighted and KXS-15 indices continued recording gains for the second consecutive session, supported by the continued active trading and the purchasing operations on the leading stocks, while the Price Index declined by the end of the session, affected by the profit collection operations that targeted the small-cap stocks. The market witnessed such performance in light of a continued increase in the cash liquidity for the second consecutive session, where the value recorded an increase of 37%, to reach about KD

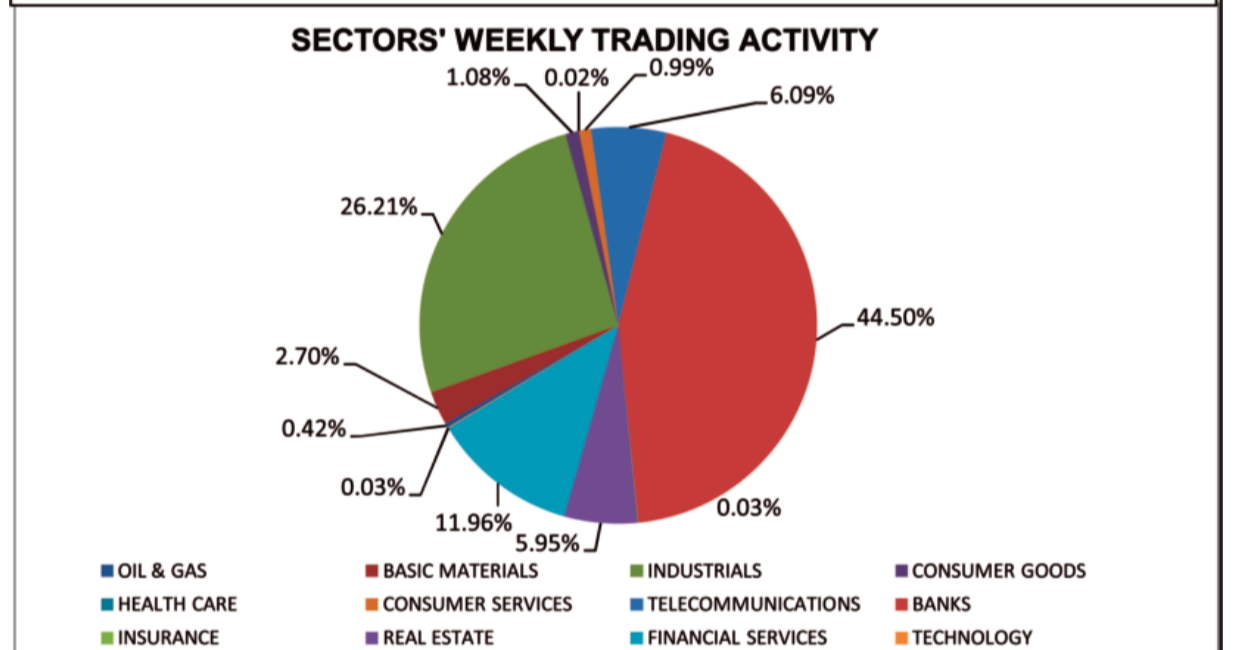
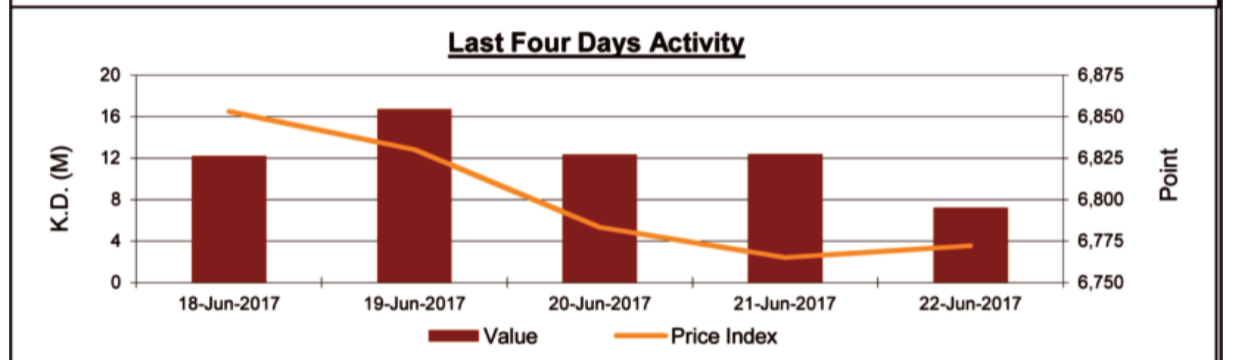
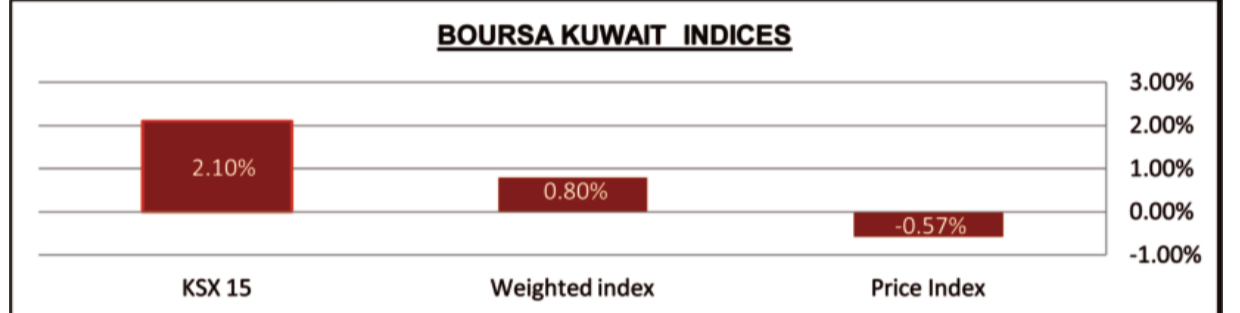
16.70 million, its highest level during the month.

On the mid-week session, the Boursa Kuwait witnessed a mixed closing to the three indices, as the Price Index continued losing points to drop by the end of the session by 0.68% affected by the continued profit collection operations executed on the small-cap stocks; the Weighted Index recorded also a slight decrease of 0.03% by the end of the session, while the KXS-15 went against the current and was able to end the session in the green zone, supported by the continued purchasing powers on some leading stocks.

Moreover, the Boursa witnessed in the next session a negative performance that had a negative impact on its indices' performance, which recorded a steep decline affected by the strong selling pressures that targeted many stocks of different sectors, especially in the Banks sector. This performance came amid some growth to the value, did not exceed 1% however.

The last session of the week witnessed a mixed closing to the Boursa indices, as the Weighted and KXS-15 indices were able to increase, while the Price Index closed in the red zone. The market witnessed such performance in light of a declined trading activity compared to the previous session, as the value dropped by 41.89%, and the volume decreased by the end of the session by 20.92%. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 17.81% annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 6.02%, and the KXS-15 recorded 3.98% growth.

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
	Last week	Price Index	Weighted index	KXS 15
Weekly	Last week	6,772.09	402.97	920.21
	Previous week	6,810.68	399.79	901.27
	Change (Point)	-38.59	3.18	18.94
	Change (%)	-0.57%	0.80%	2.10%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,024.00	22.88	35.19
	Change (%)	17.81%	6.02%	3.98%



Boursa performance post Eid

Boursa Kuwait resumed duties last Wednesday and Thursday on 28th & 29th June, after it closed during Eid Al-Fitr, and witnessed during both sessions a negative performance where the three indices ended the trading in the red zone, as the Price Index closed by the end of last Thursday's session at 6762.82 point, down by 0.14% compared to the previous Thursday's closing prior to the Eid holiday, the Weighted Index closed at 399.33 point down by 0.90%, and KXS-15 lost about 1.10% after closing at 910.10 point.

On the other hand, the first half of the current year has ended by the end of last week, as the Boursa closed this period with limited gains for its three indices' closings, whereas the Price Index recorded a growth of 3.49% since the beginning of the current year, the Weighted Index gains reached 3.53%, and the KXS-15 Index grew by 3.49% since the beginning of the year.

Sectors' indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other five recorded increases. The Consumer Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 9.74% to end the week's activity at 1,084.19 points. The Oil & Gas sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 6.96%, closing at 969.37 points, followed by the Telecommunications sector, as its index closed at 590.14 points at a loss of 2.62%. The Insurance sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,077.95 points with a 0.39% decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 12.66% growth rate as its index closed at 1,635.51 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,887.07 points recording 3.64% increase. The Basic Materials sector

came in third as its index achieved 0.86% growth, ending the week at 1,254.03 points.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 79.28 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 31.83% of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 30.06% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 74.88 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 27.08 million or 44.50% of last week's total market trading value. The Industrial sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 15.95 million representing 26.21% of the total market trading value.

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	249,088,391	152,149,936	63.71%
Value (K.D)	60,849,007	29,841,740	103.91%
Deals	10,847	7,188	50.90%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
26,735,466,425	26,572,925,001	0.61%	5.23%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
GFC	84.00	60.00	24.0	40.00%
MADAR	21.50	18.00	3.5	19.44%
YIACO	185.00	164.00	21.0	12.80%
AGLTY	825.00	740.00	85.0	11.49%
PAPER	300.00	270.00	30.0	11.11%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
EYAS	1,040.00	1,400.00	-360.0	-25.71%
AMWAL	47.00	59.70	-12.7	-21.27%
ABAR	71.00	88.00	-17.0	-19.32%
AREEC	138.00	165.00	-27.0	-16.36%
JEERANH	41.00	48.00	-7.0	-14.58%

INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES LEAD US STOCK INDEXES MOSTLY HIGHER

NEW YORK: Wall Street closed out the final day of the second quarter with slight gains after a broad rally faded in the last few minutes of trading Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out tiny gains, while the Nasdaq composite closed essentially flat. Industrial stocks and consumer-focused companies led the gainers. Energy stocks also rose as crude oil prices closed higher for the seventh straight day. Utilities, technology and health care companies were among the biggest decliners.

Trading was mostly subdued ahead of the Independence Day holiday next week, though many investors seized on the final trading day of the quarter and the previous day's market slide to buy more shares or close out positions and book profits. "Overall we're ending this

quarter with a strong market, even though technology has taken a hit, other sectors have moved up," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

The S&P 500 index rose 3.71 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,423.41. The Dow gained 62.60 points, or 0.3 percent, to 21,349.63. The Nasdaq lost 3.93 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,140.42. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks gave up 0.84 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,415.36. Bond prices fell. The 10-year Treasury yield rose to 2.30 percent from 2.27 percent late Thursday.

Shaky start

The major stock indexes got off to a shaky start early Friday, but soon veered higher and held course for much of the day. A last-minute flurry of selling nudged the Nasdaq and Russell

2000 slightly into the red. The Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq ended the week in negative territory. This was also the worst week of the year for the Nasdaq and the third loss in the last four weeks for the tech-heavy index. The market's snapshot at the halfway mark for 2017 is more encouraging, however.

The S&P 500 index, the broadest measure of the stock market, is up 8.2 percent this year, while the Dow is up 8 percent. The Nasdaq has racked up a gain of 14.1 percent. The Russell 2000 is up 4.3 percent. Strong corporate earnings and revenue have underpinned the market's gains this year. Expectations among investors that President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Congress would slash taxes, boost federal spending on infrastructure and enact other business-friendly policies have also

helped drive stocks higher. Investors appeared to temper those expectations in recent weeks as the Trump administration hit legislative snags in its bid to pass a health insurance overhaul. On Thursday, S&P Global Ratings noted that sentiment on Wall Street, which had been strong following Trump's election, has begun to soften. "Now, we no longer believe the federal government will be able to push through even a small infrastructure-spending package, and we expect only moderate tax cuts to be passed early next year as midterm elections approach," wrote Beth Ann Bovino, S&P Global's US chief economist.

Remarks from central bank officials in Europe earlier this week helped set the tone for the market, spurring speculation among investors that global interest rates could move

higher. That sent bond yield sharply higher and helped lift shares in banks. Traders also sold off technology stocks. The sector had its worst week this year.

Technology leads other sectors

Even so, technology still leads all other sectors. It's up 16.4 percent this year, followed by health care and consumer discretionary stocks. Energy stocks are the biggest laggard at the midpoint of the year, down 13.8 percent. Phone companies are also in the red. On Friday, investors sized up the latest company earnings and deal news. The Commerce Department said consumer spending grew just 0.1 percent in May, less than the last couple of months. Personal income grew by a healthy 0.4 percent, but spending only rose 0.1 percent. —AP

'KFH-BAHRAIN', ESKAN SIGN AGREEMENT TO BUILD A 460-APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT, DANAAT BAITAK

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House Bahrain "KFH-Bahrain" signed an agreement with Eskan Properties Company BSC for the Development Management of Danaat Baytik apartment at Ishbiliya Village. Eskan Properties Company BSC (C) will be the development manager of the project. These apartment units will be marketed and sold to beneficiaries of government housing services and specifically those who qualify for the Ministry of Housing's social housing financing service "Mazaya".

The agreement was signed by Eskan Properties Company Chairman and Eskan Bank General Manager, Dr Khalid Abdulla and KFH-Bahrain Managing Director and CEO, Abdulhakeem Al-Khayyat in the presence of Ishbiliya Company Board Members, Khalid Al-Maaraqi, Rashid Al-Khan and Sarah Al-Abbasi, and the executive management team of Eskan

Properties Company. KFH-Bahrain will be the primary developer for the project, which will be occupying 27,142 sqm and will be assigning Eskan Properties Company to manage the development of the project. KFH-Bahrain will be also provide special financing program to the beneficiaries."

Dr Abdulla said: "This project comes as part of efforts by Eskan Bank and its subsidiaries, with the firm support of the Ministry of Housing, to provide efficient and suitable housing solutions for Bahraini families by utilizing the expertise and capabilities of the private sector and making them key partners. Housing is, of course, among Bahrain's top priorities, as directed by the Kingdom's leadership and Government."

Al-Khayyat expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to play a key role in the national housing development program: "KFH-Bahrain is

happy to be contributing its resources to social housing, which is among the Kingdom's most active sectors, vital for achieving social stability for Bahraini families. Housing developments such as this will, at the same time invigorate the construction and financial sectors, which are also two of the Kingdom's key industries."

The Ishbiliya apartment project consists of 18 five-story buildings with a total of 460 apartments and an area of 160sqm per apartment. Each apartment consists of three bedrooms of various designs, a maid's quarter, and two parking lots. Free supervisory and maintenance services will be available for two years for all the apartments. Work is expected to start soon on the project's designs ahead of the launch of a campaign to market it to potential owners in the upcoming months.



KFH ANNOUNCES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN 3RD DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the third draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. The winners are: Amal Mohammad, Naji Alrasheed, Moatasem Raheem, Meshal Alenezi, Thamer Alhajer, Soha Mohammad, and Moaz Qasoumi.

The campaign that lasts for 120 days starting May 16, 2017, gives KFH customers chances to enter draw to win double cashback up to KD 2000 daily. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used for domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used for international purchases are eligible for the draw. For every KD 1 spent locally earns 1 chance and every KD 1 spent internationally earn 3 chances to enter the daily draw. This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients

and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefiting clients and merchants. It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS INTRODUCES AIRBUS A380: ABU DHABI TO PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways yesterday introduced an Airbus A380 aircraft on one of its two daily services between Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Paris Charles de Gaulle. The new service has been introduced early to meet seasonal demand from 1 July to 28 October and 15 December to 15 February 2018. The A380 will then operate a regular year-round service from 25 March 2018. The superjumbo replaces a three-class Boeing 777-300ER previously operating the airline's daily overnight serv-

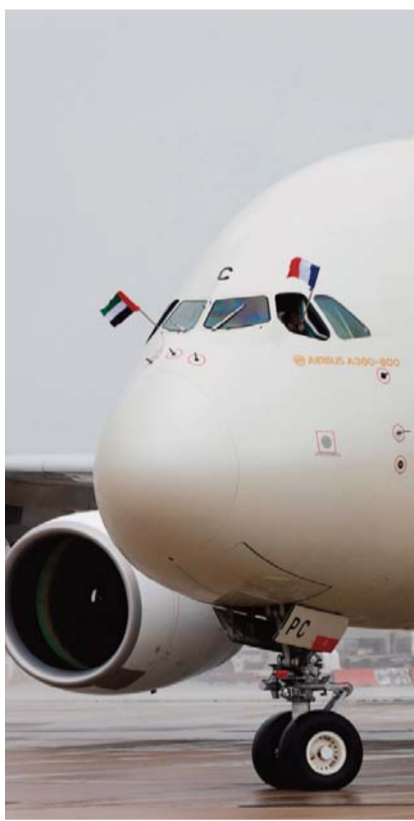
ice to the French capital. Mohammad Al Bulooki, Etihad Airways Executive Vice President Commercial, said: "Paris is one of Etihad Airways' most sought-after destinations, popular with both leisure and business flyers alike. The global capital of style and gastronomy deserves us to fly our flagship product to town, offering world-leading and award-winning inflight hospitality experiences in the skies."

"The A380 has presented a unique opportunity to provide the signature services and innova-

tions that only Etihad Airways has been able to create for this incredible aircraft. These include revolutionary cabins such as The Residence, and First Apartments - jewels in the crown of our First Class offering, which was recently recognised again with three coveted Skytrax World Airline Awards at the Paris Air Show.

"Paris is a city loved by all of us in the UAE. We have also seen an increase in the number of French visitors we are welcoming to Abu Dhabi - a hub of culture, commerce and tourism, which is home to French institutions such as the spectacular Louvre Museum and the Paris-Sorbonne University. Adding the flagship aircraft on this important route reaffirms Etihad Airways' and the UAE's commitment to the French market and celebrates the deep cultural and business ties which exist between our two countries."

The aircraft, which was piloted by a French Captain and an Emirati First Officer, was greeted with a customary water canon salute on arrival in Paris, where local media and special guests were invited to meet executives from the airline and to tour the aircraft's award-winning interiors. Etihad Airways operates a dedicated Premium Lounge at Charles de Gaulle, significantly enhancing the ground experience for its guests travelling in The Residence, First Class, Business Class, and its top-tier loyalty members, with paid access available to guests in Economy Class.

