

Hundreds of cleaners on strike over pay, 15 arrested



Macron plans to slash France's MPs by a third



McCain-led delegation visits Pak for security talks



Venus in tears over crash as Murray, Nadal stroll



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QATAR RESPONDS TO DEMANDS, DEADLINE EXTENDED BY 48 HRS

TRUMP CALLS GULF LEADERS • FMS TO MEET IN CAIRO • SAUDI KING SKIPS G20 MEET



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Max 48°
High Tide 08:10 & 21:23
Low Tide 01:40 & 15:14



KUWAIT: HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center right) looks at a letter from Qatar's emir given to him by Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani (center left) yesterday. — AP

KUWAIT: Qatar yesterday responded to a list of demands from Saudi Arabia and its allies after they agreed to give a defiant Doha another 48 hours to address their grievances. Details of the response were not immediately available, but a Gulf official told AFP that Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani had delivered it during a short visit to Kuwait, which is acting as a mediator in the crisis.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt had announced in the early hours of yesterday they were pushing back a deadline for Qatar to agree to a list of 13 demands they issued on June 22. A joint statement said they were extending the ultimatum, which had been due to expire at the end of the day on Sunday, at the request of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The demands included Doha ending support for the Muslim Brotherhood, closing broadcaster Al-Jazeera, downgrading diplomatic ties with Iran and shutting down a Turkish military base in the Emirate. Sheikh Mohammed had earlier said the list of demands was "made to be rejected" and yesterday, British lawyers for Qatar denounced the demands as "an affront to international law". "They are reminiscent of the extreme and punitive conduct of 'bully' states that have historically resulted in war," the lawyers said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia and its allies announced on June 5 they were severing ties with their Gulf neighbor, sparking the worst diplomatic crisis to hit the region in decades. They accused Qatar of supporting extremism and of being too close to Saudi Arabia's regional archrival Iran, which Doha has strongly denied.

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BEIRUT: In this June 30, 2017 photo, tourists takes pictures as the sun sets over the Mediterranean Sea. — AP

TOTAL SIGNS IRAN DEAL, DEFIES US

DRAFT LAW CALLS TO HALT WORK IF MERCURY HITS 50

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday proposed a draft law calling to halt work at government departments, universities and schools when the temperature hits 50 degrees Celsius as measured by the official meteorology department. The bill does not apply to private sector establishments. The bill stipulates that work will be halted immediately once the temperature reaches 50 degrees and that all concerned bodies and institutions must be provided with displays to show the exact official temperature.

Tabtabaei said in the explanatory note of the bill that it aims at providing protection to employees against harsh environmental factors, especially extremely hot days in the summer months. He said the draft law requires authorities to take all necessary precautions to protect employees and students from the heat by sending them home when the temperature reaches this mark. Temperatures hit 50 degrees Celsius several times during the summer months from May to September. The mercury has already exceeded 50 degrees a few days this year.

Meanwhile, five lawmakers yesterday submitted a draft law to regulate and organize charity societies and fundraising operations, which proposes hefty jail terms for violators. It calls for the establishment of a committee comprised of the undersecretaries of the ministries of social affairs, interior, finance and foreign affairs, in addition to heads of a number of concerned departments.

Continued on Page 13

TEHRAN: French energy giant Total defied US pressure yesterday by signing a multi-billion-dollar gas deal with Iran, the first by a European firm in more than a decade. Total will invest an initial \$1 billion in the South Pars offshore gas field as part of a consortium with Chinese and Iranian firms. The 20-year project, which will eventually see the firms inject \$4.9 billion, is by far the biggest vote of confidence in the Islamic republic since sanctions were lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"Today, for Total, is a historic day, the day we come back to Iran," Total CEO

Patrick Pouyanne said at the signing ceremony in Tehran. "We aren't a political organization, but I hope this agreement will encourage other companies to come to Iran because economic development is also a way of building peace," he told AFP. "We are here to build bridges, not walls," he added. The project in South Pars, a field shared between Iran and Qatar, is the first under a new Iranian Petroleum Contract which offers better terms to foreign investors but has faced intense criticism from hardliners who said it was too generous.

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TEHRAN: Patrick Pouyanne (left), Chairman and CEO of French energy company Total, shakes hands with Ezzatollah Akbari, Managing Director of Petropars Group, after signing an offshore gas field agreement yesterday. — AFP (See Page 21)

LEBANON SEES TOURISM REBOUND AMID TURMOIL

BEIRUT: Beirut's landmark Hamra Street is bustling again and hotel occupancy rates are on the rise as Lebanon's tourism industry rebounds, thanks in no small part to the misfortunes of its Middle East neighbors, engulfed by wars, chaos and political upheaval. It was just four years ago when Lebanon seemed to be losing its grip on its internal security. The specter of war spilling over from neighboring Syria hung low over the capital and Lebanese proprietors looked longingly to

the stability in Turkey and the Gulf region.

But now, Lebanon's tourism sector is on the rise as the Gulf and Turkey, to the surprise of many, are looking shaky. While neighboring Syria and Iraq burn, the Lebanese industry is looking - cautiously but optimistically - at the promise of a new beginning. "I know the region is going through very difficult times, but Lebanon has gotten lucky," said Tourism Minister Avedis Guidanian.

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FIERY GERMANY BUS CRASH KILLS 18



Members of the fire brigade work at the scene where a tour bus burst into flames following a collision with a trailer truck on highway A9 near Muenchberg in southern Germany yesterday. — AFP

STAMMBACH, Germany: Eighteen people were killed yesterday in one of the deadliest road accidents in recent Germany history when a tour bus carrying pensioners smashed into a trailer truck and burst into flames. Emergency workers retrieved 11 bodies and a search for the remains of seven other victims was underway, Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt said. The blaze was so powerful "that only steel parts are still recognizable on the bus, and from that you can understand what it means for the people on this bus," he said. Thirty people were hospitalized, two of them with life-threatening injuries, the minister told reporters at the site of the accident. The bus was carrying 46 passengers and two drivers from the east German state of Saxony, heading for Nuremberg, when it rammed into the truck in a traffic jam on the A9 motorway, Bild newspaper said. The accident happened near

the small Bavarian town of Stambach, in a region dotted with spas and castles that are popular with summer vacationers. Television images showing only the charred skeleton of the vehicle remaining. Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced "great dismay" over the crash. "Our thoughts and condolences go to the victims and their family members, as well as to the injured," a spokesman said. "We hope that those who have been rescued will recover from their injuries." Some 200 emergency workers were deployed to the site, including firefighters, rescue personnel and police, while southbound traffic on the motorway remained blocked.

Forensic specialists were brought in from Germany's federal police office to remove and identify bodies from the charred vehicle. Dobrindt said rescue work was difficult

because the bus was so badly damaged. When firefighters first arrived, the site was so hot that they couldn't get anywhere close to the burning vehicle to rescue those locked inside, he said, adding "All they could do was extinguish the fire." The relatives of the victims have not yet been contacted because experts are still working on identifying the bodies, Dobrindt said. A phone number was activated to provide family members with information. Psychologists and counselors were talking to the injured and also to the rescue personnel. With the likely toll, the accident at the start of the summer holiday season is one of the worst to hit Germany in recent memory. In June 2007, 13 people were killed when a tour bus plunged down a slope in eastern Germany's Saxony-Anhalt state. In September 1992, 21 people died when a bus swerved out

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top Kuwaiti officials meet with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah welcomes Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani upon his arrival to Kuwait yesterday.

AMIR RECEIVES QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani who handed His Highness a letter from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

The message includes Qatar's response to a list of demands from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt, handed over to Doha

through Kuwait late last month. Kuwait had requested extending by 48 hours Sunday's deadline for Doha to submit the response.

The meeting was also attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah who doubles as Acting Minister of Information, and Director of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad.

In other news, His Highness the Amir yes-

terday received a phone call from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. During the phone conversation, they discussed relations between both friendly countries, issues of mutual interest and the latest regional developments. The Pakistani premier wished His Highness the Amir wellbeing and the State of Kuwait more progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir. His Highness the Amir thanked the Pakistani premier for this contact that reflects the deep and close relations between both friendly countries, wishing him good health and Pakistan more progress

and prosperity.

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Lebanese President Michel Aoun expressing his sorrow over a fire that swept through a refugee camp for Syrian refugees in eastern Lebanon earlier in the day, killing one person and injured many others. In the cable, His Highness the Amir also wished a speedy recovery to all those injured in the blaze. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Lebanese leadership, expressing similar sentiments over the tragedy.

Earlier, Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) reported seven people suffered from smoke inhalation from the blaze at the Al-Raed camp located near Bekka Valley. They were taken for treatment at local hospitals and were discharged later.

Firefighters and civil defense workers battled and put out the blaze. The fire destroyed almost all tents of the camp home to 560 refugees, according to the report by NNA. Lebanon is home to more than 1.2 million Syrian refugees who mainly live in several informal camps across eastern Lebanon, according to UN estimates.—KUNA



Members of the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the conference.— KUNA photos

JABRI LEADS KUWAIT'S DELEGATION TO FAO CONFERENCE

ROME: Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri is leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the 40th Session of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Conference, Rome. The conference that started yesterday focuses on the international strategy and efforts for sustainable development, as well as eradication of hunger. The delegation includes Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled, Director General and Chairman of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) Engineer Faisal Al-Hasawi, and the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegate to FAO, Engineer Yousef Jehail. Minister Jabri will address the session.

The minister will take part today in an international ministerial conference on the rarity of water in the Near East and North African Region, to review Kuwait's efforts to counter the colossal challenge. Kuwait's participation in the FAO conference is part of the country's active role and contribution to drawing up the field and regional policies to enhance food security on the national and international scenes.

On the sidelines of the opening session today, Jabri and Pakistan's Minister of National Food Security and Research Sikandar Hayat discussed bilateral relations and cooperation. The two sides stressed the significance of exchanging expertise, as well as boosting coordination on the international scene. — KUNA



ROME: Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri and Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled attend the FAO Conference.



Members of the Kuwaiti delegation pose with FAO officials.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Chief of National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah. — KUNA

SERBIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES LETTER FROM AMIR

BELGRADE: Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic met yesterday with Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, who handed Vucic a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Jarallah departed Kuwait on Sunday for Belgrade, with an accompanying delegation comprising Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar.

Meanwhile, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic heaped praise on Kuwait for its role as the main mediator in the Gulf crisis, aiming to defuse tensions between the Gulf neighbors. Jarallah held talks with the Serbian official, read a statement by the Kuwaiti Foreign

Ministry. Dacic said that his country was proud of its ties with Kuwait, which date back to 55 years ago and are on course for progress, the statement noted. Jarallah also held talks with the State Secretary of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nemanja Stevanovic. The meeting tackled bilateral ties and reflected a mutual desire to propel relations between both nations to new levels, read a statement by the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. In the meantime, Kuwait and Serbia signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for bilateral cooperation in the oil, energy and cultural sectors. Jarallah signed the deals on the Kuwaiti side, while the Serbian signatories were Minister of Energy and Mining Aleksandar Antic and Minister of Culture Vladan Vukosavljevic. —KUNA



BELGRADE: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Serbian Minister of Culture Vladan Vukosavljevic sign a memorandum of understanding between the two countries. — KUNA

GERMANY BACKS KUWAIT IN ATTEMPT TO QUELL GULF ROW

BERLIN: Germany supports His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts as the main mediator in the Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said yesterday. Speaking via telephone with his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad prior to embarking on a tour of the Gulf region, which will take him to Saudi

Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Kuwait, Gabriel said that his country firmly supports Kuwait as it seeks to resolve a Gulf row. The German Foreign Minister's visit to the Gulf will precede a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt due tomorrow in Cairo, to decide the next course of action to put an end to the Gulf crisis.— KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, with the presence of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammed Abdul Latif Al-Faris, received yesterday at Bayan Palace several professors of history at Faculty of Arts at Kuwait University (KU). During the meeting, they presented His Highness the Prime Minister with a study on the history of the State of Kuwait, including historic sites. The meeting was attended by His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Chief Sheikhha Itimad Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. — KUNA

CABINET DEPLORES TERRORIST PLOT ON MAKKAH GRAND MOSQUE

FIREFIGHTERS APPLAUDED FOR THEIR RECENT EFFORTS

KUWAIT: The cabinet yesterday condemned the recent terrorist plot which targeted the Grand Mosque of Makkah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During its weekly meeting at Bayan Palace, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet highly appreciated the Saudi authorities for their efforts to combat terror, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. It also stressed the high efficiency and vigilance of the Saudi security bodies that thwarted the devilish plot, and commended the Kingdom for the colossal services offered to pilgrims.

The ministers reiterated Kuwait's support to all the measures Riyadh might take for the preservation of the Kingdom's security and stability. Meanwhile, the cabinet congratulated Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on his appointment as Crown Prince, as well as Deputy Premier besides his position as Defense Minister, wishing him success in serving the nation and fulfilling the expectations of the Saudi people under the wise leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The ministers wished the Saudi people the development and the prosperity they aspire for.

Abadi's visit

At the onset of the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the recent visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi to the State of Kuwait, where he had discussed with Kuwaiti officials ways of promoting bilateral relations in all fields for the common interest of both nations, along with regional and international issues. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah then apprised the cabinet of the results of fervent efforts being exerted by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to put an end to the Gulf row. In this context, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah elaborated on the outcomes of his recent tour of the US, UK, France and Germany whose officials appreciated His Highness the Amir's efforts to defuse inter-Gulf tensions and to promote effective dialogue within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Finally, the cabinet voiced much thanks and appreciation to firefighters, National Guard and medics for their efforts to deal with recent fire and accidents in the country. — KUNA



(From left) Ministers of Education Mohammad Al-Fares, Finance Anas Al-Saleh and Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled.



(From left) Ministers of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and Social Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.



(From left) Ministers of Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, Justice Dr Falah Al-Azb, Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi and Commerce Khaled Al-Roudhan.



KUWAIT: Deputy Managing Director for the Capital and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Sadiq honored a number of distinguished employees at the municipality services' licenses department - Capital governorate branch, in appreciation of their efforts.



AUTHORITY MULLS SETTING MINIMUM AGE FOR ISSUING WORK PERMITS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Members of the board of the Public Authority for Manpower plan to discuss a proposal to set the minimum age of laborers brought into the country at 30, including male and female workers, and to ban issuance of a work permit for any person in any sector under this age. This decision would include all professions in all sectors without exception, within the decisions regulating and private sectors.