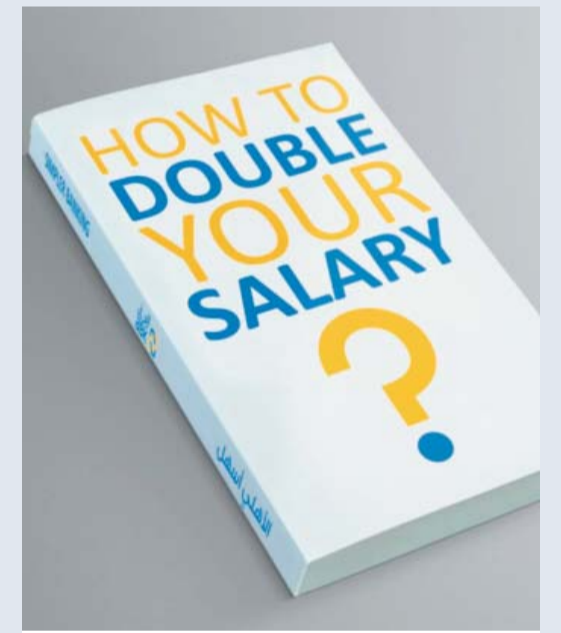


ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 59TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 59th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 13th June, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017. The winners were:

Mohammad Shereen A Allaqani, Galleria Branch
Hasan Abdullah Hasan AlMulla, Khaitan 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. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE AL DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank recently held its Al Danah daily draws announced the names of its winners for the week of 18 June - 22 June 2017. The Al Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners were:

(Sunday 18/6): Lamia Hamad Abdulmohsin Al Hamad, Cherryl Basinda Fernandes

(Monday 19/6): Hameed Hussein Hajjey Shmsah, Lulwa Nasser Ghaleb Ali

(Tuesday 20/6): Abdulrahman Ahmed Al Ahmed, Samirah Ahmad Yousef Ahmad Al Failakawi

(Wednesday 21/6): Essa Abdullah Essa Al Shamali, Badriya Amir Ahmad Ali

(Thursday 22/6): Abdulqawei Mohammed Al Qawei, Baddah Saeed Hussain Al Ajmi

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000). Al Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 13 July and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and

'BAD' FOREIGN FIRMS DRIVE US MANUFACTURING JOBS REVIVAL

SPARTANBURG/CHARLESTON: Years before Donald Trump began promising to bring back good manufacturing jobs by getting tough with US trade partners, such jobs have already been on the rise, largely thanks to foreign companies now cast as villains in Trump's narrative.

Reuters analysis of federal jobs data shows that out of 656,000 new manufacturing jobs created between 2010 and 2014, two thirds can be attributed to foreign direct investment. More recent jobs numbers are not yet available, but over \$700 billion in foreign capital has poured in over the last two years bringing total foreign investment to \$3.7 trillion at the end of 2016, a world record. (Graphic: <http://tmsnrt.rs/2sWkzTB>)

Now foreign companies that have spent billions of dollars on US factories and local leaders who host them worry that global supply networks that back those investments will fray if Trump makes good on his pledge to roll back trade liberalization. The US president has threatened to tear up North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico and slap higher tariffs on nations that run trade surpluses with the United States, such as Germany or China. The administration is also discussing tighter immigration rules and more security screening of investment.

The tough message helped sway swing northeastern and Midwestern Rust Belt states Trump's way in the 2016 election, but puts him at odds with companies and local leaders in the south, which has driven the recent growth in manufacturing jobs. The southern states have voted for Trump, but have also spent decades wooing foreign companies with flexible labor laws, financial incentives and investment in ports, roads and other infrastructure.

Poster child and whipping boy

The courtship has spawned new auto plants from Kentucky to Georgia, and a new Airbus plant in Mobile, Alabama. Few places highlight the gap

between Trump's rhetoric and local aspirations better than Spartanburg in South Carolina. German carmaker BMW has invested here \$8 billion in a 1.2 million square foot (11.15 hectares) assembly plant, which has become the largest single exporter of cars by value from the United States. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, a Republican and Trump supporter, credits the German automaker for putting his state on the global investment map.

"The presence of this company changed everything in the trajectory of our state," McMaster said on Monday at an event unveiling BMW's newest X3 sports utility vehicle. Its Chief Executive Harald Krueger said the carmaker would invest additional \$600 million in Spartanburg over the next four years, adding 1,000 jobs to the 9,000-strong workforce, and spend further \$200 million on employee training and education. But the poster child of South Carolina's success also doubles as a whipping boy. In January, BMW's plans to build a plant in Mexico drew Trump's ire and last month the US President was quoted as saying Germany was "very bad" on trade and selling too many cars in the United States. And even as the company highlights its contribution to the US economy and the benefits of free trade, it is hedging its bets by preparing for a possible protectionist backlash.

Outside of the spotlight, BMW is retooling factories in South Africa and China to build volume models like the X3 SUV, reducing its dependence on Spartanburg. "We have a big footprint here, and we are flexible enough," Oliver Zipse, BMW's board member responsible for manufacturing, told Reuters. "We will build the X3 not only in Spartanburg, we will split it into South Africa and then to China, so we will have some flexibility to produce cars somewhere else," he said. "If something happens at the political level - which we don't know yet - we are able to have a flexible response."

The Trump administration has said it welcomes foreign investment and Secretary of Commerce

Wilbur Ross, who spoke at an opening of a new Samsung Electronics plant in South Carolina, said such projects showed that "America is becoming an even stronger destination for global businesses looking to grow." The southern US states owe much of their success to coastal port authorities and cities that have invested heavily to make their channels and docks fit for shipments to and from China and Mexico. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina who has often clashed with Trump, said protectionism would undermine those accomplishments and hurt American workers.

Doomsday scenario

"Negotiate a trade agreement with Europe, modernize NAFTA, don't tear it up," Graham told Reuters at the BMW factory. "We're going in the wrong direction. We need more trade agreements, not less." Graham noted how low-cost competition from China and Mexico destroyed South Carolina's once thriving textile industry and how the state reinvented itself as a manufacturing hub, bringing the likes of BMW or French tire maker Michelin.

The now humming port city of Charleston has a similar story to tell. When a major navy base shut down in the 1990s wiping out 20,000 jobs, local officials worked to bring foreign manufacturers, which now employ around 10,000 in the three counties around the city and more is set to come. Mercedes-Benz, part of Daimler AG, is adding 1,300 jobs so it can make its Sprinter van here rather than merely assemble it with imported parts, which also means more business for local suppliers.

Up the road, Volvo Car Group, part of Chinese conglomerate Geely, is due to open its first North American plant next year with a target workforce of 2,000. Local development officials expect more jobs and investment to come, but worry that some steps discussed by the Trump administration could have a chilling effect. - Reuters

NEW RANSOMWARE ATTACK 'NYETYA'

INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT MANSON, CYBER SECURITY LEADER FOR MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY, CISCO

Cisco's security research organization Talos' initial analysis of the global ransomware worm attack that has affected multiple organizations worldwide points to the attack starting in the Ukraine, possibly from software update systems for a Ukrainian tax accounting package called MeDoc. This appears to have been confirmed by MeDoc itself. MeDoc is a widely used tax software used by many organizations in or doing business with Ukraine. There have been other reports of this attack appearing in France, Denmark, Spain, the UK, Russia and the US.



Scott Manson

Once this ransomware enters your system, it uses three ways to spread automatically around a network, one of which is the known Eternal Blue vulnerability, similar to how last month's WannaCry attack unfolded. What's clear from this, and recent attacks, is that organizations must prioritize patching systems to lower their risk profile. We have to patch as quickly as we can. In addition, making back-ups of key data is a fundamental of any security program.

Q: What can you tell us about the attack?
A: Today we saw our second ever

ransomware worm, coming on the heels of WannaCry last month. This ransomware outbreak has affected multiple organizations in several countries today, Cisco's security research organization Talos is actively investigating this new malware variant. This new ransomware variant encrypts the master boot record (MBR) of a system. Think of the MBR as the table of contents for your hard drive - clearly very important. Talos' initial analysis points to the

attack starting in the Ukraine, possibly from software update systems for a Ukrainian tax accounting package called MeDoc. This appears to have been confirmed by MeDoc itself. MeDoc is widely used tax software used by many organizations in or doing business with Ukraine. There have been other reports of this attack appearing in France, Denmark, Spain, the UK, Russia and the US. Once this ransomware enters your system, it uses three ways to spread automatically around a network, one of which is the known Eternal Blue vulnerability, similar to how last month's WannaCry attack unfolded.

Q: What is ransomware?
A: A type of malware that locks down your computer/system and takes control/encrypts your data and demands a ransom
Q: What is bitcoin?
A: A crypto currency used online. Bitcoin is not controlled by any one government or state because it allows anonymity and is ideal for attackers.
Q: Do we know which organizations were impacted?
A: Reported victims so far include Ukrainian infrastructure like power com-

panies, airports, public transit, and the central bank, as well as Danish shipping company Maersk, pharmaceutical company Merck, the Russian oil giant Rosnft, and institutions in India, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, and beyond.

Q: How did this attack start?
A: Cisco's security research organization Talos' initial analysis points to the attack starting in the Ukraine, possibly from software update systems for a Ukrainian tax accounting package called MeDoc. This appears to have been confirmed by MeDoc itself. MeDoc is a widely used tax software used by many organizations in or doing business with Ukraine.

Q: How is it spreading?
A: Once this ransomware enters your system, it uses three ways to spread automatically around a network, one of which is the known Eternal Blue vulnerability, similar to how last month's WannaCry attack unfolded.

Q: How is this different to WannaCry? Is there a 'killswitch' for this attack?
A: This ransomware doesn't seem to incorporate the errors that hindered WannaCry from spreading. Specifically,

this attack doesn't seem to have a kill switch function. It is also harder to detect since it moves within a network. It is not scanning of the internet like WannaCry did.

Q: Who is responsible for this attack?
A: Attribution is difficult in attacks like this. Cisco is focused on understanding the attack and protecting our customers.

Q: What is Cisco's recommendation for customers to protect against this?

A: Ensure your organization is running an actively supported operating system that receives security updates. Have effective patch management that deploys security updates to endpoints and other critical parts of your infrastructure in a timely manner. Run anti-malware software on your system and ensure you regularly receive malware signature updates. Implement a disaster recovery plan that includes backing up and restoring data from devices that are kept offline. Adversaries frequently target backup mechanisms to limit the possibilities a user may be able to restore their files without paying the ransom. If vulnerabilities aren't patched, an organization will continue to be at risk for infection by this ransomware.

HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS TAKING ON RANSOMWARE

NEW YORK: Twice in the space of six weeks, the world has suffered major attacks of ransomware - malicious software that locks up photos and other files stored on your computer, then demands money to release them. It's clear that the world needs better defenses, and fortunately those are starting to emerge, if slowly and in patchwork fashion. When they arrive, we may have artificial intelligence to thank.

Ransomware isn't necessary trickier or more dangerous than other malware that sneaks onto your computer, but it can be much more aggravating, and at times devastating. Most such infections don't get in your face about taking your digital stuff away from you the way ransomware does, nor do they shake you down for hundreds of dollars or more. Despite those risks, many people just aren't good at keeping up with security software updates.

Both recent ransomware attacks walloped those who failed to install a Windows update released a few months earlier. Watchdog security software has its problems, too. With this week's ransomware attack, only two of about 60 security services tested caught it at first, according to security researchers. "A lot of normal applications, especially on Windows, behave like malware, and it's hard to tell them apart," said Ryan Kalember, an expert at the California security vendor Proofpoint.

How to find malware
In the early days, identifying malicious programs such as viruses involved matching their code against a database of known malware. But this technique was only as good as the database; new malware variants could easily slip through. So security companies started characterizing malware by its behavior. In the case of ransomware, software could look for repeated attempts to lock files by encrypting them. But that can flag ordinary computer behavior such as file compression.

Newer techniques involve looking for combinations of behaviors. For instance, a program that starts encrypting files without showing a progress bar on the screen could be flagged for surreptitious activity, said Fabian Wosar, chief technology officer at the New Zealand security company Emsisoft. But that also risks identifying harmful software too late, after some files have already been locked up.

An even better approach identifies malware using observable characteristics usually associated with malicious intent - for instance, by quarantining a program dis-

guised with a PDF icon to hide its true nature. This sort of malware profiling wouldn't rely on exact code matches, so it couldn't be easily evaded. And such checks could be made well before potentially dangerous programs start running.

Machine vs Machine
Still, two or three characteristics might not properly distinguish malware from legitimate software. But how about dozens? Or hundreds? Or even thousands? For that, security researchers turn to machine learning, a form of artificial intelligence. The security system analyzes samples of good and bad software and figures out what combination of factors is likely to be present in malware. As it encounters new software, the system calculates the probability that it's malware, and rejects those that score above a certain threshold. When something gets through, it's a matter of tweaking the calculations or adjusting the threshold. Now and then, researchers see a new behavior to teach the machine.

An arms race
On the flip side, malware writers can obtain these security tools and tweak their code to see if they can evade detection. Some websites already offer to test software against leading security systems. Eventually, malware authors may start creating their own machine-learning models to defeat security-focused artificial intelligence.

Dmitri Alperovitch, co-founder and chief technology officer at the California vendor CrowdStrike, said that even if a particular system offers 99 percent protection, "it's just a math problem of how many times you have to deviate your attack to get that 1 percent." Still, security companies employing machine learning have claimed success in blocking most malware, not just ransomware. SentinelOne even offers a \$1 million guarantee against ransomware; it hasn't had to pay it yet.

A fundamental challenge
So why was ransomware still able to spread in recent weeks? Garden-variety anti-virus software - even some of the free versions - can help block new forms of malware, as many are also incorporating behavioral-detection and machine-learning techniques. But such software still relies on malware databases that users aren't typically good at keeping up to date. Next-generation services such as CrowdStrike, SentinelOne and Cylance tend to ditch databases completely in favor of machine learning. —AP

APPLE OPENS FIRST STORE IN TAIWAN

TAIPEI: Apple opened its first store in Taiwan yesterday with more than a thousand shoppers flocking to the site located in the island's landmark skyscraper and tallest building, Taipei 101. The launch comes just weeks after the US tech giant unveiled a Singapore branch - its first in Southeast Asia - which it expects to be among the most popular Apple stores in the world. "This is an incredibly important region for Apple," the company said in a statement.

Excited fans in Taiwan thronged upon the new store with its iconic glass facade and more than 100 iPhones, iPads, Macs, Apple Watches

and iPods laid out for customers to try. They were greeted by cheering and applauding staff who chanted "welcome" and "Apple Taiwan". In a bid to tap into Taiwanese culture, the company also handed out red T-shirts with a Banyan Tree print inspired by artwork from local paper cutting expert Yang Shi-yi.

Near the store entrance a big-screen image of Yang's work loomed over wooden chairs to replicate the traditional Taiwanese custom of meeting under a Banyan tree. "It's a pretty unique design for a store, and I like that they have a place like that for people to meet," said 28-year-old American tourist Steve Burt, who

queued for more than a day to be the first in line to enter the store. Apple celebrated its 40th anniversary last year.

Most of its earnings come from the iPhone, which faces increasingly tough competition in a saturated market. "I am really glad that there is finally an Apple Store in Taiwan so I don't have to send my iPhone to another country for repair," said 19-year-old college student Shih Feng, who also camped overnight for yesterday's opening. Apple has almost 500 stores globally with more than a million visitors daily. Elsewhere in Asia it has stores in Hong Kong, China, Japan and Singapore. —AFP

PETYA-LIKE WORMABLE MALWARE

By Rick Holland, VP Strategy at Digital Shadows

Late on 27 June, the New York Times reported that a number of Ukrainian banks and Ukrenergo, the Ukrainian state power distributor, had been affected by unidentified malware which caused significant operational disruption. Multiple security vendors and independent researchers subsequently identified the malware as a wormable ransomware variant with functional and technical similarities to Petya.

Based on these similarities and continuing confusion, the malware has been dubbed Nyetya, Petna, ExPet, and NotPetya, among others. It has been linked with a large number of infections, a significant proportion of which (around 60% according to statistics published by Kaspersky) affected machines in Ukraine, though at the time of writing the overall number of infections is not known.

How NotPetya Works
On 27 June, a social media account used by the National Police of Ukraine Cyber police Department, suggested that the reported infections originated from a compromised software update delivered to users through MeDoc, a Ukrainian accounting software provider. While MeDoc has denied this, Microsoft has confirmed that a small number of infections were the result of malware being delivered to machines by the MeDoc's software update process. Once the malware was installed, intra-network propagation functions enabled it to rapidly spread between networked machines over the following vectors:

EternalBlue and EternalRomance exploits: EternalBlue and EternalRomance are exploits for SMB remote code execution vulnerabilities (CVE-2017-0144 and CVE-2017-0145) leaked by the Shadow Brokers in April. These exploits were reportedly used to propagate between networked machines running SMB. Patches for these vulnerabilities were released by Microsoft in March (MS17-010) and in May.

PSEXEC: The ransomware used a tool similar to Mimikatz to harvest user credentials. These credentials were then passed to an older version of the PSEXEC Windows tool which was dropped by the malware. This tool then attempted to use PowerShell remote functionality to copy itself onto a target machine and begin execution. Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI): The malware also enumerated Windows network shares with WMI and attempted to launch a copy of itself on any discovered network shares.

Once installed, the malware functioned similarly to Petya, checking for the availability of Administrator privileges by using the Windows API Adjust Token Privileges function. If this was successful, the malware would overwrite the infected machine's Master Boot record (MBR), rendering it unbootable. If this was not possible, AES-128 keys were used to encrypt each individual file, with the AES keys subsequently being encrypted using

an RSA-2048 public key. To obtain the private RSA key necessary to recover the AES keys, victims were instructed to transfer \$300 USD in Bitcoin to a specified Bitcoin ID and send their wallet ID and victim ID number in an email to a specified address.

Why
While the malware's functionality has reportedly made it highly effective at propagating to machines within a local network, it has been reported as having no function for spreading outside of these local networks. It was therefore assessed as likely to be much more effective for conducting targeted attacks than wCry (AKA WannaCry). In the case of NotPetya, it is highly likely that the ransom payment method was never intended to result in revenue for attackers or the recovery of victim data. Although the email service provider with which the account was registered has publicly announced that this account has been disabled, it has subsequently been reported that

malware. Kaspersky Labs has claimed a 60/30 percent split (total number of infections unknown) between Ukraine and Russia. Additionally, the initial attack occurred during the Ukrainian holiday celebrating independence from Russia. If one subscribes to the theory that Russian state or affiliated actors are responsible, this had the tactical effect of delaying a coherent response from Ukrainian defenders and strategically punishing Ukraine for its independence from Russia. Although these facts are interesting - and they do suggest that the malware was actively aimed at the Ukrainian economy - they are circumstantial and do not conclusively link the incident to any particular nation state. Attribution is and will continue to be a challenge.

The technology behind this attack is well within the range of many hacktivists and cyber criminals, and so these details have less diagnostic value when considering the 'who'. Although speculative, there are other factors to consider: the supply chain compro-

attacks of this nature are not uncommon and so businesses, governments and of course consumers need to take steps to protect themselves against ransomware attacks.

The "basics" aren't easy, but they should not be forgotten. Both NotPetya and the earlier WannaCry exploited basic and known security vulnerabilities, so segmenting networks and applying basic patching cycles will go a long way to mitigating threats such as this. This will go a long way in mitigating the 'stray bullet' factor outlined above. Think about the soft factors. Defense is not just about technical indicators and warning anymore, 'soft' factors such as motivation and geostrategic issues are now not just 'nice to have's' but are increasingly critical in the response to malware like NotPetya.

Plan to fail
No amount of good security will entirely remove the risk posed by cyberattacks so it is critical to backup



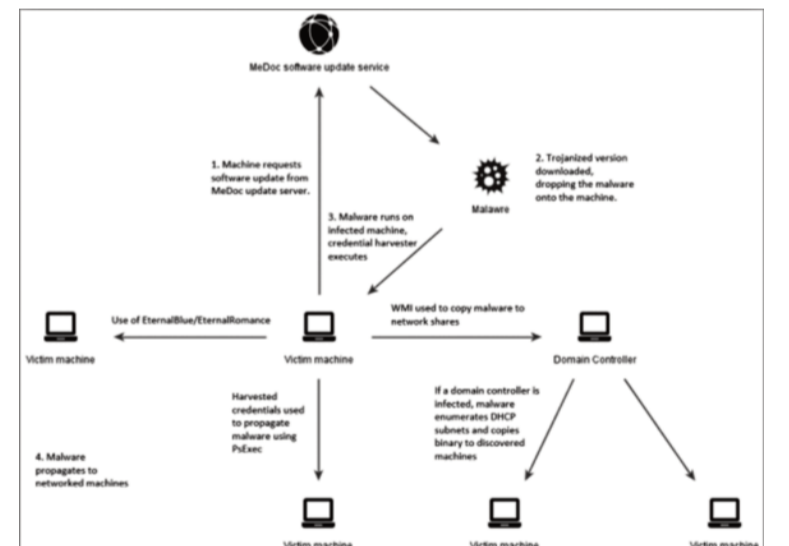
Rick Holland

victim ID numbers were pseudo randomly generated rather than being derived from the RSA key used for AES key encryption.

This indicates that it would not be possible for the threat actors to provide victims with the correct decryption key, even if a victim had paid the ransom and succeeded in making contact. Furthermore, Matt Suiche has reported that, unlike Petya, which encrypts an infected machine's MBR in a reversible manner, this malware reportedly irreversibly overwrote 24 sector blocks of the MBR section of an infected machine's disk, rendering it permanently inoperable.

With monetary gain as a motivation out the picture, the most likely motivation left for NotPetya's behavior is destructive malicious intent. Malicious intent is not synonymous with any single 'class' of threat actor, hacktivists 'do it for the lulz', nation state actors conduct malicious cyber-attacks to fulfill geostrategic objectives. With this in mind, NotPetya does demonstrate an advanced understanding of how to mount a wide spread hard hitting cyber-attack, and to capitalize on this attack with maximum media exposure.

Who
Clues lie in the geopolitical context and the initial target geography of the



mise, efforts at obfuscation (hiding the wiper as ransomware), the geography that the malware was deployed in, and the timing of the deployment with Ukrainian national holidays. This points towards an attacker with political motivations behind the attack. It seems that the actor behind the NotPetya variant was politically motivated with an exceptional appetite to conduct cyber-attacks against specific organizations within the Ukraine target geography.

Longer-Term Implications
So where does this incident leave the longer-term assessment of the implications of NotPetya? Prepare for stray bullets. Many organizations were impacted by the NotPetya campaign. The interconnectivity of modern systems and the ubiquity of applications mean that enterprises could find themselves the victims of attacks not specifically targeting their organizations.

The bar for cyber-attacks keeps getting lower. The availability of leaked tools from the NSA and HackingTeam, coupled with 'how to' manuals, means that threat actors will have access to powerful tools that they can iterate from and leverage to aggressively accomplish their goals. Sadly, cyber-

critical data and systems on a regular basis and ensure crisis management and comprehensive data recovery plans are in place and practiced. Extortion and destructive malware response should be in your incident response playbooks. If you aren't already doing so, think about the digital risks associated with your supply chain. Sure, not all suppliers are attack vectors for targeted attacks, but many suppliers do not have the mature levels of security. Regardless of the alleged culpability of MeDoc, the deployment mechanism does highlight the attention that we all need to start paying to supply chain compromise.

Defense in depth
Digital Shadows advocate using a 'defense in depth' strategy guided by four main principles: Configuring host-based firewalls and using IP-white listing measures, segmenting networks and restricting workstation-to-workstation communication, applying patches and disabling unneeded legacy features, and restricting access to important data to only those who are required to have it. WannaCry and NotPetya is a sign of things to come, and you can expect attackers will improve their future campaigns.

TREND MICRO LAUNCHES NEW \$100 MILLION VENTURE FUND

DUBAI: Trend Micro Incorporated, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, yesterday announced the launch of a corporate venture fund to explore emerging technology markets. With an initial investment of \$100 million, this venture fund will allow Trend Micro to nurture a portfolio of startups that are incubating ideas and living at the epicenter of hyper growth markets, such as the Internet of Things (IoT).

According to Gartner estimates, 26 billion devices will be connected to the Internet by 2020. Eva Chen, founder and chief executive officer for Trend Micro noted, "Trend Micro's vision has always been to make the world safe for exchanging digital information. The explosion of devices is transforming how the world works, thinks and acts. It is clear that the ecosystem is still evolving and there is work to do to ensure organizations and individuals can operate and live safely in this new reality." Trend Micro's venture will offer companies financial backing, access to its world-class global threat intelligence, strategic alliances, as well as its channel of more than 28,000 partners.

In return, working with these investments will uncover insights into emerging

ecosystem opportunities, disruptive business models, market gaps and skillset shortages. These learnings will influence Trend Micro's cybersecurity solution planning across the company. "We have a 29-year history of successfully anticipating technology trends to secure all types of environments," said Chen. "The first mega wave we caught was the growth of the PC marketplace; we committed early on to endpoint protection and remain a Leader in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms today."

"The second mega wave was all about the cloud; we made a bet early on to securing the cloud and so far we have secured over two billion workload hours on Amazon Web Services (AWS) alone. Now, we believe the next wave has arrived with IoT; our fund will help us harness this opportunity." With a strong financial position and 72 quarters of consecutive profitability, Trend Micro is well positioned to invest funds to do research and make advancements consistent with its corporate strategy. The formation of this venture arm allows additional freedom to dive into new areas without disrupting core business resources.



Eva Chen

SCIENTISTS FIND PROTEIN THAT REGULATES SKIN CANCER SPREAD

PARIS: Scientists have pinpointed a cancer protein which controls the disease's spread from the skin to other organs, and proposed Wednesday that blocking it may be an effective treatment. Working with mice genetically engineered to develop human skin cancers, the team discovered that the protein plays a key role promoting or inhibiting metastasis, the spread of cancer from one area or organ to another.

Dubbed MIDKINE, the protein is secreted by melanomas—the most serious type of skin cancer—before travelling to a

different part of the mouse body to kick start cancer formation, they said. In subsequent observations in humans, high levels of MIDKINE in the lymph nodes of skin cancer patients were predictive of “significantly worse” outcomes, the team reported in the science journal Nature. This was the case even if there were no tumor cells in the lymph nodes.

“In MIDKINE we have found a possible strategy that merits consideration for drug development,” said Marisol Soengas of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre in Madrid, a co-author of the

study. Early detection is important in melanoma. After it starts spreading, patient prognosis is usually poor. It was long thought that melanoma prepares the organs it intends to colonize by activating the growth of fluid-transporting lymph vessels—first in and around the primary tumor, then the surrounding lymph nodes, and so on.

However, removing lymph nodes next to a melanoma tumor does not prevent metastases, meaning there is “something missing” in our understanding of the spread mechanism, said the researchers.

The new study offers a possible answer. “When these tumors are aggressive, they act at a distance much earlier than previously thought,” said the authors. MIDKINE travelled directly to the new cancer site irrespective of lymph vessel formation around the original tumor.

When MIDKINE was inhibited in mouse tumors, metastasis was blocked as well, said the team. “These results indicate a change of paradigm in the study of melanoma metastasis,” according to Soengas. The team used special mice to track metastasis through a luminescent

protein that lights up when a new area of the body is affected by cancer formation. What is not known is whether MIDKINE is transported in the blood, in lymph, or both.

In a comment, also published by Nature, Ayuko Hoshino and David Lyden of the Weill Cornell Medicine, a university in New York, said the study provided “much-needed insights” for the prediction of metastatic risk. The work, they concluded, “might open a door to diagnostic and therapeutic strategies that aim to deal with metastases before they have a chance to arise.”—AFP



LILLE: A picture taken in Lille, northern France shows a bee on a flower.—AFP

NEW STUDY LINKS COMMON PESTICIDE TO BEE DEATHS

WASHINGTON: Two of the most extensive field studies conducted to date in Europe and Canada have confirmed the hypothesis that neonicotinoid insecticides are harmful to bees and other pollinating species. The results, published Thursday in the US journal Science, also reveal that local environments can mitigate the impact of the pesticide, which is widely used in farming despite being dubbed a “bee killer.” The chemical—which acts on the nervous system of insects—had a “largely negative” effect on the pollinating insects that are essential to many crops.

It reduced their reproductive success and boosted mortality rates, according to the research that was part funded by the German chemicals company Bayer and Switzerland's Syngenta. “In the light of this new study, continuing to claim that use of neonicotinoids in farming does not harm bees is no longer a tenable position,” said David Goulson, a biology professor at Britain's University of Sussex who did not participate in the study.

The first experiment, conducted over a total of 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) in Great Britain, Germany and Hungary exposed three bee species to winter oilseed rape crops with seeds coatings containing either clothianidin from Bayer CropScience or Syngenta's thiamethoxam. The coatings were temporarily banned by the European

Union in 2013 due to concerns regarding their impact on bee health, though there are now plans to ban them completely in fields but not in greenhouses.

The researchers found exposure to the pesticide reduced winter survival rates in Hungary, where the colony population fell by 24 percent and in Britain where survival rates were “very low.” Germany did not see a dramatic decline, which lead author Ben Woodcock put down to the availability of alternative flowering resources. All three countries saw a decline in reproduction rates, linked to residual neonicotinoid in nests. The second study conducted in Canada showed that worker bees and queens exposed to the insecticide died earlier, while the overall health of colonies was also weakened.

Worker bees exposed to the treated pollen during their first nine days had their life spans cut short by 23 percent, were unable to maintain a healthy laying queen and had poor hygiene. The researchers were surprised to learn the contaminated pollen the honeybees collected did not belong to corn or soybean plants originally treated by the insecticides. “This indicates that neonicotinoids, which are water soluble, spill over from agricultural fields into the surrounding environment, where they are taken up by other plants that are very attractive to bees,” said researcher Nadia Tsvetkov.—AFP

HOT DOGS MINUS ADDED NITRITES MAY BE NO BETTER

NEW YORK: Backyard cooks looking to grill this summer have another option: hot dogs without “added nitrates.” Are they any healthier? Oscar Mayer is touting its new hot dog recipe that uses nitrite derived from celery juice instead of artificial sodium nitrite, which is used to preserve the pinkish colors of processed meats and prevents botulism. Kraft Heinz, which owns Oscar Mayer, says sodium nitrite is among the artificial ingredients it has removed from the product to reflect changing consumer preferences.

The change comes amid a broader trend of big food makers purging ingredients that people may feel are not natural. But nitrates are nitrates—and the change makes little difference—according to those who advise limiting processed meat and those who defend it. Kana Wu, a research scientist at Harvard's school of public health, said in an email that it is best to think of processed meat made with natural ingredients the same as those made with artificial nitrates.

Wu was part of a group that helped draft the World Health Organization report in 2015 that said processed meats such as hot dogs and bacon were linked to an increased risk of colon cancer. She notes WHO did not pinpoint what exactly about processed meats might be to blame for the link. One concern about processed meats is that nitrates can combine with compounds found in meat at high temperatures to fuel the formation of nitrosamines, which are known carcinogens in animals. It's a chemical reaction that can happen regardless of the source of the nitrates, including celery juice.

But the US Department of Agriculture caps the amount of artificial nitrates that can be added to meats to prevent excessive use, said Andrew Milkowski, a retired Oscar Mayer scientist who consults for the meat industry. Meat makers also add ingredients to processed meat like bacon that help block the formation of nitrosamines, he said. Though the terms nitrates and nitrites are used interchangeably, the meat industry says it's mainly sodium nitrite that companies currently use to cure meats such as hot dogs, cold cuts and bacon.

Artificial nitrates

For Oscar Mayer hot dogs, the packages now list ingredients like celery juice that has been treated with bacterial culture. That turns the naturally occurring nitrates in celery juice into



NEW YORK: In this photo, Oscar Mayer classic uncured wieners are for sale at a grocery store in New York.—AP

nitrites that serve a similar purpose. While the nitrites derived from celery juice are no better, the switch may nevertheless help address negative consumer perceptions, said Milkowski, who also teaches at the University of Wisconsin's department of animal sciences.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest agrees nitrates from natural sources aren't that different from artificial nitrates in processed meats. But the group has cited the WHO report in calling for a cancer warning label on processed meats, regardless of how they're made. It also says nitrite-preserved foods tend to be high in salt and should be limited or avoided anyway. The American Cancer Society also suggests limiting processed and red meat, citing a variety of reasons.

The meat industry has contested the WHO's finding, saying it is based on studies that show a possible link but don't prove a cause, and that single foods shouldn't be blamed for cancer. Many health experts also say there's no reason

to worry about an occasional hot dog or bologna sandwich. And while natural preservatives may not make hot dogs any healthier, they fit with the growing preference for ingredients like celery juice that people can easily recognize. “I think it's a step in the right direction,” said Kristin Kirkpatrick, a dietitian at the Cleveland Clinic.

An interesting wrinkle worth noting is that federal regulations require processed meats without added nitrates or nitrites to be labeled as “uncured” and to state that they have no nitrates or nitrites added—except those naturally occurring in the alternative ingredient.

That's the language you'll now find on Oscar Mayer hot dog packages, though the products previously only had added nitrates. The meat industry has contested the required language of meat being “uncured,” because it says the products are still cured, albeit with nitrites derived from other ingredients.—AP



POMFRET: This file photograph shows donkeys in a dilapidated house in the desert town of Pomfret, close to the Botswana border on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in the north-west province of South Africa.—AFP

BOTSWANA BANS EXPORT OF DONKEY PRODUCTS

GABORONE, Botswana: Botswana's government has moved to crack down on the multi-billion dollar trade in donkey skins following a spate of killings of the animals across the country fuelled by soaring demand from China. Export licenses for donkeys and their products have been suspended indefinitely, the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security said in a statement late on Wednesday. Many thousands of donkeys have been slaughtered in Botswana and in other developing countries in recent years and their skins sold to China for use in traditional medicine.

Donkeys are being killed in growing numbers to feed demand from China where the

skins are used to make a natural medicine believed to be a sexual stimulant with anti-ageing properties. Hooves also contain the supposedly medicinal gelatin, while the meat, consumed in parts of China, is believed to be more nutritious than beef and is enjoyed in burgers and stews. Botswana is the sixth African country to impose restrictions on donkey exports, following Niger, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Gambia.

Zimbabwe turned down an application to build a donkey slaughterhouse, while Ethiopia closed its only functioning donkey abattoir after residents complained about the smell. But the bans have led to a flourishing illegal trade in

donkey skins and caused prices to soar. Farmers in Botswana have been urged to closely monitor their donkeys to prevent thefts as well as to report suspicious exchanges of live animals.

Animal rights groups say the docile beasts of burden are often cruelly bludgeoned to death before being skinned in backyards and clandestine slaughterhouses.

The industry is said to be worth billions of dollars and China is increasingly looking to Africa to satisfy demand after its own donkey population dropped sharply. Donkey numbers in China have nearly halved from 11 million in the 1990s to six million in 2013, according to official statistics.—AFP

NIGERIA SAYS MENINGITIS OUTBREAK KILLS 1,166

ABUJA: Nigeria's health minister has declared that the outbreak of meningitis in the country is over, but only after it killed 1,166 people, most of them children. “We have formally declared the meningitis outbreak over,” Isaac Adewole told reporters in the capital of Abuja on Wednesday. Earlier in the week the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control said that emergency operations responding to the epidemic had been wound down following a decline in new cases.

“A total of 14,518 suspected cases of meningitis were reported from 25 states, with 1,166 deaths,” said the centre in a statement. Vaccination campaigns were carried out in Zamfara, Sokoto, Yobe and Katsina states, the worst affected by the outbreak. A new strain of meningitis C

was first reported in Zamfara last November and spread to 22 other states in northern Nigeria.