Separately, official spokeswoman of Public Authority for Manpower, Director of Public Relations and Information Aseel Al-Mizyad said the authority issued an administrative circular in regards to inspection rules of small and medium projects. She said the rules include: Inspection will be done on project owners

registered at the concerned department periodically to make sure the facility exists and the workers on the file do work there; facilities will be inspected in case a new file in the period following the need estimation; the facility will be inspected later during a maximum period of 90 days to make sure it meets the conditions set by decisions and circulars; the inspection department will follow employers registered at the concerned labor department according to the rules in this regard.

In a related note, the Ministry of Social Affairs approved its new logo replacing the old one that included 'Social Affairs and Labor'. The Social Affairs Ministry adopted its new logo after annexing the labor sector of the ministry and establishing the Public Authority for Manpower as an independent authority, in implementation of the private sector's labor law.

KUWAIT FOOD BANK, UCCS GIVE FOOD BASKETS TO NEEDY FAMILIES

By Meshal Al-Enezi

of UCCS Ali Al-Kandari.

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank signed an agreement with the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) to dispense food baskets to needy families via cooperative societies using coupons. The agreement was signed by vice president of the food bank Meshal Al-Ansari, secretary Salem Al-Hamar and president

Verdict overturned

The cassation court annulled the conviction of a surgeon who forgot a piece of gauze in a patient's abdomen. Lawyer Hawra Al-Habeeb said her client denied the charge from the start, adding the operation was done in a place other than that claimed by the patient.

HUNDREDS OF WORKERS STAGE PROTEST, 15 ARRESTED

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Hundreds of Bangladeshi workers, mostly cleaners, staged a sit-in protest yesterday to demand salaries, overtime and leave pay. The workers have not reported to work for the last three days and will only do so when all their demands are met, they said. The workers, who are housed in 'camps' in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh and Khaitan, are assigned to various offices and malls throughout Kuwait.

Mamun P, a Bangladeshi worker from Chittagong, who is acting as their spokesperson, told Kuwait Times the number of workers on strike could reach up to 3,000. "All of them have not reported to work since Saturday. We have been working like slaves. We work 16 hours a day, but the additional eight hours is unpaid. They have been promising to pay, but nothing has happened," said Mamun. "Some of us here have not been paid since one to three months. We want a regular salary because our families need the money back home. We also have to eat, and if we do not have money, how can we survive?" he asked.

Mamun revealed around 15 of their colleagues, mostly from Bangladesh, were taken into police custody last week. "At 6:00 pm last Thursday, several policemen came to our flats to look for 15 workers who were not reporting for duty. They were called one by one and they were all taken to the police station in Jleeb. Until now, we have heard nothing

about them. All we know is that they were arrested and detained just because they want to get their salaries, but the officials of the company told police to arrest them instead," he said.

The situation of workers has been brought to the attention of the Bangladeshi embassy. Asked on how the embassy is providing assistance to the workers on strike, the embassy's First Secretary (Labor Department) Abdul Latif Khan said he held a meeting with the company's officials. "We spoke to the company officials yesterday, and they said the workers were paid (yesterday). The company told us that all the remaining dues will be paid soon. They will get all the names of people who are not paid and they will pay them very soon. That's the latest from the company managers when we talked to them yesterday," Khan said.

As for the situation of the 15 detained workers, Khan told Kuwait Times that as per the managers, the workers were arrested over what they described as criminal offenses. "But I personally appealed to them to release them, especially if the criminal offense they are talking about is 'acting rudely' with their managers. They have a reason to do so, but of course I told them to follow the rules," he said. "The company officials confirmed that some of them had misbehaved with the managers, but we requested them not to punish the workers with arrests. We are negotiating and hoping to resolve this soon," Khan concluded.



Some of the workers who staged a sit-in protest yesterday to demand salaries.

DRUG TRAFFICKING GANG BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said criminal security busted a gang that sells drugs in the country. The bust was made following information that the gang used a place to meet in a Kabd farm, where they were arrested. Drugs and money collected from the sales were also found. Gang members were sent to concerned authorities.

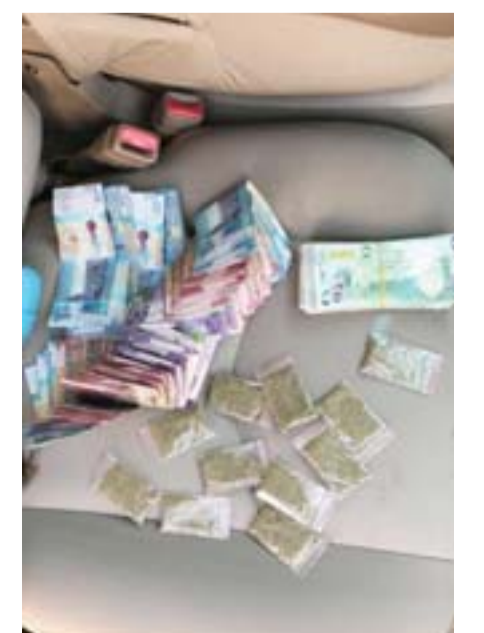
Farwaniya fire

Firefighters tackled a blaze that erupted in a second-floor apartment in Farwaniya yesterday. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, investigations opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Funerals

Director of the Funeral Affairs Department at Kuwait Municipality Dr Faisal Al-Awadhi said due to high temperatures during the summer, and in order to ease matters for the families of the deceased during funerals, a decision was made to allow funerals to be held at 9:00 am as usual and after Asr prayers, and after Isha prayers during July, August and September. He said 143 people were buried during the evening period in

Ramadan, adding that the number of the dead that were prepared and buried in Kuwait during June was 499, while 77 bodies were sent outside the country.



Drugs and cash found with the gang members.

In my view

SPACE

By Labeed Abdal



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NASA's announcement that it had selected 12 new astronauts for future space and Earth orbiting missions was considered good news for Americans and people worldwide, especially those wishing to move forward. The new astronauts include seven males and five females aging between 29-42 who work as engineers, research engineers, physicians, assistant professors, students and army personnel. NASA always emphasizes that it looks forward to provide opportunities to astronauts with new talents and potential because they are the future of exploration in various lines of knowledge.

Though the mission has so many goals, it is important to re-describe the mission because participating countries like Russia, China, India and, recently, Egypt and the UAE still describe it as

It is full of planets, stars, moons, meteors and 'scrap' parts left over by earlier space missions

'travelling into space,' which is not actually an empty space. It is full of planets, stars, moons, meteors and 'scrap' parts left over by earlier space missions. Those countries have limited resources and thus purchase used spaceships' parts.

On the other hand, this mission should be enough to refute all the questioning done about the maiden space mission and using fake images of astronauts walking on the moon's surface to claim superiority during a hot war between two major powers. Despite the fact that the mission's main goals are science and research-oriented, defense and military objectives remain of high priority, whenever national security is at jeopardy.

In all heavenly religions, Allah has chosen names for his prophets, addressed them and their people, spoke about creating Adam and Eve and having them live on Earth. Allah has created seven heavens and made all creatures serve the needs of human beings.



KUWAIT DIVE TEAM REMOVES 5 BOATS FROM KUWAIT WATERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team, affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, lifted five sunken boats weighted 19 tons from Kuwait waters aimed to protect marine life and navigation. The boats were lifted from Khiran seaside, Ras Al-Salmiya,

Al-Shamlan Bay, and Al-Shaab Al-Bahri club, team leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said yesterday. He added that removing waste and sunken boats are part of the team's efforts to protect marine life from harmful and dangerous remnants, which may

cause accidents of passing fishing and cruising boats.