Meningitis is caused by different types of bacteria, six of which can cause epidemics. It is transmitted between people through coughs and sneezes, close contact and cramped living conditions. The illness causes acute inflammation of the outer layers of the brain and spinal cord, with the most common symptoms being fever, headache and neck stiffness. Nigeria lies in the so-called “meningitis belt” of sub-Saharan Africa, stretching from Senegal in the west to Ethiopia in the east, where outbreaks of the disease are a regular occurrence.—AFP

HALF-A-DEGREE OF WARMING BOOSTED EXTREME WEATHER

PARIS: Half a degree Celsius of global warming has been enough to increase heat waves and heavy rains in many regions of the planet, researchers reported Friday. Comparing two 20-year periods—1960-79 and 1991-2010—between which average global temperatures jumped 0.5 C, scientists found that several kinds of extreme weather gained in duration and intensity. The hottest summer temperatures increased by more than 1 C across a quarter of Earth's land areas, while the coldest winter temperatures warmed by more than 2.5 C.

The intensity of extreme precipitation grew nearly 10 percent across a quarter of all land masses, and the duration of hot spells—which can fuel devastating forest fires—lengthened by a week in half of land areas. These changes were well outside the bounds of natural variability, according to the study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change. “We have to rely on climate models to predict the future,” said lead author Carl-Friedrich Schuessler, a researcher at the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research.

“But given that we now have observational evidence of around 1 C warming, we can also look at the real-life impacts this warming has brought,” he said in a statement. In science, observed trends are gen-

erally seen as more reliable than projections, which can vary sharply depending on the assumptions made. Changes in climate—sometimes defined as “average weather”—can only be detected across time periods measured in decades or longer.

0.5 C does matter

Global warming caused mostly by the burning of fossil fuels began slowly in the early 19th century with the onset of industrialization, but has accelerated rapidly over the last 50 or 60 years. The 196-nation Paris Agreement, inked in the French capital in 2015, vowed to cap the rise of the planet's average surface temperature at “well under” 2 C, and to “pursue efforts” to block it at 1.5 C.

To inform that effort, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—the UN's top science advisory group—will issue a report for policy makers in September 2018 on the feasibility of the 1.5 C target, and what impacts might be avoided if it is met. The new study—one of thousands that will be reviewed by the IPCC—suggests even a half degree rise is significant. “With the warming the world has already experienced, we can see very clearly that a difference of 0.5 C really does matter,” said co-author Erich Fischer, a scientist at ETH Zurich in Switzerland.—AFP

PAINLESS PATCH COULD REPLACE FLU JAB: STUDY

PARIS: Vaccines delivered via a painless, throw-away patch could one day eliminate the need for needle-and-syringe flu injections, researchers said Wednesday after completing a preliminary trial. Equipped with micro-needles, the patches vaccinated against influenza just as effectively as a standard flu jab, they reported in the medical journal *The Lancet*. "This bandage-strip sized patch of dissolvable needles can transform how we get vaccinated," said Roderic Pettigrew, director of the US National

Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, which funded the study. The new technology can be self-administered and stored without refrigeration, making it significantly cheaper than traditional vaccines. "It holds the promise for delivering other vaccines in the future," Pettigrew added. A hundred tiny needles—just long enough to penetrate the skin—embedded in each patch dissolve within minutes when exposed to moisture from the body. Adhesive holds the patch close to the skin while the

vaccine is released, and can be peeled away after 20 minutes and discarded. In phase I clinical trials, researchers from Emory University in Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology randomly divided 100 adults into four groups. Three received the micro-needle patches: one delivered by a healthcare provider; one self-administered; and the third—delivered by a nurse—a placebo without any active ingredients. The fourth group received a classic flu jab with a syringe. All the active flu vaccines worked equally well for at

least six months, regardless of whether they were delivered by professionals or the patient, or whether they were administered by a syringe or a micro-needle. The manufacturing cost for the patches is expected to be about the same as for pre-filled syringes. But the patch is expected to be cheaper because it can be sent through the mail and self-administered. In addition, it is stable for a year at 40 degrees Celsius, and does not require refrigeration, the researchers said. "These advantages could reduce the

cost of the flu vaccine and potentially increase coverage," said lead author Nadine Rouphael, an associate professor at Emory. "Our findings now need confirming in larger trials." Mark Prausnitz, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, led the design of the small coin-sized patch, and is co-founder of a company that is licensing the technology. Despite recommendations for universal vaccination, less than half the population in the United States currently gets a flu jab. Influenza kills some 48,000 people in the US every year.—AFP



LEIDEN: This handout picture from the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre shows the sixth Meteorite ever to be found in the Netherlands displayed at the centre in Leiden.—AFP

DUTCH SCIENTISTS FETE RARE METEORITE FIND

THE HAGUE: Dutch scientists on Monday celebrated the rare discovery of meteorite in The Netherlands, which at 4.5-billion years old may hold clues to the birth of our solar system. "Meteorites are very special because we do not have rocks of this age on earth," said geologist Leo Kriegsman from the Naturalis biodiversity centre in Leiden in a YouTube video marking the occasion. The fist-sized meteorite, weighing about 500 grams, crashed through the roof of a shed in the small town of Broek in Waterland, just north of Amsterdam, in January probably traveling at the speed of a high-velocity train.

It was discovered the next morning by the residents under a broken pile of wood from the roof, but despite an extensive search, no other fragments have been found in the area. Even though meteor showers probably reach the northern European country every three to four years, the small space rocks are very hard to find as they can often end up in water, or peat-bogs or strewn on forest floors where they are hard to distinguish.

Very exciting

This is only the sixth meteorite found in the past 200 years in The Netherlands, and the last such find dates back to 1990. So Kriegsman said it was "very exciting" when the home-owners contacted them about their find. "We can learn from it what happened in the very beginning of

the solar system when you had a stellar cloud that collapsed and minerals started to form, when planetoids started to form for the very first time," said Kriegsman.

"So it gives us information on what happened at the very beginning when the Earth was formed." He estimated that the meteorite probably came from the region between Mars and Jupiter where there is a large asteroid belt with "a lot of rocks and small planets" flying around which sometimes fall out of their orbit. The Leiden centre unveiled the meteorite on Monday, after carrying out extensive tests.

"We wanted to be 100 percent sure of what kind of meteorite it was, so we needed to carry out some research first," Kriegsman said. This one has been identified as a type L6 chondrite, which is a fairly common kind. But Kriegsman said all meteorites add to the scientific body of knowledge, and places like Antarctica and the Sahara desert where many have been found have boosted the science in recent years.

"There are many different types of meteorites, and it's always useful to have more meteorites even if they confirm the theory that we already have," he said. He now plans to carry out further research on the space rock, with the help of a master's student, to try to determine from what depth of an earlier planet it may have come.—AFP

BIRD-LIKE DINOSAURS HATCHED EGGS LIKE CHICKENS: STUDY

PARIS: Feathered dinosaurs that walked on two legs and had parrot-like beaks shared another characteristic with modern birds they brooded clutches of eggs at a temperature similar to chickens, a study showed Wednesday. Ostrich-sized oviraptors, ancestors to birds, sat on their eggs to incubate them at 35 to 40 degrees Celsius — a range comparable with modern hens, researchers reported in the journal *Paleontology*.

A team from China and France measured oxygen atoms from the shells and embryo bones of seven oviraptor eggs from the Upper Cretaceous period some 100 to 66 million years ago. The analysis revealed the temperature at which the embryo was forming during its incubation, explained study co-author Romain Amiot, a paleontologist at France's CNRS research institute. Amiot and a team used the eggs of oviraptors because they are known to have been egg brooders. Several fossilised adult oviraptors have been found in a brooding posture on clutches of eggs.

In fact, this is how the creature got its Latin name—unfairly of oviraptorosaur, meaning "egg thief lizard". The first specimen was discovered in 1924 on top of a nest full of eggs, leading paleontologists to assume the creature was eating them when it died. But later finds revealed the eggs in fact contained baby oviraptors, meaning that the



CHINA: This handout image shows detail on an Oviraptorosaur dinosaur's clutch of eggs from the Upper Cretaceous period, recovered from Jiangxi in China.—AFP

lurking lizard was not a predator but a caring parent tending its nest.

Hot stuff

Whether dinosaurs were warm- or cold-blooded has been a long-standing scientific riddle. In 2015, a study suggested they were neither, but something in-between. Dinosaurs were probably able to produce internal heat and raise their body temperature, but not maintain it at a consistently high level as modern warm-blooded ani-

mals do, it said. Raising their body temperature above the ambient range would have allowed dinosaurs to withstand cold climates at high latitudes—like penguins hatching their eggs in freezing conditions.

The latest study suggests that oviraptors "had a body temperature at least as high as the incubation temperature" of the eggs analyzed, said Amiot. Active brooding would almost certainly not have been a universal dinosaur egg-hatching

strategy, he added. "It is hard to imagine a diplodocus sitting on its clutch... without breaking its eggs or destroying the nest," Amiot said. Some 30 meters long and weighing more than 10 tons, Diplodocus was one of the largest animals ever to walk the Earth.

Fossil evidence has shown that some dinosaurs warmed their eggs by burying them, while others put theirs in nests of vegetation that gave off heat as it decayed.—AFP

WHALES SHRANK BEFORE POPULATIONS CRASHED

PARIS: The body size of some whale species diminished by several meters decades before 20th-century factory fishing caused their populations to collapse, researchers said Thursday. If that pattern holds true for other commercially harvested marine species, a drop in body size could serve as early warning that protective measures are needed, they reported in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*. Once a population has crashed, recovery is difficult at best: 25 years after a moratorium on Canada's decimated northwest Atlantic Cod fishery, the sub-species has yet to bounce back.

Hunted since the 18th century, many whale species were saved from extinction by a leaky 1982 moratorium that has still allowed more than 1,000 of the majestic sea mammals to be killed every year. Researchers led by Christopher Clements of the University of Zurich looked at annual records—including size and number caught—compiled by the International Whaling Commission and reaching back to about 1900, when new technologies emerged that turned the hunt into a harvest.

"We show that during this period of commercial whaling, the mean body size of caught whales declined dramatically—by up to four meters over a 70-year period," the study concluded. Industrial whaling wiped out nearly three million of the animals during the last century, according to a tally published recently in the journal *Marine Fisheries Review*.

Factory ships

Clements and his colleagues focused on four species that accounted for 80 percent of that haul: sei, fin and blue whales—the largest animals ever to roam the planet—are filter feeders, and listed as endangered on the Red List of threatened species. The box-headed sperm whale is probably most recognizable as Ahab's adversary in *Moby Dick*. "Fishing pressure remained high until whale populations collapsed and become commercially untenable, whereupon whalers moved on to new species," the study said.

For blue, fin and sei whales, body size started to shrink a couple of decades before the sudden drop off in numbers caught. For sperm whales, the decline in size was gradual across most of the century, showing up clearly at least 40 years before annual catch levels plummeted. "Early warning signals were present for all four species," the researchers said. Adding catch figures into the picture strengthened the predictive power of their model, which they suggest could be applied to fish and other marine animals under intense fishing pressure. But in the absence of reliable catch data, changes in size and other physical traits "may be used to predict collapse," the study concluded. Tens of millions of sharks, for example, are killed every year for their fins, the size of which may provide clues on the health of regional or global populations for these top-level predators. Wild sole, salmon and lobster could also benefit from such an approach.—AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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



A team of KIB volunteers participate in organizing Iftar meals.



KIB employees prepare Ramadan care packages.



Dr. Khalid Mathkour Al-Mathkour gives lecture on worshiping in Ramadan.



Sheikh Mustafa Sayed Hassan Al-Zalzalah presents Ramadan lecture to employees.



Honoring the winners of KIB's Ramadan Quran Memorization Competition.

KIB CONCLUDES RAMADAN CAMPAIGN

With the conclusion of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently concluded its annual Ramadan campaign, which the Bank had launched at the beginning of the month under the title "You are the heroes of our story". Taking place throughout Ramadan, this year's campaign comprised a series of community activities - including sports, social and religious activities; reflecting the Bank's key role as a national Islamic financial institution and its social and humanitarian commitment towards its local community.

On his part, Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at the Bank, spoke of the diverse and wide-ranging initiatives which were featured in KIB's comprehensive Ramadan program. "These initiatives and activities reflect the important role KIB plays within the local community; as our role has never been simply limited to our financial and banking operations, but has also extended to a real humanitarian and social commitment towards supporting all segments across the

community. KIB continues to strive to deliver its distinctive message of 'giving', enabling us to stand out and carve a special place for ourselves within the banking sector and ensuring we always remain close to our customers and the community at large," said Najia.

"This year's Ramadan campaign coincided with the 10-year anniversary of KIB's transformation to a full-fledged Islamic bank, and we are proud to say that we continue to be committed to not only providing market-leading Islamic banking solutions to our customers but also playing an active role within our community." As with every year, KIB organized a series of diverse initiatives and activities during the Holy Month, targeting its customers, its staff, as well as all segments of the community. This year's Ramadan campaign was notable for its rich array of traditional community activities and humanitarian initiatives in a reflection of KIB's commitment to uphold local traditions and customs.

This included the distribution of Gargeean, organizing the annual Ghabqah for its

employees, as well as organizing visits to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Elderly Care Center and Kuwait Orphanage to spread the joy of the Holy Month amongst their residents. Moreover, at the beginning of the Holy Month, KIB had kicked off its campaign with "Al-Mashla" initiative to distribute Ramadan food packages to families in need across Kuwait, where a team of volunteers from KIB helped prepare and distribute food packages. Additionally KIB continued its annual custom and organized iftar meals throughout Ramadan, in an effort to aid those who struggle to provide their daily meals for themselves.

KIB also continued to support youth and sports activities throughout Ramadan. Accordingly, the Bank participated in several annual sports activities and programs, such as the late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan annual football tournament and Al-Qattan tournament, and participated with a team of notable international and local athletes in Al-Roudan Tournament, reaching the tournament's semi-finals. This Ramadan, KIB also organized the

7th Ramadan Football Tournament for its staff.

As part of its ongoing commitment towards promoting Islamic values across all segments of the community, KIB held its Annual Ramadan Quran Memorization Competition for the Bank's staff and their children, as well as the children of its customers.

The competition was divided into five categories based on participants' ages, with four categories dedicated to children (7-9 years old, 10-12 years old, 13-14 years old and 15-17 years old). The competition was concluded with an awards ceremony honoring the winners, which was held under the patronage and in the presence of Chairman of KIB, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Acting Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Said El Saka. Additionally, KIB organized several religious lectures for its staff, which were presented by Dr. Khalid Mathkour Al-Mathkour, and Sheikh Mustafa Sayed Hassan Al-Zalzalah, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Fatwa & Sharia'a Supervisory Board respectively. These lectures came as

part of a series of educational and awareness initiatives the Bank organized for its staff across all departments within its diverse Ramadan program.

As the Holy Month drew to a close, and on the occasion of Eid, KIB concluded its Ramadan program with the distribution of vouchers across the local community to families in need. The initiative sought to share the joy of Eid with those in need by spreading the spirit of celebration and happiness amongst them. Najia concluded by noting that KIB continues to be committed to its social responsibility efforts, particularly during the Holy Month. Year after year, KIB launches its annual Ramadan campaign with an all-encompassing roster of activities and programs, aimed at strengthening social ties and promoting a spirit of generosity and giving across the local community. In addition to embodying the virtuous spirit of the Holy Month, every year the campaign reaffirms KIB's vision and mission, as well as its commitment to its social responsibility.



AL BABBAIN ELECTRONICS HOSTS ANNUAL IFTAR PARTY

Al Babbain Electronics hosted a large traditional Iftar party on June 2, 2017 at Fakhri El Din Palace restaurant, Divvan Ballroom Kuwait City for all Al Babbain Electronics employees from all departments. Al Babbain group CFO Jamal Omar, Legal Consultant Sameh Darwish, Head of IT Department Suleiman Nayef, Public Relation manager Ahmad Al Harby, Head of Internal Audit Eslam Abbas and other guests from Al Babbain Corporate group joined the iftar and showed their support to the event. The event started with recitation of Holy Quran and then the entire participants broke the fast with a special international buffet.

After Iftar, Al Babbain Electronics General Manager Sam Rejoy welcomed everyone who attended the event and emphasized on the value of team work, creating ambience of a family within the Al Babbain Electronics and supporting each other while working together. He also appreciated the hard work and valued contribution of each and every employee from every section of the organization.

Sam added that Al Babbain association with

the world's prestigious brand LG, which is growing and acquiring more market share every year, was able to reach the number one brand in Kuwait in most categories. And to maintain this position in Kuwait market, Sam emphasized on customer care and premium service quality to keep up to customer expectation. Al Babbain Group CFO Jamal Omar thanked everyone for the attending the event and insisted that the success achieved will continue as long as we work with One Team Spirit.



Sam Rejoy gives a speech

After that, all the attendees participated in a lucky draw and a small entertainment program that was prepared by Sameer Ghanem. This program consisted of employees singing, dancing, playing some games and getting gifts. The whole event was led by Al Babbain Electronics Service Manager Khaled Hammad and organized by Al Babbain Electronics Marketing Manager Rayan Dalal. The annual Iftar party is a great occasion that can join all Al Babbain Electronics teams in one hall and help build a strong bond between them.



HARDEE'S RE-OPENS ITS BIDAA BRANCH

Hardee's Bidaa branch was successfully reopened on June 22, 2017, following a successful development process that included the outside appearance and internal design of the restaurant, there was also a major enhancement of the production and operation system as Hardee's restaurants kitchen is closer to the factory than the usual kitchen, it also covered the Drive thru area.

The branch received much attention as it received an appreciation prize from the mother company in the USA

as it achieved the highest sales for a branch in the world for 2016. It is not a secret that success has its merits, and if it was not for the support of Hardee's customers and liking its products and campaigns, this success would not have been achieved.

The restaurant is equipped with the most modern international specifications to meet requirements and needs of various groups of customers to provide them with the best of services (it is worth mentioning that all Hardee's restaurants use Kuwaiti and Saudi meats that

were slaughtered according to Islamic Shareeah).