He affirmed this voluntary team works with General Directorate of Coast Guard, Maritime Rescue Center, General Directorate of Firefighting, Kuwait Ports'

Corporation and other government administrations. Fadhel called on owners of fishing boats and yachts to take all precautionary measures while sailing to protect the country's marine environment and properties. —KUNA

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KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality inspectors confiscated two tons of expired food products during a recent crackdown at warehouse in Al-Rai.

In Brief

STAY VIGILANT

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's embassy in the Philippines yesterday called on Kuwaiti nationals or potential travelers to be vigilant due to violence southern the country. The embassy, in a statement, said that ongoing violence in the South might spread to other areas nearby. It also called on nationals to contact the hotline 639998877897 and the embassy's phone on 6325563868 in case of emergency. —KUNA



AID CAMPAIGN

RIYADH: A Kuwaiti aid campaign yesterday distributed 6,209 food baskets to more than 43,000 people in Yemen, which capped off an aid package for the war-torn nation. Tawfik Mohammad, a member of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Relief Authority, said that the endeavor to dole out more than 6,000 food parcels in the impoverished nation's northwestern Sadah province was unprecedented. —KUNA

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Affairs Yasser Abel announced yesterday a cabinet decree appointing Engineer Nasser Adel Khreibat as Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) in the rank of Assistant Undersecretary. Khreibat is currently the Director of the Planning and Design Sector in PAHW. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A family watches a ride at an amusement park in Kuwait. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: The College of Petroleum and Engineering at Kuwait University (KU) inaugurated yesterday the 32nd Engineering Design Exhibition, in a ceremony attended by KU Rector Dr Hussein Al-Ansari and other officials. —KUNA

Crime

Report

NATURALIZED WOMAN KICKS HUSBAND OUT

KUWAIT: A recently naturalized Syrian woman kicked her husband out of their house. When police told him to go back to the house, even if by force, he told them: "I love her and I do not want to disturb her." A security source said the man sought their help, so they went to his house. When they asked him why his wife had kicked him out, he said that his wife was a Syrian who lately received Kuwaiti citizenship. They asked him to reenter the house, but he refused, and even refused to lodge a complaint. So police left him under the scorching sun and went away.

Assault

A Lebanese man told police that a citizen beat him and robbed him of KD 5,500 at a car rental office. Maidan Hawally police considered the incident a misdemeanor case of exchanging blows and insults and theft. Separately, a 27-year-old citizen told Hawally police he was beaten and his lower jaw was broken on the right side. He gave police information of the man who beat him. In other case, a citizen told Nugra police she was beaten by a man she does not know, who broke her nose. She said the man punched her like a boxer.

DUI

A bedoon was taken to the forensics department to find whether he was under the influence of drugs. Hawally police noticed he was driving his car recklessly, and when they stopped him, he was found in an abnormal condition and resisted arrest. Meanwhile, a citizen told police his driver was drunk and that he found liquor in his room. Police arrested the man and took him to Salam police station.

Suicide attempt

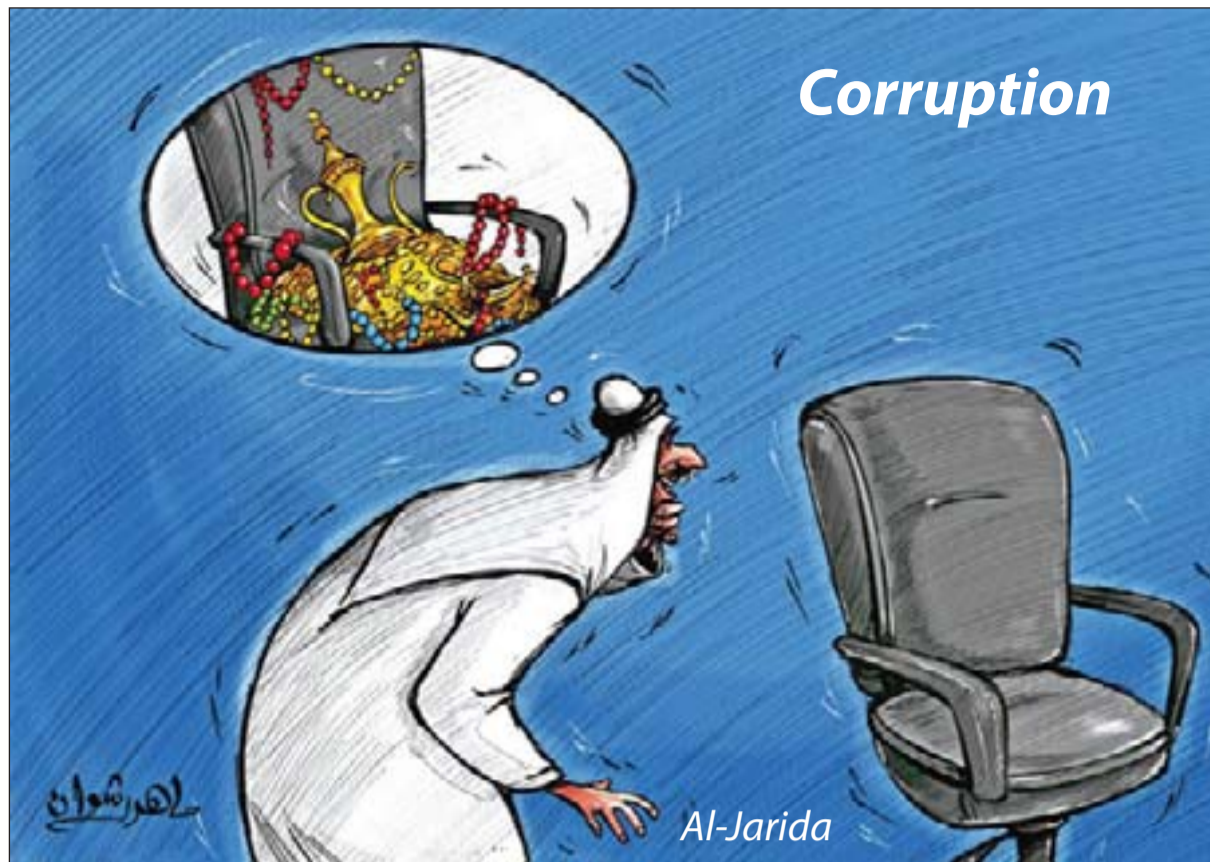
A Sri Lankan woman was put under guard at Mubarak Hospital for questioning after she attempted suicide. A security source said police received a call about a suicide attempt in Mishref after the woman slashed her wrists.

Foul play

A Bangladeshi was found dead near the kilo 50 marker on Abdaly Road. Police said there is suspicion of foul play.

Marital problems

Patrons of a cafe prevented a man from beating his wife after he found her with her friend. So he threatened her before leaving the place. She then lodged a complaint against him. The man wanted to speak to the woman about the custody of their daughter, but she ignored him, and told him to call her lawyer. He did not like this and insulted her, before attempting to beat her, but patrons restrained him. He will be summoned for questioning. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



Al-Jarida



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced Sheikh Josiya Begem as the winner of its KD 150,000 grand prize, and Salem Falah Al-Baloud as the winner of a Mercedes-Benz C Class, during the Najma Account Draw for the second quarter of 2017, which took place recently.