Hardee's Regional Director General for Kuwait and Iraq Mohammad Suleiman said, "Bidaa Hardee's is the icon of Hardee's in Kuwait especially that it was opened in 1993, and it is the strongest restaurant in the middle east, and the top restaurant in the world in 2016, as the renovation process aims at leaving a distinguished impression with customers, and we draw a beautiful image for restaurant patrons, and we always think about their satisfaction and reach the highest of degrees for

customers comfort." He added, "The number of Hardee's branches in Kuwait is 53 and plans are to have the number reach 60 within two years, while there are 350 branches in the Middle East."

Regional manager for marketing in Kuwait, Iraq and Kurdistan, Rafiq Al-Ayyat said, "The restaurant with its new look presents a better experience for its patrons from all aspects, besides maintaining the nutritional value presented to the customer. The number of tables and chairs has also increased with a new look."



OSN MOVIES

ACTION

- 01:25 Alien Outpost
- 02:55 Fantastic Four
- 04:40 Drop Zone
- 06:30 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 08:20 Hard Target 2
- 10:05 Age Of Tomorrow
- 11:40 Fantastic Four
- 13:20 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 15:10 Terminator Genisys
- 17:25 Survivor
- 19:05 Larceny
- 20:40 The Transporter: Refueled
- 22:20 Ladder 49

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 01:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 02:35 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 03:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 05:02 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 05:49 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 06:36 Night
- 07:00 Night
- 07:25 Lone Star Law
- 08:15 The Lion Queen
- 09:10 After The Attack
- 10:05 Dog Rescuers
- 11:00 Wildest Africa
- 11:55 Cats 101
- 12:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 13:15 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 15:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 16:30 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 17:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 18:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
- 19:15 Lone Star Law
- 20:10 Wild Animal Repo
- 21:05 Lone Star Law
- 22:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
- 22:55 Tanked
- 23:50 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 00:00 Doctors
- 00:30 EastEnders
- 01:00 Call The Midwife
- 01:55 Doctor Who

- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 How It's Made
- 09:55 How It's Made
- 10:20 How It's Made
- 10:45 How It's Made
- 11:10 How It's Made
- 11:35 How It's Made
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 12:25 How It's Made
- 12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 13:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 14:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 15:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 16:10 Ultimate Survival
- 17:00 Nextworld
- 17:50 Man v Expert
- 18:40 The Carbonaro Effect
- 19:05 The Carbonaro Effect
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 Reign Of The Dinosaurs
- 21:10 One Giant Leap
- 22:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 22:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 Destroyed In Seconds

ID X

- 00:30 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
- 01:20 Casey Anthony: An American Murder Mystery
- 02:10 Murder Calls
- 03:00 Murder Chose Me
- 03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 04:36 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
- 06:12 I Almost Got Away With It
- 07:00 The Locator
- 07:25 The Locator
- 10:20 The Locator
- 10:45 The Locator
- 11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 12:00 Blood Relatives
- 12:50 Blood Relatives
- 13:40 Blood Relatives
- 14:30 Blood Relatives
- 15:20 Blood Relatives
- 16:10 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
- 17:00 Murder Comes To Town
- 17:50 Murder Comes To Town
- 18:40 Shadow Of Doubt
- 19:30 Shadow Of Doubt
- 20:20 Shadow Of Doubt
- 21:10 Blood Relatives
- 22:00 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
- 22:50 Murder Calls
- 23:40 Grave Secrets

- 02:40 Loopdidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopdidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:40 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopdidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopdidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 Sofia The First
- 07:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 07:50 The Lion Guard
- 08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 08:40 Goldie & Bear
- 09:05 Doc McStuffins
- 09:35 Sofia The First
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 11:00 PJ Masks
- 11:25 Goldie & Bear
- 11:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 12:25 The Lion Guard
- 12:50 Sofia The First
- 13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:45 Doc McStuffins
- 14:10 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 15:05 PJ Masks
- 15:30 The Lion Guard
- 16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:25 Sofia The First
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Goldie & Bear
- 17:35 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:05 Sofia The First
- 19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:05 The Lion Guard
- 20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 21:00 Goldie & Bear
- 21:25 Doc McStuffins
- 21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 22:30 Sofia The First
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:45 The Hive
- 23:45 Loopdidoo

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 00:20 Wheels That Fall
- 00:45 Heavy Rescue

- 21:10 Mighty Med
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
- 22:35 Booster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:00 Famously Single
- 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 E! News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 So Cosmo
- 04:40 So Cosmo
- 05:40 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 06:50 E! News
- 07:20 E! NYC
- 08:10 E! News
- 09:05 Botched
- 09:55 Botched
- 10:45 Botched
- 11:35 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 12:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 13:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 14:15 Second Wives Club
- 15:10 Second Wives Club
- 16:05 Second Wives Club
- 17:00 Second Wives Club
- 18:00 Second Wives Club
- 19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 20:00 Second Wives Club
- 21:00 Second Wives Club
- 22:00 Second Wives Club
- 23:00 Botched
- 23:30 Botched

food network

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
- 00:30 Man Fire Food
- 01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 02:30 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 10:30 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 12:00 Man Fire Food
- 12:30 Man Fire Food
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 16:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:00 Siba's Table
- 17:30 Siba's Table
- 18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 19:00 Man Fire Food
- 19:30 Man Fire Food
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 22:00 Private Chef
- 22:30 Private Chef
- 23:00 Chopped

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:30 Coronation Street
- 01:00 The Queen's Worst Year
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Coronation Street
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 03:30 Coronation Street
- 03:55 Royal Stories
- 04:20 Royal Stories
- 04:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 05:50 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
- 06:20 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
- 06:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 07:40 Grantchester
- 08:35 This Is England '86
- 09:30 Jekyll And Hyde
- 10:25 The Queen's Worst Year
- 11:25 Chopping Block
- 12:20 Chopping Block

- 13:15 Grantchester
- 14:10 The Trials Of Jimmy Rose
- 15:00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
- 15:30 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
- 16:00 This Is England '86
- 16:55 Royal Stories
- 17:20 Royal Stories
- 17:50 The Queen's Worst Year
- 18:50 Grantchester
- 19:45 Jekyll And Hyde
- 20:40 Royal Stories
- 21:05 Royal Stories
- 21:35 This Is England '86
- 22:30 The Queen's Worst Year
- 23:20 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh

HISTORY

- 00:20 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
- 01:10 Mountain Men
- 02:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 Pawn Stars
- 03:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 04:05 Storage Wars Texas
- 04:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 05:00 Hoard Hunters
- 06:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 06:50 Duck Dynasty
- 07:15 Duck Dynasty
- 07:40 Counting Cars
- 08:05 Counting Cars
- 08:30 Pawn Stars
- 08:55 Pawn Stars
- 09:20 Storage Wars
- 09:45 Storage Wars
- 10:10 American Pickers
- 11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 11:50 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Swamp People
- 13:30 Ax Men
- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Leepu And Pitbull
- 16:00 Storage Wars
- 16:25 Storage Wars
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 18:30 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Storage Wars Texas
- 22:15 Storage Wars Texas
- 22:40 Detroit Steel
- 23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Eat Street
- 00:45 A Is For Apple
- 01:10 A Is For Apple
- 01:40 Bad Trip
- 02:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 03:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:55 Places We Go
- 04:25 Chocolate Covered
- 04:50 Chocolate Covered
- 05:20 Home Strange Home
- 06:15 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
- 07:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 07:35 Miguel's Feasts
- 08:05 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 08:30 Eat Street
- 09:00 Eat Street
- 09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:55 Bad Trip
- 10:50 What's For Sale?
- 11:15 What's For Sale?
- 11:45 Chasing Time
- 12:10 Chasing Time
- 12:40 Poh & Co
- 13:05 Poh & Co
- 13:35 Bad Trip
- 14:30 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:50 Places We Go
- 16:20 Places We Go
- 16:45 Chocolate Covered
- 17:15 Home Strange Home
- 18:10 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 18:35 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 Places We Go
- 20:30 Chocolate Covered
- 21:00 Home Strange Home
- 22:00 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 22:25 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 22:55 Bad Trip
- 23:50 Poh & Co

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Invasion Earth
- 01:00 Evacuate Earth



FANTASTIC FOUR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 02:45 Doctor Who
- 03:50 Doctors
- 04:20 Orphan Black
- 05:05 Call The Midwife
- 06:00 Holly City
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 EastEnders
- 08:00 New Tricks
- 08:50 Call The Midwife
- 09:45 Father Brown
- 10:30 Doctors
- 11:05 EastEnders
- 11:35 New Tricks
- 12:30 Call The Midwife
- 13:25 Father Brown
- 14:05 Doctors
- 14:35 EastEnders
- 15:10 New Tricks
- 16:05 Call The Midwife
- 17:00 Father Brown
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 EastEnders
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 Unforgotten
- 21:00 Ashes To Ashes
- 21:50 Ripper Street
- 22:45 Ripper Street
- 23:40 Doctors

Disney CHANNEL HD

- 00:00 Hank Zipzer
- 00:25 Alex & Co.
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Evermore Chronicles
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:55 Hank Zipzer
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Hank Zipzer
- 03:45 Alex & Co.
- 04:10 Alex & Co.
- 04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:25 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 The 7D
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 07:45 The Zhuzhus S1
- 08:10 Bizaardvark
- 08:35 Bunk'd
- 09:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 09:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 09:50 Best Friends Whenever
- 10:15 Liv And Maddie
- 10:40 Princess Protection Programme
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Evermore Chronicles
- 14:00 Bunk'd
- 14:25 Jessie
- 14:50 The Zhuzhus S1
- 15:15 Bizaardvark
- 15:40 Elena Of Avalor
- 16:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 17:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 17:25 Radio Rebel
- 19:00 Star Darlings
- 19:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:30 Liv And Maddie
- 19:55 Elena Of Avalor
- 20:20 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 20:45 Bizaardvark
- 21:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 21:35 Stuck In The Middle
- 22:00 Bunk'd
- 22:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 23:35 Lolorock

- 01:35 Heavy Rescue
- 02:25 Heavy Rescue
- 03:15 Heavy Rescue
- 04:05 Heavy Rescue
- 05:00 Heavy Rescue
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:45 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:30 Misfit Garage
- 08:15 What On Earth?
- 09:00 Baggage Battles
- 09:25 How Do They Do It?
- 09:47 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 What On Earth?
- 10:55 Salvage Hunters
- 11:40 Storage Hunters UK
- 12:02 Storage Hunters UK
- 12:25 How Do They Do It?
- 12:47 Baggage Battles
- 13:10 Gold Rush
- 13:55 What On Earth?
- 14:40 Gold Divers
- 15:25 Misfit Garage
- 16:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 17:00 How Do They Do It?
- 17:25 How Do They Do It?
- 17:50 Baggage Battles
- 18:20 Baggage Battles
- 18:50 Abandoned Engineering
- 19:40 How Do They Do It?
- 20:10 How Do They Do It?
- 20:35 How Do They Do It?
- 21:00 Heavy Rescue
- 21:50 Racing Extinction
- 23:30 Misfit Garage

Disney XD

- 06:00 Supa Strikas
- 06:25 Supa Strikas
- 06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 07:15 Counterfeit Cat
- 07:40 Walk The Prank
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
- 09:00 Disney11
- 09:25 Disney11
- 09:50 Disney11
- 10:20 Disney11
- 10:45 Disney11
- 11:10 Lab Rats
- 11:35 Mech-X4
- 12:00 Cars
- 14:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 14:40 K.C. Undercover
- 15:05 Walk The Prank
- 15:30 Atomic Puppet
- 15:55 Lab Rats
- 16:25 Mech-X4
- 16:50 K.C. Undercover
- 17:15 Supa Strikas
- 17:40 Mighty Med
- 18:10 Right Now Kapow
- 18:35 K.C. Undercover: Tightrope Of Doom
- 19:25 Access All Areas: Spider-Man: Homecoming
- 19:45 Milo Murphy's Law
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 20:45 Counterfeit Cat

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
- 01:00 I Was Possessed
- 02:00 Babies Behind Bars
- 03:00 Escaping Polygamy
- 04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
- 05:00 I Was Possessed
- 06:00 The First 48
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 09:00 Babies Behind Bars
- 10:00 Babies Behind Bars
- 11:00 Evil Up Close
- 12:00 Evil Up Close
- 13:00 Evil Up Close
- 14:00 It Takes A Killer
- 16:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 Cold Case Files
- 19:00 Cold Case Files
- 20:00 The First 48
- 21:00 Homicide Hunter
- 22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 23:00 Killers

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:30 Nextworld
- 01:20 Nextworld
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 05:30 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:50 Kids vs Film
- 08:15 Kids vs Film



4 MINUTE MILE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



THE WAR ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 02:00 Monster Fish
- 03:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 04:00 Primal Survivor
- 05:00 Somewhere In China
- 06:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 07:00 Border Wars
- 08:00 The Putin Interviews
- 09:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 09:30 Locked Up Abroad
- 10:00 Breakthrough
- 11:00 Route Awakening
- 11:30 Route Awakening
- 12:00 La Street Racers
- 13:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
- 14:00 Dog Whisperer
- 15:00 King Fishers
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 17:00 From The Ashes
- 18:35 Innovation Nation
- 19:00 King Fishers
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 20:50 From The Ashes
- 22:30 King Fishers
- 23:20 Route Awakening
- 23:45 Route Awakening

OSN MOVIES HD

KIDS

- 00:20 Hocus Pocus Alfie Atkins
- 01:40 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 03:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 04:40 Marco Macaco
- 06:00 Egon And Donci
- 07:20 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 08:40 Bonta
- 10:05 Last Wizard
- 11:15 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 12:40 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 14:00 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
- 15:35 Bonta
- 17:00 Cher Ami
- 18:30 Memory Loss
- 19:00 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
- 21:30 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 22:55 Cher Ami

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Namibia, Sanctuary Of Giants
- 01:10 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:00 Animal Fight Club 4.5
- 02:50 Australia's Deadly Monsters
- 03:45 Secrets Of The Wild
- 04:40 World's Deadliest
- 05:35 Intimate Enemies
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Predator Falls
- 09:15 Extreme Survivors
- 10:10 Wild 24
- 11:05 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 12:00 World's Weirdest (2015)
- 12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 13:50 Australia's Deadly Monsters
- 14:45 Secrets Of The Wild
- 15:40 World's Deadliest
- 16:35 Hunter Hunted
- 17:30 Monster Fish
- 18:25 Wild Far East
- 19:20 Secrets Of The Wild
- 20:10 World's Deadliest
- 21:00 Hunter Hunted
- 21:50 Monster Fish
- 22:40 Wild Far East
- 23:30 World's Weirdest (2015)

OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:25 Wanted
- 02:25 Amelia
- 04:30 The Lovely Bones
- 06:45 Dick Tracy
- 08:35 The War
- 10:45 Changeling
- 13:05 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
- 15:40 Beaches
- 17:40 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 19:25 When A Man Loves A Woman
- 21:35 Hustle And Flow
- 23:35 VHS 2

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:30 Bad Universe
- 01:20 Landing On A Comet: Rosetta
- 02:10 Fire In The Sky
- 03:00 Mission Asteroid
- 03:40 How Do They Do It?
- 04:12 How Do They Do It?
- 04:36 How Do They Do It?
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:24 Food Factory
- 05:48 Food Factory
- 06:12 Food Factory
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
- 08:14 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
- 09:02 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
- 09:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 10:38 Da Vinci's Machines
- 11:26 How Do They Do It?
- 11:50 How Do They Do It?
- 12:14 How Do They Do It?
- 12:38 Food Factory
- 13:02 Mission Asteroid
- 13:50 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
- 14:38 Man v The Universe
- 15:26 How The Earth Works
- 16:14 Cosmic Collisions
- 17:02 Stephen Hawking's Universe
- 18:40 How To Survive An Asteroid Strike: An Asteroid...
- 19:30 Food Factory
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Food Factory
- 21:35 How Do They Do It?
- 22:00 How Do They Do It?
- 22:50 How Do They Do It?
- 23:15 How Do They Do It?
- 23:40 Mission Asteroid

OSN MOVIES HD

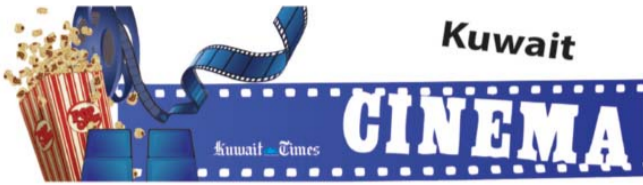
FAMILY

- 00:35 Treasure Planet
- 02:15 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House
- 03:50 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
- 05:30 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
- 07:05 Treasure Planet
- 08:45 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House
- 10:20 Robots
- 11:55 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
- 13:35 Kim Possible: So The Drama
- 15:00 Underdog
-

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (29/06/2017 TO 05/07/2017)

Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:05 AM
THE MUMMY	2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	6:30 PM		
TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:30 PM		
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	4:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:30 PM		
TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	7:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:45 AM		
THE MUMMY	10:30 PM				
THE MUMMY	12:45 AM				
SHARQIA-2	12:00 PM	FANAR-3	11:30 AM	AVENUES-2	11:30 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	Mr. FROG	1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	1:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	4:00 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	4:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	3:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	6:00 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	6:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	5:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	8:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	9:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	7:30 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	10:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:30 AM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	10:15 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:45 AM			PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3	12:30 PM	FANAR-4	12:00 PM	AVENUES-3	12:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	3:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	7:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	6:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	6:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	9:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	8:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:00 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	12:30 AM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	10:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:00 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:30 AM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:45 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-1	11:45 AM	FANAR-5	12:30 PM	AVENUES-4	2:45 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:45 PM	THE MUMMY	2:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:45 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	4:30 PM	Mr. FROG	5:00 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	2:45 PM
THE MUMMY	6:45 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	7:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	5:30 PM
TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	9:30 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	9:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:30 PM
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	11:45 PM	THE MUMMY	12:30 AM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	9:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	12:30 PM			TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:15 AM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:30 PM	MARINA-1	2:15 PM	360°-1	11:30 AM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	5:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 PM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:15 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	3:30 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	10:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	5:30 PM
KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	12:05 AM	TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	9:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3	9:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 PM	THE MUMMY	1:45 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	11:30 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	3:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	4:15 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	1:00 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	5:30 PM	THE MUMMY	6:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	3:45 PM
DESPICABLE ME 3	7:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	9:15 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	5:45 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	9:30 PM	MARINA-3	12:45 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	7:45 PM
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:15 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:45 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	9:45 PM
FANAR-1	11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1	11:45 AM
DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	6:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:45 PM
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	4:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	8:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM
THE MUMMY	6:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	10:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:45 PM
TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	9:45 PM	THE MUMMY	1:00 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:45 PM
THE MUMMY	12:05 AM	AVENUES-1	1:00 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	9:45 PM
FANAR-2	11:45 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	3:45 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:30 AM
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	6:30 PM		
TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	1:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	9:15 PM		

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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 2/7/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 2/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	ME A	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	413	Bangkok	12:20
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
SAW	713	Damascus	00:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:55	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FE G	932	Alexandria	13:55
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	SV A	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	VIZ	204	TOD	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	SAW	710	Latakia	16:50
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
BVL	151	Varna	04:00	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
CEB	018	Manila	04:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
FE G	931	Alexandria	05:00	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	504	Luxor	17:55
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	SV A	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
BAW	157	London	06:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:50	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ICV	675	Hong Kong	19:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	371	Trivandrum	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SV A	512	Riyadh	10:00	ME A	403	Beirut	21:15
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:30
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	KAC	203	Lahore	21:45
ME A	404	Beirut	10:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
KAC	522	Al Najaf	11:20	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	358	Mashhad	12:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				JZR	528	Asyut	23:05
				KAC	783	Jeddah	23:10
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				RBG	552	Alexandria	23:40

CROSSWORD 1648



ACROSS

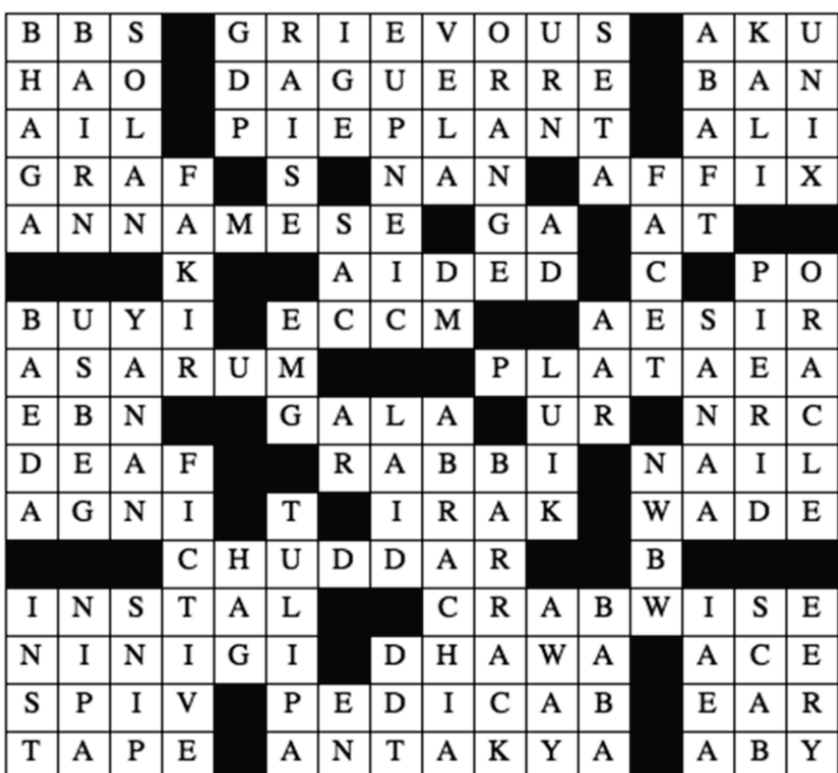
1. A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
5. A governor of a province in ancient Persia.
11. Toward the mouth or oral region.
15. Relatively deep or strong.
16. Outstanding Italian operatic tenor (1873-1921).
17. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
18. Ancient Greek philosopher who formulated paradoxes that defended the belief that motion and change are illusory (circa 495-430 BC).
19. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
20. A sign of something about to happen.
21. Exultantly proud and joyful.
23. Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
25. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
28. The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
30. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
35. Existing alone or consisting of one entity or part or aspect or individual.
38. Too old to be useful.
40. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
43. An informal term for a father.
44. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
45. Any of various herbaceous plants whose leaves or stems or flowers are cooked and used for food or seasoning.
49. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
51. An accountant certified by the state.
52. A port city in southwestern Iran.
54. Old World woody vines.
56. South Asian deer with three-tined antlers.
59. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
60. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
61. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
65. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
69. Not made with leavening.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Of or relating to the African republic of Somalia or its people or their language and culture.
75. Jordan's port.
76. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
77. Of or relating to an oracle.
79. (British) Your grandmother.
80. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
81. A person with the same name as another.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
2. The median ridge on the breastbone of birds that fly.

3. Fiber from an East Indian plant *Hibiscus cannabinus*.
4. A short pithy instructive saying.
5. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
6. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
7. Small genus of Eurasian aquatic perennial herbs.
8. Type genus of the Rubiaceae.
9. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
10. Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
11. Germanic barbarian leader who ended the western Roman Empire in 476 and became the first barbarian ruler of Italy (434-493).
12. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
13. In bed.
14. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
22. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
24. Cook and make edible by putting in a hot oven.
26. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
27. A room equipped with toilet facilities.
29. South American tamarin with a tufted head.
31. That is to say.
32. A blind god.
33. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
34. A city in Indonesia.
36. A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
37. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
39. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
41. (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the network.
42. A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gases.
46. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
47. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
48. The eighth month of the Hindu calendar.
50. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
53. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
55. A rational motive for a belief or action.
57. A toroidal shape.
58. A strong paper or thin cardboard with a smooth light brown finish made from e.g. Manila hemp.
62. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
63. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
64. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
66. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
67. The habitation of wild animals.
68. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
70. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
73. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
74. (informal) Of the highest quality.
78. A state in northwestern North America.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Legal work, not necessarily problems, may come into play today. Perhaps there is someone near you who needs your guidance. Your very fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make future legal work a distinct possibility for you. You may already have a working knowledge or some experience with the law. You also have a great interest in ideas; the more true and lasting they are, the better. You may be able to give someone some good ideas that will help him or her avoid legal problems. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine businessperson; however, you may find yourself entertaining others this evening. You are always at center stage; entertaining or organizing a group, which is just another one of your many talents.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You will have several opportunities to work with young people today—perhaps involving your teaching of economics or budgeting. You have an inner urge to be all things to all people and would rather bend than argue. You are a natural diplomat, always courteous and concerned with the comfort and welfare of others. You stay in the background until you need to make the best of your talents. If you are working today, work is profitable and you will successfully use an opportunity to bring out the cooperation of others. Yours is a reflective mind, a mirror for others. You are equally-minded and easy to talk with—a great mediator or negotiator. You are particularly good at relations, politics, diplomacy and sales. Do nice things for you tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There may be several times today where you could be in a position to guide young people. Perhaps several young people are helping in the workplace for a few weeks. This could mean taking inventory or rearranging inventory. You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than yourself. They just tend to follow you around. Gathering and exchanging information becomes important this afternoon as it is imperative that an update is recorded of your good work. There is much interest in new equipment as well. This evening, neighbors or siblings have a big impact on your goals. This is a mentally and socially active period. As a footnote regarding expenses... Plan for the future now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may come face to face with someone who has very different values from your own. You could find yourself cast in an opposing position or perhaps, as an influential presence. You will be searching to find some sort of middle ground in which to deal with this situation. You are very tolerant and accepting of other people's differences so you have good insight into all social values. You have been chosen to help in today's work for positive reasons. You like to simplify, compromise and otherwise show your talents—like a coat of many colors. Your flair for the unconventional may not receive much support today but you have a talent you never seem to recognize, which is making something positive out of something negative. This is achievement.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You handle your responsibilities better than most and may take on obligations as though you just cannot get enough. As an exceptional worker, you pour yourself into most any task with absolute determination. Perhaps you are in the rare job that affords you the opportunity to be around your favorite things. This could be training animals, curator of a museum, flight instructor or many other things that temporarily electrify and entertain the average individual. It is clear to you that your unconventional could cost you eventually and investments are imperative for the future. Your drive to succeed is strong, and you are becoming successful. Take vacations or trips to further advance your skills or help others to improve. Teach others healthy stress relief.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have a continued interest in adventure and may reveal a motto that says your attention is on yourself for now. This is your time to shine! A well-earned vacation could be in the forecast and you have an idea of where or how you would like to spend this vacation time. This may mean visiting a long-lost relative or scuba diving in the south Atlantic. There is open communication available and you can really get your thoughts and ideas across to others. You could find that you are appreciated for your courage and your ability to act on your dreams. If you find the right opening in a conversation you will be successful in inviting some fun company for this diving trip. A sense of harmony makes this a happy time. There is an adventure waiting to happen.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is a lot of energy available for disciplined work. However, it is good to learn how to pace yourself. If you push yourself or someone else too hard, you may find both of you blocked and frustrated. Your career and life direction are putting some real pressure on your home and personal life so this day is a good time to set aside a bit of needed family time. You will be able to work with a positive energy flow for whatever you can arrange this weekend. Before you know it, you will find many rewards from all of your efforts. You may be able to enjoy an accomplishment of another family member. Someone visiting your home this afternoon brings laughter. Perhaps dinner away from home would bring about some much needed relaxation.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If you are working today you could have a short day. Leftover or unfinished business may be a promise to keep with a friend that may want to see a new home or some new area of town with new homes. You may have previously decided to find the easy route or just look around in the area to see which area might be most desirable to their needs. After work, you may pop into the newest grocery store, or the newest comic book store. Who knows, you may discover that a new group will be performing or some demonstration reaches your curiosity. Your energies continue to remain in a curiosity type of mode. You may decide to enhance your day further with a movie. A friend, a sibling or parent could be happy to attend this event or movie with you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A sense of security, belonging and nurturing are instinctively felt now. You can be very commanding. You have great confidence and a take-charge sort of manner. You are a great doer once you make up your mind what it is you are going to do—others accept your commanding nature. You can also be a good team player. You enjoy working hard at being organized and you exercise skill and discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. This is a perfect day to show off your excellent management skills. You can find support from all sides when it comes to any sort of mental activity—writing, speaking and all forms of communication. There is a lot of mental activity today. You create positive activities in your home environment tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A new or alternate life style and new ways in which to make a living are interesting to you at this time. You may not be all that satisfied in your work choices and you could surprise yourself by requesting an internship with a fishing boat captain, a prison guard or a horse wrangler. You are economy personified—always able to salvage and redeem anything. You like to tend and care for people, animals and things. You relax by working. Belonging, security and nurturing are the issues you instinctively sense at this time. You want roots; you crave a sense of intimate connection that will last. You have successfully applied practical competence and a love of routine work into your life. You enjoy the social life and this is a good night to enjoy the crowds.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may find yourself dealing with matters of much concern and responsibility and a little puzzle solving. You may find yourself working extra hard to gain the respect and admiration of someone you hold in great esteem. You are very sensitive, even vulnerable when it comes to expressing yourself today. This is a time of intense creativity, enabling you to go through changes and inner growth. This creative intensity is good for any problem-solving opportunity, as well as music, poetry, art, etc. It should be a really good time for clear decision making and problem-solving. Later today you may decide that it is time to shop for a special gift. You have much enthusiasm about a new diet—raw food only. This is a good way to heal.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your timing should be perfect and you will also find the right words, good choices and spontaneity as well. There is a lot of busy work—communication, investigation and research—perhaps through probing questions. You are not afraid of a good confrontation and you seldom pull any punches. You may find yourself involved in some sort of research or any work that requires digging, searching, investigating and getting beneath the surface of a situation. You totally enjoy social interchange. When those in command, higher-ups or customers ask for you to make changes in your work or business, you are ready, willing and able. You enjoy variety and change. Thinking, writing, researching and sciences are good interests for you.

WORD SEARCH

The Golden Girls

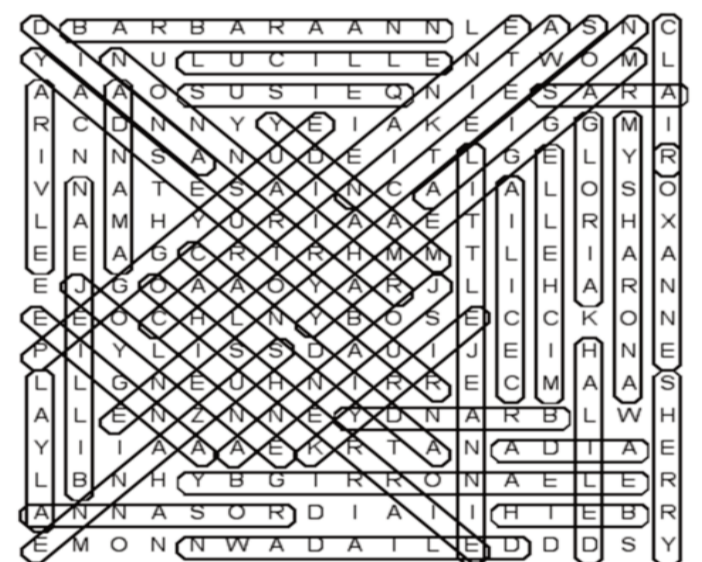
Find and circle all of the words and names from *The Golden Girls* TV show. The remaining letters spell the name of a spinoff of *The Golden Girls*.

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

BEA ARTHUR COMEDY RUE MCCLANAHAN
BETTY WHITE DOROTHY RUSTY ANCHOR
BIG DADDY ESTELLE GETTY SHADY PINES
BLANCHE FRIENDSHIP SITCOM
CHARLEY MIAMI SOPHIA
CHEESECAKE MILES SOUTHERN BELLE
CLAYTON RELATIONSHIPS ST OLAF
COCO ROSE STAN

Friday's Solution

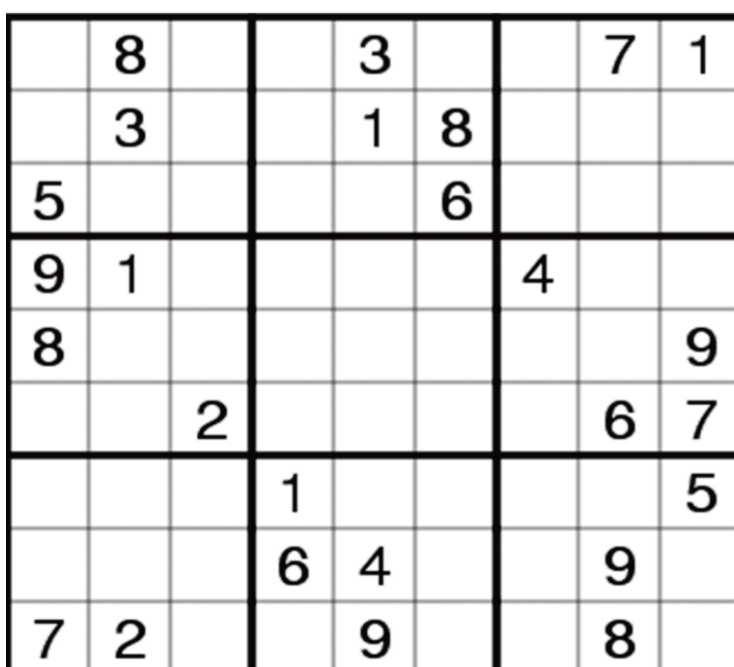
Songs With Girls' Names



ADIA AMANDA ANGIE BARBARA ANN BETH BILLIE JEAN BRANDY CANDIDA CARRIE ANNE CECILIA CLAIR DELILAH DELTA DAWN
DIANA ELEANOR RIGBY ELVIRA GLORIA JOANNA JOLENE KYRIE LAYLA LITTLE JEANNIE LUCILLE MAGGIE MAY MANDY MICHELLE
MY SHARONA NIKITA OH SHERIE PEGGY SUE RHIANNON ROSANNA ROKANNE RUBY TUESDAY SARA SHERRY SUSIE Q SUZANNE SWEET CAROLINE

The hidden song title is: LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



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PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

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

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

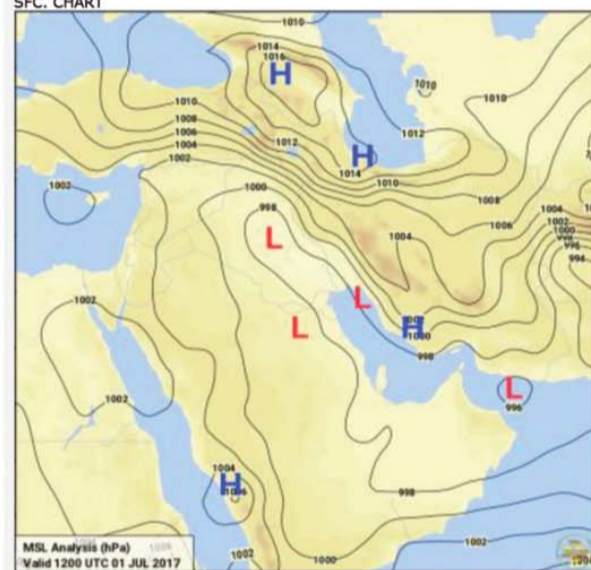
Issued 01/07/2017-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 29 °C

By Night :Relatively hot with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to light south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h with a chance for haze.