القلم

Al-Qabas

WE ARE ALL CORRUPTED

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

Awqaf and Municipality Affairs Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri made us happy with his press statement about "Kuwait being free of extremism." This is not a statement for media consumption, as much as it is an official testimony about the "nonexistence of extremist ideology in Kuwait or partisan action in ministries, as the place of the partisan person is home and not the Awqaf ministry," according to the minister. Statements of MP and Minister Jabri (published by Al-Jarida on June 27, 2017), who accepted to have the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources under his authority, after being rejected by more than one minister, has political and security indications that the Interior Ministry and government as a whole should benefit from the minister's view.

The minister put the rules of the partisan action by his total rejection of any party member to work in the Awqaf ministry, and "confronting extremist ideologies in all ministries." This gives peace of mind to people and denies all what has been said about Kuwait by countries and international establishments about the existence of "terrorist cells" in Kuwait. Among minister Jabri's rules is that the partisan person practice his ideology at "home and not in state ministries," regardless of its nature, whether it is extreme or moderate, as there is no difference between extreme or moderate and as long as the partisan person practices his "activity" outside the government domain.

The interior and foreign ministries should benefit from the minister's analysis in answering any claims about the existence of citizens who have an extreme "Daesh" or "Qaeda" ideology in general, as the minister's statement refutes all what was attributed to Kuwaiti citizens, that they adopt an extreme suicidal ideology.

The minister's statement also denies the mistake the government had made in regards to approving the latest "terrorist list" that was issued by either international establishments, or brotherly Gulf countries. His statements seem to suggest that Kuwait is void of ideology extremism, and we do not have terrorists among us, and no one had carried out any terrorist action in or outside Kuwait, which means that Al-Abdaly cell, and the explosion at Al-Sadeq mosque has no relation with terrorism, and there is no need for the "advice and guidance program" by Awqaf Ministry.

Of course, the minister should have a convincing justification to make such a statement at this particular time, especially when the Gulf is engaged in a deep dispute over issues including terrorism and the relation of some individuals with terrorist networks that target Gulf security, as the minister was satisfied with the press statement, and to present his views to the government later.

It is found out that there is wrong information about the existence of partisan activity in Kuwait, and that the Awqaf ministry in particular was "not affected with partisanship at all," and that some of those who have extremist and partisan ideologies are at "home" and not in government offices, and this is legal in the minister's opinion. As for those who were detained at Guantanamo, we leave it to the minister to study the case to safeguard Kuwait and the detainees' rights. We thank the minister for his sincerity and we hope the government benefits from his views in regards to his definition of home partisan action, and the necessity to legalize it. — Al-Qabas

KFH PATRONIZES OVER 35 GRADUATION PROJECTS FOR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND PETROLEUM STUDENTS



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) patronized the 8th consecutive year over 30 graduation projects for over 120 students of College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University, as part of the bank's social responsibility and in efforts to encourage academic and scientific innovations of Kuwaiti students. The students showcased their projects at the engineering designs exhibition held for 2 days under the patronage of Minister of commerce and industry, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan.

KFH is a major sponsor to the projects of the College students. This confirms its interest in the youth and students as well its keenness to support their activities and participate in fairs and events that would highlight these activities and the latest updates thereon.

KFH's support to students of College of Engineering and Petroleum stems from its awareness of the importance of this college since its graduates work in the most vital economic sector in Kuwait; especially that this college includes various sections of engineering that can boost development in all fields. Moreover, KFH firmly believes that students are the real assets of Kuwait, yet an essential pillar for the comprehensive development.

Meanwhile, graduation projects owners applauded KFH's continuous support and praised its keenness to participate in their activities and events which empowers and motivates them, yet underlines bank's significant role in assuming the social responsibility.



HEALTH SERVICES FEES FOR VISITING EXPATS THIS MONTH: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said health services fees for visiting expats will go into effect this month. He said he reviewed the revised service price list, and based on this he took the implementation decision. Harbi had announced earlier that an important meeting will be held after Eid Al-Fitr with the health ministry undersecretaries' council to discuss increasing fees for expats, which will be raised gradually, starting with those on visit visas, then for resident expats. He said fees will be raised to be close to those at private hospitals.



Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi

Fee increases were supposed to take effect in mid-February, after the undersecretaries' council approved a recommendation based on a study to review service fees and examinations the state provides to visiting expats, bearing in mind that fees will be 20 percent less than those in the private sector. Health sources said at the time that the medical services fees had not been reviewed for a long time and the costs of these services represent a burden on the state's budget.

Harbi also said a South Korean delegation will visit Kuwait in August to conduct a survey and an integrated study to carry out the electronic linkage of health facilities' project. He said the delegation's visit will include field visits to hospitals and primary care centers to prepare for the study on the time the process will take. — Al-Rai

MORE THAN 37,000 NEW JOBS ANNOUNCED ON BAYT.COM IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2017

DUBAI: Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, concluded the second quarter of 2017, having announced more than 37,000 new jobs to serve the Middle East's job seekers. Bayt.com is continuing to have a larger and a more wide-reaching portfolio of employers, who are announcing thousands of jobs across the region on a daily basis.

In addition to the 37,000+ new jobs that were announced on Bayt.com during the second quarter of 2017, thousands of additional vacancies continue to be filled daily through the Bayt.com CV search tool.

Companies can choose to use CV Search to access over 28 million professionals and hire the ideal candidate for their needs without making a job announcement.

"Since the beginning of 2017, we have increased our focus on job delivery and our efforts to connect more job seekers in our region with more career opportunities," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "It has always been our plan to support and grow the Middle East's job market by enhancing connections between employers and job

seekers and by making the most effective tools and the most useful information readily available for everyone. We are proud of how many jobs are regularly found on Bayt.com and how many employers are using CV Search to directly hire our job candidates. We are looking forward to see how the next quarters unfold and to work with many more of the region's leading employers to continue this growth. Bayt.com encourages job seekers to apply for these positions but also keep their profiles completed and their CVs updated so

that employers can contact them directly for exciting career opportunities."

The number of jobs announced during Q2 on Bayt.com represent a 13.57 percent increase over Q1. The jobs announced through Bayt.com are also increasingly varied in terms of industry, location, required skills and educational degree. From sales and marketing, to engineering and construction, to finance and accounting, and all the way to information technology and communications, job postings on Bayt.com are spanning nearly every field of work and every experience level.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah honored engineer Adel Al-Wusais, who recently won a gold medal during the 2017 International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX).



Modi becomes first Indian PM to visit Israel



NEW YORK: Copies of the New York Post with an illustration of US President Donald Trump as a professional wrestler on the front page are displayed at a newsstand in New York City yesterday. — AP

TRUMP'S MOCK VIDEO SPARKS CRITICISM

VIDEO SHOWS TRUMP PUMMELING A MAN WITH CNN FACE

BRIDGEWATER: President Donald Trump crowned his weekend rage against the news media with a mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit - his face obscured by the CNN logo - outside a wrestling ring. It was not immediately clear who produced the brief video, which appears to be a doctored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. The 28-second clip was posted on Trump's official Twitter account Sunday morning, with the message: "#FraudNewsCNN #FNN."

Trump, who has branded the media as the "opposition party" and CNN as "fake news," stayed on the attack later in the day, stating on

Twitter that "the dishonest media will NEVER keep us from accomplishing our objectives on behalf of our GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE!" Yesterday, he continued the attacks on Twitter: "At some point the Fake News will be forced to discuss our great jobs numbers, strong economy, success with ISIS, the border & so much else!" Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, condemned the video as a "threat of physical violence against journalists." He said Trump's tweet was "beneath the office of the presidency."