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate south westerly wind changing to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Very hot	Very hot	Very hot	Very hot + and some scattered clouds will appear
Min Temp °C	29	30	30	32
Max Temp °C	49	49	48	48
Wind Direction	south westerly changing to variable	variable	southerly to south easterly	south easterly changing to south westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	06 - 22	10 - 35	08 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	EXP	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	34		45
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29		48
ABDALY	30		48
BUBYAN	28		41
JAHRRA	31		49
FAILAKA ISLAND	29		45
SALMIYAH	32		39
AHMADI	34		42
JAL ALIYAH	29		48
QAROH ISLAND	31		41
UMM AL-MARADEM	31		40
NUWAISIB	30		47
WAFRA	29		48
SALMY	30		46
MUTRIBA	28		49

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	48
Min Temp (°C)	35
Max Rel Hum (%)	18
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	57 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:52
Sunset	18:52

Tomorrow Prayer Times

Fajr	03:17
Sunrise	04:52
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:52
Isha	20:23



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

MUSIC & MOVIES

Hip hop in **Central African Republic** brings hope in crisis

In this photo Lionel Fotot, wearing a brown leather jacket and white pants, poses for a photograph with other members of the One Force Hip Hop band in Bangui, Central African Republic. — AP photos

Lionel Fotot once watched a crowd kill a 6-year-old Muslim boy with a machete. He can't shake the memories of the brutalities he witnessed as Central African Republic collapsed into sectarian violence. So the young hip hop artist was heartened when his One Force group, comprised of Christians and Muslims, performed to a packed crowd at the largest venue in the capital, the 20,000-seat Barthelemy Boganda Stadium. "Our music is like a medicine that can heal the country," Fotot said. "Before they disarm their weapons, the youth have to disarm their hearts."

Central African Republic has faced interreligious and intercommunal fighting since 2013, when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the capital, Bangui. Anti-balaka militias, mostly Christians, fought back, resulting in thousands of people killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. The situation has worsened in recent months, with more than 300 people killed and 100,000 people displaced since mid-May after attacks in the impoverished country's southeast

and center. Music is one approach in trying to pull the nation together again.

Twenty young rappers from Central African Republic recently attended a jam session and cultural exchange with visiting Congolese-American rapper and academic Omekongo Dibinga. Organized by the US Embassy and UN peacekeeping forces in the country, the event was meant to "try to inspire them and to give them hope," said UN spokesman Herve Verhoosel. "Sometimes people here lack confidence in themselves and their future, because all that they have known since they were born has been conflict, people dying," Verhoosel said.

One of the young rappers at the event was Marlon Bisseni, who practices every day at home or with members of his rap group Enigmatique. The 21-year-old also studies human resources at a local university, knowing he needs a way to survive in a country where most people make less than a dollar a day. "I love hip hop. Without music, I am nothing," said Bisseni, also known as "Rym Thug." The coun-

try's growing community of hip hop artists looks toward a brighter future. "We say, 'No. Stop. We don't need war,'" said 23-year-old artist Felix Ngobo. "We say, 'It doesn't matter if you're Christian or Muslim! We are all the same!'"

Ngobo performs as "Felika Joker" in his LK City group, with songs entitled "We need peace" and "Reconciliation Street." Dibinga, the visiting rapper and academic at American University, advised the young rappers in Bangui to stay true to their voice and draw on their own experiences instead of emulating US artists. "Art is community," Dibinga said. "Whether you're Muslim or Christian, whether you're whatever ... you have more things in common than things that are different. That's how we start to build. And when people are picking up the microphone, they're not picking up the guns." — AP

'Heartbroken' Adele cancels final two shows of tour



This file photo shows British singer Adele performs onstage during the 59th Annual Grammy music Awards in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

British songstress Adele yesterday cancelled the final two shows of her sold-out world tour scheduled to take place in London's Wembley stadium this weekend due to damaged vocal cords. "I went to see my throat doctor this evening because my voice didn't open up at all today and it turns out I have damaged my vocal cords," Adele wrote in a statement on her Twitter account.

"And on medical advice I simply am unable to perform over the weekend. To say I'm heartbroken would be a complete understatement," she added. The singer said she "struggled vocally" during her first two shows at Wembley stadium on Wednesday and Thursday where she performed both nights in front of a sold-out crowd of 100,000, and that she had "even considered miming." "But I've never done it and I cannot in a million years do that to you. It wouldn't be the real me up there," she wrote.

Apologizing to fans, the balladeer added that refunds would be available if she was unable to reschedule. Adele has in the past spoken candidly about how difficult she finds touring and hinted on Thursday that she may retire from live performances after these Wembley concerts. "Touring is a peculiar thing. It doesn't suit me particularly well," said a handwritten note included in Thursday's concert program, which several fans posted on social media.

"I'm a real homebody and I get so much joy in the small things. Plus I'm dramatic and have a terrible history of touring," she wrote. "I wanted my final shows to be in London because I don't know if I'll ever tour again and so I want my last time to be at home," she added. But her "25" tour saw her packing areas across Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. In Los Angeles, she broke a record by selling out eight consecutive shows at the Staples Center. — AFP

Cajun music's million seller song 'The Back Door' turns 55

A song the writer's bandleader hated has become one of Cajun music's all-time greatest hits, and the writer's home town salutes him and the song's 55th anniversary today. D.L. Menard was 30 in 1962 when he wrote "La Porte en Arriere" ("The Back Door") - a jaunty ditty in Cajun French about a guy who gets so drunk he has to sneak into his house through the back door. Menard says bandleader Elias Badaeux told him it stunk. But that song helped make him a goodwill ambassador for Cajun music and culture, traveling to dozens of countries on State Department tours. Menard is in the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame and the Cajun Music Hall of Fame, and in 1994 was named a national heritage fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Now 85, Menard will be performing "The Back Door" and other songs today in a tribute created as part of the town of Erath's Fourth of July celebration. The exhibit about Menard in the Acadian Museum in Erath is also being expanded. Counting other artists' covers, "La Porte en Arriere" has sold more than a million copies, said Floyd Soileau, whose Swallow Record Co. released it as a single in July 1962 and whose companies also hold the song's copyright.

"People say 'Jolie Blonde' is the Cajun national anthem. That's long past," he said. "The Back Door" is the anthem for Cajuns today. Everybody knows it. Everybody loves it." Menard grew up on a farm, speaking Cajun French but learning the country music he heard on the radio - there weren't any Cajun music shows - and loving Hank Williams. At 16, he bought his first guitar after his family moved into the town, where about 2,100 people live now, about 100 miles west of New Orleans.

An uncle had a band, and let Menard attend a rehearsal. The teenager fell for the guitar and got the band's guitarist to teach him. Six months later, he said, he had his first paying gig with Badaeux and the Louisiana Aces. Badaeux hired him because he could sing songs in English, Menard said. Menard said "The Back Door" was the second song he wrote, jotted down in between pumping gas, checking oil and fixing flats at the gas station where he worked. "I had the story and I knew what to say," he said in a phone interview. The Louisiana Aces came in to cut four tracks, Soileau said. He said he was changing the tape reel after recording the first two when Menard picked up his guitar and started singing.

"It caught my ear. I said, 'That sounds great, guys. Are we doing that tonight?'" The question brought silence, Soileau said. Then Badaeux said "yes." A decade or so later, Soileau said, he learned that Menard and Badaeux had argued all the way to the studio about whether to record the song. "Thank God he decided to play it for me," Soileau said. Menard recalls the session differently. He said the group was practicing his tune during the break, and Soileau said, "Fellas, we got to make that one right. That's going to be the hit."

Whatever happened, the song got recorded, and soon brought so many requests that Menard got sick of it. "I told my wife I was sorry I wrote that song, because I had to sing it five, six times. My wife sat me down and made it straight to me that I had a hit. I didn't know. I had no idea," Menard said. Now, he said, it's his favorite song: "That song brought me to 38 countries." — AP

Beyonce and Jay-Z twins' names could be Rumi and Sir

The wait may be over for the names of the twins of music power couple Beyonce and Jay-Z. Signs point to the names as Rumi and Sir. The pop diva and rapper, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have filed to US authorities to copyright "Rumi Carter" and "Sir Carter," ensuring no one else profits from the names to sell anything from fragrances to music. The filings with the US Patent and Trademark Office come from an identical California address to an earlier application for the name of the couple's five-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy Carter.

Jay-Z and Beyonce and their representative have not commented on the twin's names or even confirmed their birth, although Beyonce's father acknowledged her delivery over social media. Gossip site TMZ first reported the copyright filings and noted that they were dated Monday, the same time the parents were said to return to their Los Angeles home with the twins. Rumi is the name of the 13th-century Persian poet who endures as one of the best-loved writers of the Sufi spiritual tradition, with verses that celebrate love, joy and tolerance.

Jay-Z on Friday released his 13th album, "4:44," in which he alludes to Persian poetry on the song "Marcy Me," which describes his upbringing in a public housing project in Brooklyn. Appearing to liken his rhyming skills to the literary tradition, Jay-Z raps, "Sufti to the goofies / I could probably speak Farsi." The choice of "Sir" is less obvious, although the two names raise speculation that both children are boys. News of the twins-first revealed when a pregnant Beyonce showed her bare baby bump on Instagram has delighted the two stars' fans, some of whom expect a musical dynasty along the lines of the Jacksons. Blue Ivy has already appeared in music including on Jay-Z latest album, in a song in which the rapper vows that his family will carry on his business empire and help represent African Americans. — AFP



In this file photo, Beyonce and Jay Z watch during the first half in Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series between the Los Angeles Clippers and the Utah Jazz in Los Angeles. — AP



A family plot which once contained the body of Reverend A Joseph Maskell, whose body was exhumed for the cold case investigation into the murder of Sister Catherine Cesnik. — AFP

MYSTERY OF NUN'S UNSOLVED MURDER IS LATEST US DOCUMENTARY HIT

A documentary about the mysterious killing of a beloved young Catholic nun half a century ago is the latest smash hit on Netflix, highlighting the popularity of true crime stories in America these days. The series called "The Keepers," which began last month, is a suspenseful examination of the crime committed in 1969. People with information about the case are now either deceased or elderly. The nun, a cheerful, buoyant woman known as Sister Cathy, was 26 when she died. She was a teacher at the all-girls' Archbishop Keough High School, and her students were crazy about her.

But there was apparently a dark side of the school, overseen by the Baltimore archdiocese. The school chaplain, Father Joseph Maskell, was allegedly a dangerous pedophile who exerted psychological domination over his victims. Maskell, who was also a police chaplain, denied any wrongdoing. He died in 2001 and was never charged. The makers of "The Keepers" follow the dogged work of two women in their 60s, Gemma Hoskins and Abbie Schaub, students of Sister Cathy (whose last name was Cesnik), who created a Facebook page to try to learn the truth about the death of their teacher. The retired women effectively become detectives, digging back into decades' worth of files and creating an online posse of sleuths.

Breaking the silence

The pair uncover stunning information, which is revealed over the course of the series' seven episodes. Dozens of former students at the high school came forward to break decades of silence and talk about how they were sexually abused by Father Maskell. The hypothesis of the series is that Sister Cathy was killed by the priest as she was about to reveal his crimes. The success of the series illustrates Americans' fascination with so-called cold cases-unresolved cases that are technically open but all but dead.

Two similar documentaries have recently made real-life impacts. A man named Adnan Syed, convicted of killing his girlfriend, may get a new trial thanks to the hit podcast "Serial." And a man imprisoned for life as a minor may be freed because of documentary TV series "Making a Murderer." "The Keepers" is also stirring up pressure for justice. "People are very angry. That's the emotion I am seeing most that comes

out of it. People are frustrated," said Ryan White, the director of the series. "They want something to be done about it."

The church strikes back

Over the course of the work by White's team, which lasted three years, two major institutions in Baltimore—a port city with many Catholics—were heavily criticized for their handling of the case: the police and the Catholic Church. They have now hit back. Accused of ignoring Father Maskell's victims, the archbishop of Baltimore published online a series of questions about the case and the church's response to them. This approach, too, has been criticized.

"I am someone now who is very protective of Maskell's survivors, because I spent the last three years listening to them and I am indebted to them because their stories comprise 'The Keepers,'" said White. "And to watch the Catholic Church come out in attack mode, questioning the integrity of them and the documentary, I call this sickening." Church officials insist they did not learn of accusations against the priest until 1992 and accuse "The Keepers" of misrepresenting the role of the church in the case.

"At no point do we suggest that Maskell was not guilty, or that the victims aren't telling the truth. We believe that to be the case," said Sean Caine, a spokesman for the Baltimore archdiocese. As soon as the allegations emerged, Caine said, "we hired a private investigator. We spent hundreds of hours investigating it, interviewing former students, former family members, people in the community. No success at all." But he acknowledged the church could have done a better job at public relations given the raw emotions raised by the documentary.

Police have reopened the investigation, acutely aware that, with the series' popularity, they are being closely watched. Maskell's remains were exhumed to see if his DNA could be linked to the killing of Sister Cathy. The results turned up nothing. But the probe has taken on another, larger dimension. "I think we can still find out the answer and I think Father Maskell engineered this murder," said White. — AFP

MICK JAGGER SAYS
NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL
SAVED HIM FROM PRISON

Rock superstar Mick Jagger says a newspaper editorial was responsible for helping him avoid prison for a minor drug offense in 1967. The Rolling Stones frontman tells the Times of London yesterday that he had been sentenced to three months in jail not because of the severity of his crime but because band members were being "scapegoats" by an older generation critical of their lifestyle.

The Times editorial underscored this point, saying Jagger should be treated "exactly the same as anyone else." The 73-year-old singer tells the newspaper "that editorial got me out jail. One day it dropped, and the next thing I was out." Jagger credits the editorial with telling the establishment "come on guys, this is just not English fair play kind of thing." — AP



In this May 10, 1967 file photo, Mick Jagger, lead singer of the British rock band "The Rolling Stones", center left, and Keith Richards, guitarist of the band, right, are surrounded by fans as they leave court, in Chichester, England. — AP

FEATURE



Maria Chlastawa on her yard where the walls of buildings are covered with traditional flower patterns in Zalpie, southern Poland. — AFP photos



Gabriela (left) and her mother Boguslawa (right) painting traditional flower patterns on the wall of a farm building in Zalpie.

The legacy of all-year blooms in Poland's painted village

'As you can see I'm covered in flowers'



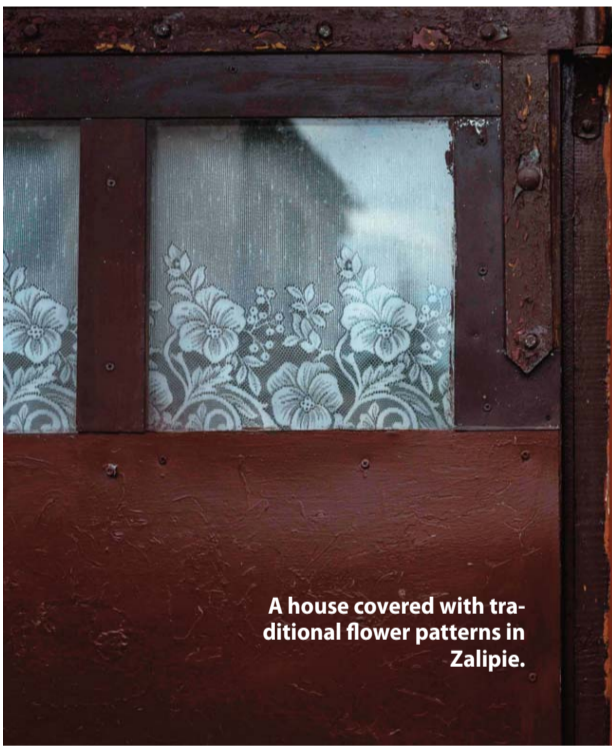
A hen walking past a door covered with traditional flower patterns.

Danuta Dymon is sitting by the side of the road, painting flowers on her fence. The 70-year-old has been at it since the sun came up, dressed from head to toe in clothes also displaying her brushstroke. "As you can see I'm covered in flowers," she said, adding neon green leaves to the fluorescent orange and pink garland spanning the fence's brick base in front of her home in Zalpie, in southern Poland. Dymon is known around the farming village for having painted flowers on virtually everything under her roof: the ceiling, walls, curtains, pillows, kettle, wooden spoons, boiler, even the toilet.

She took to the paintbrush with particular gusto but she is not alone: for over a century, Zalpie women—and the occasional man—have been decorating the inside and outside of their homes with folk art. Last year, some 25,000 tourists from countries as far away as Japan and the United States visited the village of 700 people to see the bright, cheerful flowers that adorn about a quarter of the cottages nestled among fields of corn, cabbage and strawberries.



Farm buildings covered with traditional flower patterns in Zalpie.



A house covered with traditional flower patterns in Zalpie.



Origins in soot

The tradition began in the late 19th century as a way to cover up sooted walls in the smoke-filled area around the stove, according to the head of the local community center, Wanda Chlastawa. "Women would take a homemade brush, dip it in whitewash and whack at the dirty wall to brighten up the space with the white splotches," the 59-year-old

director of the center, appropriately called the House of Painters, told AFP.

"Later they started adding dots, lines and circles and that's how the first primitive flowers came to be." The first floral motifs were limited to three colors—white, black and beige—made at home out of lime whitewash, soot and clay, while early brushes included birch branches with shredded ends, as well as horse or cow tail hairs tied together with twine.

Imaginary flowers

At 78 Maria Chlastawa—not related to Wand—remembers making the brushes at home, as well as using the powdered paints the women would buy once they expanded their repertoire into today's flashy rainbow range of colors. "Sometimes you'd paint, the rain would come, and it'd all run. So you'd have to do it over," she said, adding that today's fast-drying acrylic paints are a whole lot better than what she started with 70 years ago.

"My mum painted so I've been painting since childhood. Then my daughter started painting as a kid, and now my granddaughter is painting too. It's tradition, from one generation to the next." For decades, the village has held a painting contest every spring, when a jury of ethnographers makes the

rounds of the houses and awards prizes. Some residents only paint ahead of the contest, but Chlastawa is at it all year, saying it calms her nerves. "The yard looks sad when everything's white, but here..." she said, before her daughter Boguslawa Mis, 50, chimed in: "Flowers bloom in the winter and autumn!"

Poppies, rose, daisies

While the designs may resemble red poppies or pink roses or white and yellow daisies, they are all drawn from imagination. "They're invented flowers. You won't find them in any field," said 44-year-old Anna Owca, who works at the community center and did not grow up in a painter family, but instead married into one.

"We moved in with my mother-in-law and when I walked in, there were flowers everywhere. I was 19 then and I thought, 'My God, I'm gonna lose it. I can't look at this,'" she said, laughing. "First thing I wanted to do was paint over all the flowers... But then, after a year or two, I started painting as well. 'And I remember my husband saying, 'Damn. I was born among flowers and now I'll die among flowers too.'"— AFP



Anna Owca posing as she paints traditional flower patterns on a wall in Zalpie.