A White House aide insisted the tweet should not send a chill across the media land-

scape. "I think that no one would perceive that as a threat," homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said. "I hope they don't. But I do think that he's beaten up in a way on cable platforms that he has a right to respond to." The White House strategy has been to pull no punches when it comes to addressing its critics. On Monday, Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway on Twitter accused Democratic Rep Ted Lieu of talking "nonsense" when the California lawmaker tweeted to Conway that the media's role "is not to be 'patriotic.' It is to tell the truth."

Conway tweeted that the "role of the media has been to retract false stories & fire liars.

"Truth" = patriotic vets died so you can talk nonsense." White House officials traveling with Trump during his weekend stay at his New Jersey golf club did not immediately respond to questions about the video. It appeared to be a doctored version of an appearance Trump made on a World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. show called "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007, in which Trump appears to attack WWE CEO Vince McMahon. McMahon's wife, Linda, who founded and built the company with her husband, now heads the Small Business Administration for Trump and was a donor to his campaign.

The video was posted several days ago by a

Reddit user with the title, "Trump takes down fake news." It was not clear whether that was where it originated or how Trump found it. Still, the user wrote Sunday about being "honored" Trump had tweeted the video. The user who posted the video has a history of posts using anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language. The president's verbal shots against news outlets and individual members of the media have grown increasingly personal in recent days even as lawmakers in both parties say the insults only threaten to undermine his political agenda. CNN accused Trump of engaging in "juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office." — AP

TIMELINE OF GULF CRISIS

DUBAI: Here is a recap of events since Saudi Arabia and several allies broke ties with Qatar, accusing it of backing extremists.

Ties cut

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the UAE, Yemen and the Maldives break diplomatic relations with Qatar. They accuse it of supporting "terrorists" and of being too close to Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional rival. It is the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years. Riyadh and its allies close land and maritime borders, suspend air links and expel Qatari citizens. Saudi Arabia also closes the Riyadh bureau of Qatari broadcaster Al-Jazeera. Qatar claims its neighbors are pursuing a "policy of domination and control" and insists it will not back down. On June 6, Mauritania joins the boycott and Jordan trims its diplomatic presence in Doha.

'Champion of extremism'

On June 7, the United Arab Emirates says the measures against Qatar are "not about regime change" but rather about "change of policy". The UAE's state minister for foreign affairs calls Qatar "the main champion of extremism and terrorism in the region". On June 9, Saudi Arabia and its allies publish a list of people and organizations they accuse of involvement in "terrorism" with support from Qatar. Doha calls the accusations unfounded.

'Siege' and 'blockade'

On June 12, Qatar's foreign minister denounces sanctions against his country as "unfair" and "illegal". Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan calls

the punishment "inhumane and un-Islamic." On June 16, a Qatari official accuses Riyadh and its allies of laying "siege" to his country. Three days later, the UAE foreign minister says a blockade of Qatar could last "years". Doha demands the "blockade" lifted before talks on resolving the standoff.

Tillerson weighs in

On June 20, the US State Department says it is "mystified" that Saudi Arabia has yet to produce a clear list of demands. President Donald Trump presses Qatar to "immediately" stop financing terrorism. He discusses the situation with Saudi Arabia's new crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks to both sides of the dispute. Tillerson says Saudi Arabia is set to present Qatar with a list of demands, which he hopes "will be reasonable and actionable." That comes days after the Pentagon, which maintains a huge airbase in Qatar, agrees to sell Doha \$12 billion worth of F-15 fighter jets.

Ultimatum

On June 22, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE send a list of 13 demands to Qatar, giving Doha 10 days to comply. Among the demands are shutting down Al-Jazeera, curbing relations with Iran and closing a Turkish military base in the emirate. Qatar says on July 1 that the demands were "made to be rejected." Trump reiterates the next day that financing for terrorism must stop. On July 3, the ultimatum is prolonged for 48 hours. The same day, Qatar hands its response to the Amir of Kuwait, but does not reveal its contents. — AFP

MACRON PLANS TO SLASH MPs BY THIRD

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron yesterday promised a "profound transformation" of French politics, proposing to slash by a third the number of MPs, and telling lawmakers he would call a referendum if they do not agree. In his first address to members of the National Assembly and Senate since his election in May, Macron delivered a U.S.-style state of the nation speech in the Versailles palace, the former seat of French kings, saying the country must change. "Until now, we were too often on the wrong track," said the 39-year-old leader, who won office on a promise of political renewal. "We preferred procedures to results, rules to initiative, a society where you live off inherited wealth, to a just society."

He confirmed a plan to implement reform of France's jaded political system, changes first raised during campaigning. That would include shrinking the number of lawmakers in both houses of parliament - 577 in the lower house National Assembly and 348 in the Senate - by a third, saying it would have "positive effects on the general quality of parliamentary work". Macron also pledged to introduce a degree of proportional representation into France's winner-takes-all electoral system. The move, long demanded by small parties such as the far-right National Front, would ensure "all tendencies are fairly represented", he said.

The centrist president, who enjoys a large majority in parliament, said he hoped lawmakers would adopt the changes within a year but reserved the right to organize a referendum "if necessary". Macron's decision to convene a sitting of both houses of parliament - a rare event usually reserved for times of crisis - was criticized by the opposition, who saw his use of Versailles as further proof of a "monarchical" drift. Some accused Macron of trying to steal the thunder of Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, who will deliver a key policy speech to parliament on Tuesday.

The speech was Macron's first major address in France since his inauguration in mid-May, when he promised to lead a "renaissance". He warned the newly-elected lawmakers against triumphalism in the face of the "gravity of the circumstances" both in France, which is grappling with a

stagnant economy, and in Europe which had "lost its way". "The building of Europe has been weakened by the spread of bureaucracy and by the growing scepticism that comes from that," Macron said. "The last 10 years have been cruel for Europe. We have managed crises but we have lost our way," he said, adding that France would help drive a revival of the European idea of "social justice".

'Pharaonic' leadership

Last month Macron had already rolled out the red carpet in Versailles, hosting Russia's President Vladimir Putin there for talks instead of the presidential palace in Paris. Jean-Luc Melenchon, the leader of the radical leftist France Unbowed party, boycotted the speech, accused Macron of "crossing a line with the pharaonic aspect of his presidential monarchy". The leader of the small

centrist UDI party, Jean-Christophe Lagarde, accused the president of "a PR stunt".

On Sunday, Macron drew further criticism for a speech last week to a group of entrepreneurs in which he drew a distinction between "people who succeed and those who are nothing". Far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, whom Macron defeated in May's presidential run-off, condemned the remark as "unworthy" and "revealing of Macronist thinking". The speech comes a week after the government unveiled a bill that would allow it to use decrees to fast-track labor overhauls through parliament using decrees. Some opposition parties have accused Macron of neutering the assembly. "When you do not share power you may be more efficient but you are also perhaps a little less democratic," said Christian Jacob, the parliamentary leader of the Republicans, the main opposition. — AFP



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron walks through the Galerie des Bustes (Busts Gallery) to access the Versailles Palace's hemicycle for a special congress gathering both houses of parliament (National Assembly and Senate) in the Palace of Versailles yesterday. — AFP

SINGAPORE PM DENIES NEPOTISM AMID FAMILY FEUD

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday strongly rejected as "baseless" claims from his siblings of abuse of power and nepotism as he faced parliament over a political drama that has shocked tightly-controlled Singapore. The leader was seeking to draw a line under an escalating feud about his late father Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's founding leader, which has captivated the wealthy city-state where speaking so openly against the first family is rare and critics have in the past been taken to court.

The dispute burst into the open last month when the premier's brother and sister launched attacks on social media which quickly went viral-accusing him of exploiting their father's legacy for his own political agenda and seeking to groom his son as a future leader. They have also raised questions about his wife, who is chief executive of state investment fund Temasek Holdings.

The elder Lee, who led Singapore for three decades and died in March 2015, is widely revered for having transformed the former British colony into one of the world's wealthiest societies but faced criticism from rights groups for muzzling

the press and jailing political opponents. In a closely watched speech to parliament, Lee, 65, said the allegations leveled at him by his brother and sister were "entirely baseless". "I know many Singaporeans are upset by this issue. They are tired of the subject, and wish it would end," he told the legislature, which is dominated by lawmakers from his long-ruling People's Action Party.

"As a son, I am pained at the anguish this strife would have caused my parents if they were still alive," he added. People who have publicly criticized the first family have in the past faced libel suits but the leader said he would not sue his brother and sister as the process could drag on for years and "further besmirch my parents' names". Low Thia Khiang, leader of the opposition Workers' Party, challenged him to take the pair to court, saying that "not doing so would risk the government giving the impression that it is afraid of what the Lee siblings might say or reveal".

Fears of personality cult

The prime minister had called for an open debate in parliament after the



SINGAPORE: Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong delivers a speech in Parliament yesterday in Singapore. Prime Minister Lee has addressed his escalating family feud in a speech in Parliament, saying his siblings' accusations that he had misused government power were "entirely baseless." —AP

attacks on Facebook against him and his wife Ho Ching. He apologized for a second time over the quarrel and rejected charges of nepotism. He said the head of Temasek is appointed by its board subject to confirmation by the president of Singapore, and that his son has already said he was not interested in politics. The row with his sister Wei Ling, 62, and brother Hsien Yang, 60, stemmed from a dispute over what to do with a century-old family bungalow that has simmered since the death of the elder Lee.

The patriarch had wanted the bungalow destroyed after he passed away to prevent the creation of a personality cult, but the siblings say the premier is attempting to block its demolition to capitalise on their father's legacy. In yesterday's speech, Lee said that despite a "demolition clause" governing the house in his final will, his father was "prepared to consider alternatives" and even approved renovation plans should the government decide against tearing it down. He said he was not behind the creation of a ministerial committee led by his deputy Teo Chee Hean to explore various options for the house. — AFP

IS HITS BACK IN MOSUL

ISLAMIC STATE UNLEASH FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBERS

MOSUL: Iraqi forces are facing increasingly difficult fighting and a rising number of suicide bombings in the final stages of the battle for Mosul, senior commanders said yesterday. Following recent suicide bombings by two girls, security forces in the Old City were seen ordering civilians to remove some of their clothing before approaching to guard against the threat. More than eight months since the start of the operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group, the jihadists have gone from fully controlling the city to holding a limited area on its west-

made for an extremely difficult fight. The same conditions that aid jihadist defenses also serve to shield Iraqi forces from snipers, Assadi said, and "our losses are not to the level that would prevent us from advancing."

Staff Lieutenant General Sami al-Aridhi, another top CTS commander, said that IS has increased the number of suicide attacks it is carrying out. "The enemy has been using suicide bombers, especially women, for the past three days in some of the neighborhoods. Before that, they were using snipers and bombs more," Aridhi

followed two recent suicide bombings—one by a 14-year-old girl and another by a 12-year-old that killed three members of CTS, soldiers said.

Dispute over victory

Civilians fleeing the fighting are receiving treatment at a makeshift clinic in Mosul. "People come from the Old City of Mosul, where fierce fighting is taking place. They're running away from (IS), running away from death, hunger and fear," said Nazar Salih, a doctor at the clinic. Shahed Omar, a 20-year-old who fled the Old City, pointed to two children at the clinic.

"This one's father was killed, and that girl there, her father was killed as well," Omar said. Security forces have made significant progress since launching a renewed assault on the Old City on June 18. But the impending end of the battle has given rise to the latest round of inter-service rivalry over who gets to declare it over. A statement attributed to the federal police chief circulated on Sunday, feting "their victory... which was achieved in the territory of Mosul," while police forces in the city celebrated with a band, flags and dancing.

But police commander Lieutenant General Raed Shakir Jawdat later said that while the mission of the federal police was over, other forces were still fighting and an announcement of victory would be made later by the Iraqi premier. Iraq's Joint Operations Command yesterday said that the federal police were still fighting and had not captured all of their objectives. "Federal police forces continue to fight fierce battles... on the southern front and are advancing toward their targets," the JOC said.

IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces backed by US-led coalition air strikes have since regained much of the territory they lost. The recapture of Mosul will not however mark the end of the war against IS. The jihadist group holds territory elsewhere in Iraq as well as in neighboring Syria, and has been able to carry out attacks in government-held areas. Highlighting the major security challenges Iraq will face after Mosul, a suicide bomber attacked a camp for displaced people west of Baghdad on Sunday, killing 14 people and wounding 13, a police major and a doctor said. —AFP



MOSUL: A woman screams while fleeing with her family through a destroyed alley, as Iraqi Special Forces continue their advance against Islamic State militants, in the Old City of Mosul. — AP

ern side, but resistance is still tough. "The fighting is becoming harder every day because of the nature of the Old City," Staff Lieutenant General Abdulghani Al-Assadi, a commander in the elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), said of the area of narrow streets and closely spaced buildings where the end of the battle for Mosul is unfolding. Iraqi forces have been closing in on the Old City in west Mosul for months, but the terrain combined with a large civilian population has

said. "There are still at least 200 fighters from the (IS) organization" in Mosul, most of them foreigners, he said. "The battle will end in five days to a week," Aridhi said. CTS forces in the Old City ordered fleeing civilians to remove some articles of clothing before approaching on Monday in an effort to detect suicide bombers.

Men were told to remove their shirts, while women had to take off veils covering their faces and hair, and flowing abaya robes. The measure

'NEGATIVE FACTORS' HURT US TIES, XI WARNS TRUMP

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned US President Donald Trump yesterday that "some negative factors" are hurting US-China relations, as tensions flare anew over a slew of long-standing sore points. Xi's comments in a phone call with Trump follow Beijing's displeasure over US arms sales to rival Taiwan, US sanctions against a Chinese bank over its dealings with North Korea and, most recently, the sailing of a US destroyer within the territorial seas limit of a Chinese-claimed island in the South China Sea.

Beijing was also miffed after the State Department gave Beijing a dismal grade last week in a new human trafficking report. According to state media, Xi told Trump in their call that Beijing expects Washington to continue managing relations on the basis of the "one China" principle that rules out formal contacts with Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

"Xi Jinping emphasized that, since my meeting with the president at Mar-a-Lago, China-US relations have achieved important outcomes," state broadcaster China Central Television reported, referring to Xi's meeting with Trump in Florida in April. "At the same time, bilateral relations have been affected by some negative factors. China has expressed its position to the US." Seeking to lighten the message slightly, Xi also said that China-US relations had achieved "important outcomes" since the Florida meeting. It's unclear whether any of those issues will come up in discussions at the G-20 summit in Germany this week, at which Trump and Xi are expected to hold a bilateral meeting.