Anna Owca painting traditional flower patterns on the wall of a farm building in her yard in Zalpie.



Houses covered with traditional flower patterns in Zalpie.

FASHION



CHANEL takes its Mademoiselle Prive exhibition to South Korea



CHANEL presented the next stage of the Mademoiselle Prive exhibition at the D Museum in Seoul. This unique experience that took place on June 23rd and will continue till July 19, 2017, captures the audacity and energy of the brand, the brilliance of Karl Lagerfeld's creative vision on the story of Gabrielle Chanel and his take on CHANEL's codes, symbols and icons projected into the future with surprise and daring.

Exhilarating on every level, Mademoiselle Prive Seoul concentrates on Haute Couture designs by Karl Lagerfeld, the re-editions of Gabrielle Chanel's one and only High Jewelry collection 'Bijoux de Diamants' created in 1932, the legendary CHANEL N°5 fragrance, and further pep up the adventure into the origins of CHANEL's creations with digital dynamism and Korean touches.

Curated in the style of an incredible journey, Mademoiselle Prive will twist and turn throughout and offer elements of wonderment. Visitors enter the exhibition through a staircase topped by a ceiling inspired by Gabrielle Chanel's Coromandel lacquered screens' patterns, leading down to the first floor, offering a very first glimpse inside the fascinating aesthetic world of CHANEL.

Through a series of installments, level M1 dazzles with Gabrielle Chanel's influence. The graphic Deauville room whose hat boxes and series of mini-films evoke her very first boutique opened in 1913 in France highlights the enduring modernity of the allure she invented. The next room celebrates exceptional totems referencing the House's codes and symbols -lucky charms, colors, patterns and figures- that were dear to Gabrielle Chanel and are continued by Karl Lagerfeld. The camellia, Gabrielle Chanel's fetish flower which remains indissolubly linked to the brand's creations, is revisited by Korean artist Jiyong Lee.

The third room is dedicated to CHANEL N°5, created by Gabrielle Chanel in 1921, and evokes the key ingredients of the iconic fragrance. Visitors first discover an artistic interpretation of the May rose, followed by an architecturally designed pipe organ with glass vials, each containing the raw ingredients essential to CHANEL N°5: aldehydes, ylang ylang, May rose, jasmine and sandalwood. The last monolith captures the abstract composition of the legendary fragrance, while the final touch of the olfactory journey culminates in an airlock permeated with the scent of CHANEL N°5 L'Eau. The M1 level ends with a Sensory room recalling the inimitable craftsmanship of CHANEL's Haute Couture workshops, a canvas wrapped and 3D stitched staircase bridging the downstairs rooms to the upstairs Level M2.

After the work signed by Karl Lagerfeld and inspired by Mademoiselle Chanel's creative studio door at 31 rue Cambon in Paris, several successive sophisticated installations sweep through Gabrielle Chanel's story and ignite the innovative talent of Karl Lagerfeld as illustrated by the Haute Couture neon room whose line-up of stark mannequins contrasts with the x-ray treatment of twelve Haute Couture dresses, all designed by Karl Lagerfeld. Layers of flawless technique are apparent such as embroidery from the House of Lesage or feather work from the House of Lemarié, yet there remains an astounding lightness.

In the next space, Karl Lagerfeld's portraits of seventeen actresses, models and friends of the House of CHANEL from Kristen Stewart to Lily-Rose Depp, wearing Haute Couture and re-editions from the 'Bijoux de Diamants' collection are in constant movement having been segmented, shuffled and elaborately hung.

The visitors are caught by the controlled perfection and the boldness of the Haute Couture silhouettes magnified by mannequins. An army of statuesque glass columns and poetic settings encased in glass enhance the individuality, timelessness and audacity of the 'Bijoux de Diamants' High Jewelry pieces, while a giant rhinestone necklace's white light explosion is skilfully trapped in a cage room, celebrating Gabrielle Chanel's favourite gem, the diamond.



Visitors will end this enthralling Mademoiselle Prive journey with a series of polaroid portraits of friends of the House, including G-Dragon, Caroline de Maigret, Irene Kim and Soo Joo Park wearing the 'Bijoux de Diamants' collection, exhibited for the very first time in Seoul, and the screening of short movies directed by Karl Lagerfeld, including Visite Nocturne, an imaginary conversation between Karl Lagerfeld and Gabrielle Chanel interpreted with exceptional finesse by Geraldine Chaplin.

Upstairs on level 4F there's a space for exclusive Lesage (embroiderer), Lemarié (feather and flower maker), High Jewellery, and N°5 workshops highlighting the craftsmanship and savoir-faire of the House of CHANEL.



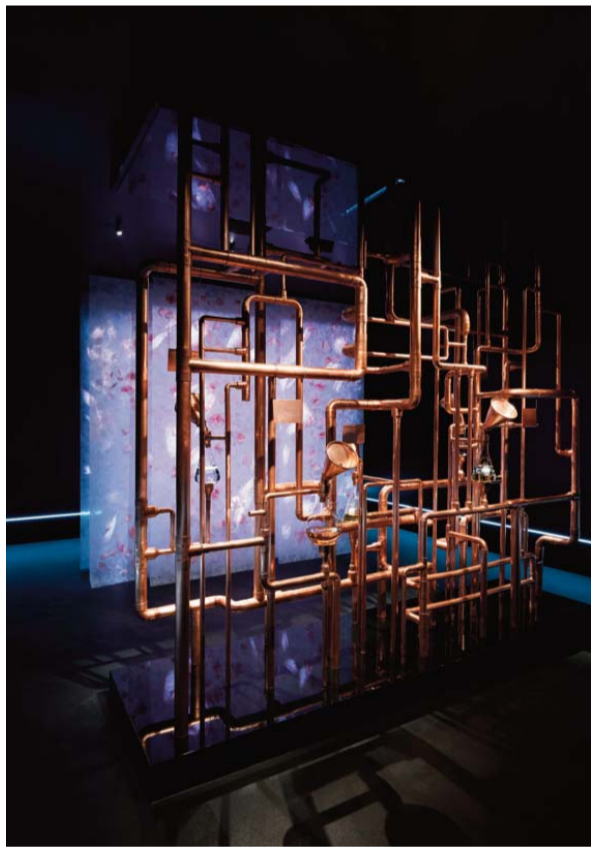
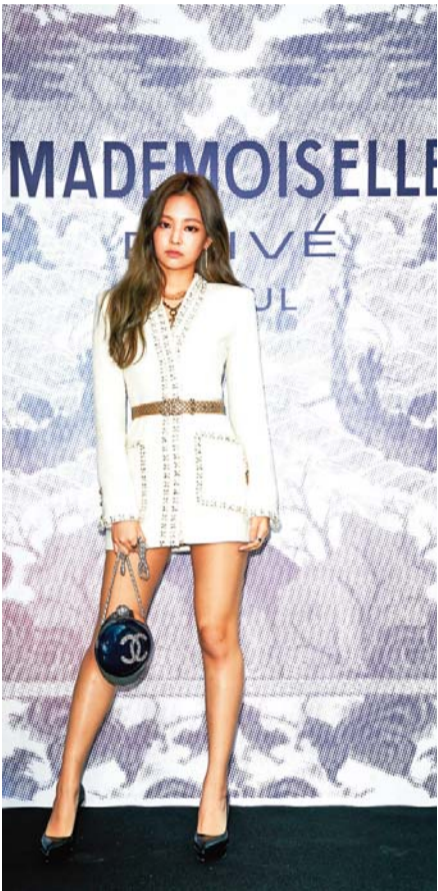


The Mademoiselle Privé Seoul exhibition touches upon the CHANEL icons, codes and symbols and continues in the charismatic and irreverent spirit of Gabrielle Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld to intrigue and charm at the same time.

The opening

The opening guests include CHANEL ambassadors G-Dragon, Caroline de Maigret and the Japanese actress Rinko Kikuchi, as well as model Soo Joo Park and influencer Irene Kim. All of them are part of the Mademoiselle Privé exhibition in Seoul. The CHANEL ambassadors and actresses Gwei Lun Mei, Shin Hye Park and Ye Seul Han, the K-pop singer CL, singers Taeyang and Jennie, actresses Ryeowon Jung, A Sung Ko and Yoon A Lim as well as actors Je Hoon Lee, Chang Wook Ji and Joo Hyuk Nam also attended the exhibition's opening at the D museum.

Following the private view and opening reception at the D MUSEUM, guests celebrated the opening at the S Factory in a setting created especially for the evening with a live performance by G-Dragon. Soo Joo Park, Kingmck and Plastic Kid also DJ'd.



US labels make Paris debut on haute couture catwalks



Two high-end American labels will make their Paris haute couture debuts today in a week when the French capital pays tribute to two of fashion's legends. New York-based Proenza Schouler and Californian house Rodarte—who normally present their collections at New York fashion week—have been invited into the elite haute couture fold, which shows only in Paris. Their debut as guest members comes as Chanel's veteran maestro Karl Lagerfeld will be given the Grand Vermeil medal, the highest honor the city of Paris can bestow, and a major new exhibition opens about Christian Dior.

The Belgium label A.F. Vandevorst and Holland's Ronald van der Kemp have also been invited to show on the haute couture catwalks for first time alongside French brand Azzaro. Only 15 fashion houses including Chanel, Christian Dior, Jean Paul Gaultier, Maison Margiela and Giambattista Valli have the right to call their work haute couture. Their entirely handmade creations, which can cost tens of thousands of euros (dollars) for a single piece, are worn by some of the richest and most powerful women in the world. French haute couture designer Julien Fournie—whose clients include royalty—said he welcomed the inclusion of the American brands, which are best known for dressing Hollywood stars. "Everyone has the right to come to Paris to measure themselves against the greats. All the better (that) the Americans come and we will see what they can do," he added.

Karl Lagerfeld honored

Los Angeles-based Rodarte, run by sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy, have dressed pop star Katy Perry and made headlines with their 2014 "Star Wars"

costumes for the ballet movie "Black Swan", and its star Natalie Portman wore one of their gowns to pick up her Oscar for best actress in 2011. Her husband French choreographer Benjamin Millepied has worked with the sisters on a number of his ballet productions. Proenza Schouler designers Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough will show their spring summer ready to wear line they would have shown in New York in September, allowing them to deliver it to shops two months ahead of the competition.

The haute couture shows will also see newly appointed French designer Maxime Simoens take his first bow at Azzaro, which was founded half a century ago by the Italian Loris Azzaro. But the big set-piece events of the week will as ever be the often spectacular Dior and Chanel shows. Maria Grazia Chiuri will present her second couture collection for Dior on Monday which will be followed by the opening of a new exhibition dedicated to the house's founder Christian Dior at the city's museum of decorative arts. The show, "Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams", which will run until January 2018, traces the history of the brand from Dior's invention of the "New Look" after World War II right up to Chiuri, who became its first female artistic director last July.

And 83-year-old Lagerfeld, known as the "kaiser" for his mastery of the fashion world, will be presented with the Grand Vermeil medal on Tuesday after Chanel's show at the Grand Palais by the mayor of the French capital, Anne Hidalgo. — AFP



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2017

The legacy of all-year blooms in Poland's painted village

37



People stand next to sand sculptures representing characters and scenes of Disney movies during an exhibition Disney Sand Magic in Ostende. On its 20th edition, the festival is organized in partnership with Disney for the 25th anniversary of Disneyland Paris and presents more than 150 sculptures to the public. — AFP



People stand outside the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame "Power of Rock" exhibit in Cleveland, Ohio.



A crowd watches the premiere of a Jonathan Demme highlight reel of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction night concerts at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Rock Hall of Fame to open 'Power of Rock' exhibit

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is opening an exhibit that will give fans a taste of its famous induction ceremonies. Rock 'n' roll fans can get a taste of what it's like to be a star inducted at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame beginning this weekend. The museum is opening an exhibit called "Power of Rock," featuring film clips, laser lights, concert smoke, under-seat speakers and recorded stories by Hall of Fame inductees, including former Deep Purple bassist Glenn Hughes. The exhibit is the centerpiece of an overhaul of the Hall of Fame. Renovations have cost \$15 million to date.

Fans will be able to enter an interactive booth and listen to Hughes, who is set to visit the Hall on Thursday to record his story of how a Rolling Stones concert he attended as a teenager ignited his passion for rock. "When I saw all the hoopla and what was going on the stage, I go, 'I'll have some of this, Mother? May I have a real electric guitar?'" Hughes says. The exhibit, presented exclusively to The Associated Press on Wednesday, opens to the public on Saturday. It will bring to life more than 30

years of the Hall's legendary induction ceremonies through digital displays, memorabilia exhibits and a 12-minute film of ceremony highlights by Academy Award-winning director Jonathan Demme, played on five moving screens.

Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley were among the Hall's first inductees in 1986, and 802 artists have been inducted so far. Visitors starting their tour of the exhibit will wait on a bridge suspended three stories above the Hall's atrium and listen via a stretch of gold and black speakers to the names of Hall inductees in a roll call shout-out: KISS, Journey, the Grateful Dead, among others.

Then 130 people at a time will file into a theater to watch the highlight reel spliced together by Demme, who won an Academy Award for "The Silence of the Lambs" and died in April. "A lot of excitement, a lot of speakers - 'Make it loud' is what he'd always say," said Demme's producer, Rocco Caruso. With laser lights, concert smoke and sliding screens, audience members will be quaking in their seats, literally - with bass speakers booming beneath them. "You not only feel it in your chest,

you feel it in your feet," said Christian Lachel, one of the theater's designers.

The film races through ceremony highlights of more than 100 artists, from Bob Dylan to Metallica, beginning with classic R&B singer Ruth Brown, known in the 1950s as Miss Rhythm, and ending with Prince's guitar-throwing 2004 rendition of the Beatles song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." Prince's black and red suit that night will be in a special showcase, along with the blue bass guitar Tina Weymouth played when the Talking Heads were inducted in 2002. Hughes told the AP he hopes that by telling his story in the "Power of Rock" he will inspire the next generation of musicians who feel the same stirring he did that night in the 1960s, listening to the Rolling Stones. "The artist is suffering. It's difficult to make a living," Hughes said. "But I see the same endeavor, the same hunger, as when I started out, and that's all that really matters." — AP



A line of pictures featuring Hall of Fame inductees is displayed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.



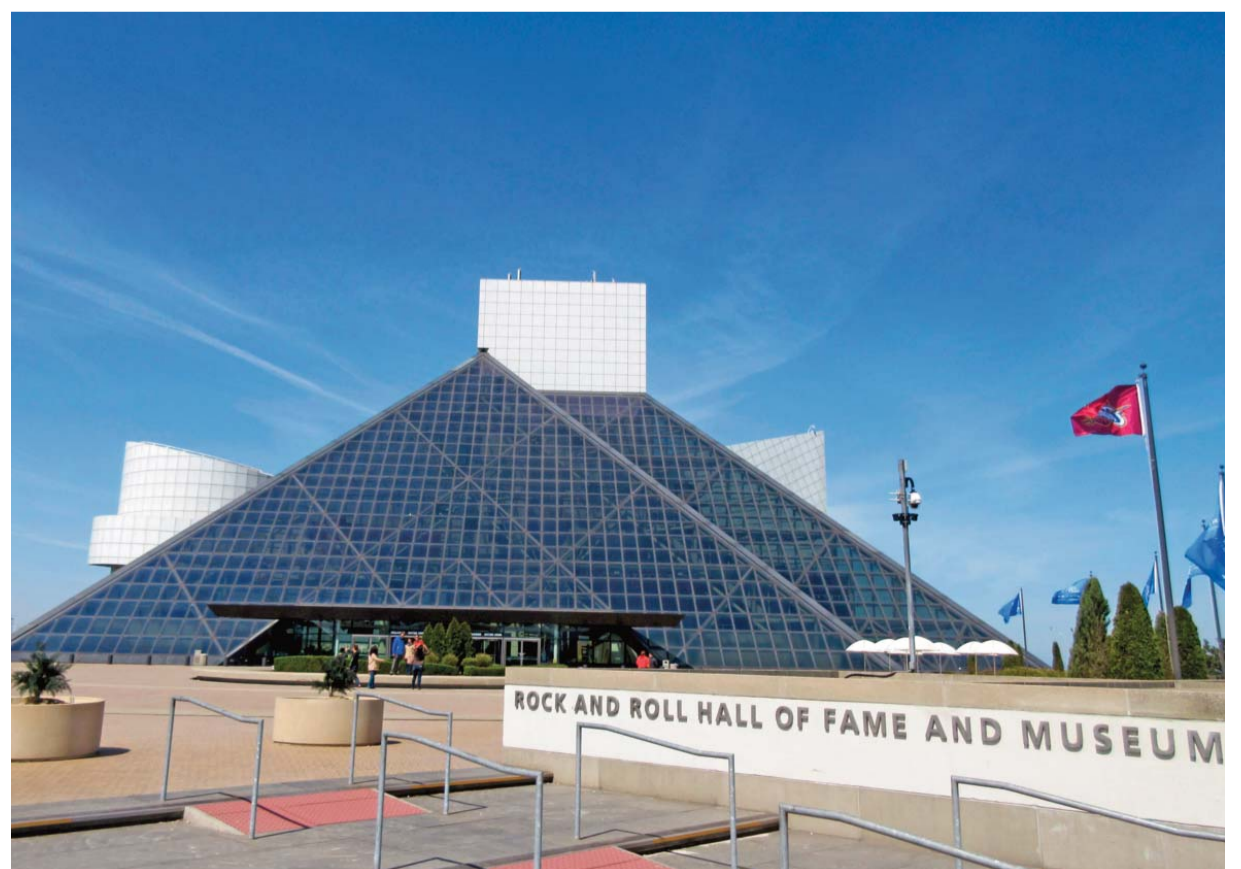
A woman looks at pictures of Hall of Fame inductees at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.



Glenn Hughes, Deep Purple bassist and 2016 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, speaks to a reporter at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.



An outfit Prince wore during his performance of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" at his 2004 induction ceremony is displayed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.



File photo shows the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, located on the shores of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland. — AP photos