But it now appears that China is pushing back against the US pressure, setting the stage for a potential confrontation. China's foreign ministry accused the US of violating Chinese sovereignty and disrupting "peace, security and order of the relevant waters" after the US Navy destroyer USS Stethem sailed Sunday within 12 nautical miles of tiny Triton island, which is claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam. China's defense ministry issued a similar statement Monday, saying it would beef up patrols and take precautions commensurate with the threat level to safeguard "national sovereignty and security."

Trump and his top aides have done little to hide their irritation over what they see as the reluctance by China, North Korea's main economic partner, to tighten the screws on Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programs. Until recently, American officials had been describing China as a partner in their strategy to prevent North Korea from developing the ability to strike the US mainland with nuclear weapons. While China has agreed to sanctions, it is wary of measures that could cause the regime's collapse, leaving a united, US-backed Korea on its border.

However, Trump hinted last month at his loss of patience, tweeting that his bid to secure a tougher Chinese approach "has not worked out." Asked about the state of ties, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Monday that it was normal to encounter "some issues in the process of developing the bilateral relationship." "We believe that the significance of our bilateral relationship has already exceeded the bilateral scope and is exerting important influ-

ence on the development of the whole world," Geng told reporters at a regularly scheduled press briefing.

"On our part, we are willing to develop the bilateral relationship based on non-confrontation, mutual benefit and mutual trust, expand cooperation and properly manage differences between the two countries so as to further advance the bilateral relationship." Along with Xi, Trump also spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with whom he reaffirmed a shared commitment to dealing with North Korea, the White House said. It said the president also looked forward to meeting Abe at the upcoming G-20 summit in Hamburg.

Abe praised Trump for the recent US sanctions on the small Bank of Dandong over its alleged support for North Korea's nuclear program, according to Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga. That severs the bank entirely from the US financial system, pending a 60-day review period. — AP



MOSCOW: Chinese Leader Xi Jinping passes a Russian honor guard during a welcoming ceremony upon his arrival to Vnukovo airport yesterday in Moscow. Chinese leader Xi Jinping arrived yesterday for an official two-day visit. —AFP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (right) shakes hands with US Senator John McCain at Prime Minister House in Islamabad. — AFP

MCCAIN-LED DELEGATION VISITS PAKISTAN FOR SECURITY TALKS

ISLAMABAD: A US Senate delegation led by top Republican John McCain flew over Pakistan's tribal areas yesterday after meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss regional security, as Washington gears up to send more troops to neighboring Afghanistan. The visit by members of the influential Senate Armed Services Committee came days after Islamabad slammed Washington's decision to sanction a Kashmiri militant leader.

The relationship between the US and Pakistan has been strained at times with some in Washington believing Islamabad has not done enough to bring its influence to bear to persuade the Afghan Taliban to renounce violence. McCain said "close cooperation between the US and Pakistan was essential for securing peace and stability in the region" at the meeting with Sharif and other top Pakistani officials in Islamabad, according to a statement from the prime minister's office. He also "attached importance to (US) relations with Pakistan, which remained a close friend and ally", the statement continued.

Sharif also called the Pakistan-US partnership "essential", and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to an Afghan-led peace process in Afghanistan, with strong relations between Washington, Kabul and Islamabad a "prerequisite", according to the statement. Later the senators flew with the military over South Waziristan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas to see progress on infrastructure built there with US assistance, including roads and border

outposts, and dam and irrigation projects. A statement from the military said they were also briefed on border security, including Pakistan's bid to fence the frontier with Afghanistan. Pakistan has received billions in US aid since the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Washington is actively considering sending more troops to the war-torn country to help struggling Afghan forces beat back the resurgent Taliban, with American commanders requesting thousands of extra boots on the ground.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has legislative oversight of US military affairs. Other members of the delegation, which arrived Sunday and left yesterday, included Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator David Perdue and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. On Sunday they met with Pakistan's top foreign affairs official and the chief of its powerful military.

Last week, the US imposed sanctions on Syed Salahuddin, senior leader of the Kashmiri militant group Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, to the dismay of Pakistan after a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from Britain in 1947, but both claim the territory in its entirety.

Sharif stressed Pakistan's belief in Kashmir's right to self-determination in the meeting with the US senators Monday, the statement from his office said, calling on Washington to help find a resolution to the nearly 70-year old dispute. —AFP

ISLAMIST EXTREMISTS IN SWEDEN RISE TO 2,000

STOCKHOLM: Sweden is home to some 2,000 Islamist extremists, the nation's intelligence chief said yesterday, a nearly 10-fold increase in less than a decade. Anders Thornberg, head of domestic spy service Sapo, attributed the rise primarily to the sophisticated propaganda machine of the Islamic State group. Although "few extremists" have "the will and ability" to carry out attacks, they must be found and closely followed, Thornberg said.

"It's important that everyone in Sweden takes responsibility to end this trend... before we see an attack or a violent act," Thornberg told news agency TT in an interview published yesterday. Sweden has been on the edge ever since an Uzbek national, who had shown sympathies for jihadist groups including IS, used a stolen truck to mow down pedestrians on a busy shopping street on April 7, killing five people and injuring 15. Europe has

seen a string of attacks in recent years including large-scale assaults in Paris Brussels and Berlin.

Thornberg said that out of around 3,000 violent extremists currently in Sweden, 2,000 have Islamist motives. The remaining extremists originate from far-right and extreme-left movements. A 2010 Sapo report estimated the number of violent Islamist extremists in the Scandinavian country at 200. Sapo has previously said that about 300 people from Sweden are known to have travelled to Syria and Iraq to join IS since 2012.

Around 140 have returned to Sweden and about 50 are said to have died abroad. Jihadists or sympathizers from Sweden have been linked to several terrorist attacks in recent years, as a Swedish national, Osama Krayem, has been charged with terrorist murders over the 2016 Brussels metro bombing. — AFP

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You will be responsible for producing information by transcribing, formatting, inputting, editing, retrieving, copying and transmitting text, data and graphics; organizing work by reading and routing correspondence, collecting information, initiating telecommunications, maintaining department schedules by maintaining calendars for department personnel, arranging meetings, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695087](#)

Horticulture & Landscape Engineer - Gulf Palms Gen. Trdg. & Contracting Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing all facets of landscape and interior design from concept to details, using Adobe Creative Suite, Ms Project / Primavera and AutoCAD for interior and landscape designing. You will also be responsible for organizing the production of landscape drawings, reports and presentations for client approval and also be excellent in MS Office.

Apply Now [JB3695092](#)

IT Sales Manager - SAP (Arabic)
 Wipro Arabia Ltd.
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for evaluating and managing new strategic business opportunities, partnerships, alliances and / or joint ventures; overseeing SAP market analysis, monitoring competitive activity and identifying customer needs, aligning and closely working with SAP as OEM on Partner Business Planning for the territory covered, identifying opportunities for further growth in the territory.

Apply Now [JB3695190](#)

HR Officer
 Gulf Group Co.
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for executing the entire recruitment process starting with work force planning to selecting and onboarding, arranging training seminars according to the annual training plan, editing job descriptions and reviewing them in view of new business updates, updating the Human Resources Information System, etc.

Apply Now [JB3694862](#)

Accountant
 Andalus Trading Company
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for handling petty cash and closing the cash books on a daily basis, making payments against cash payment vouchers in a timely manner and passing entries, tracking and following up on receipts for daily sales reports from all stores, reconciling cash clearing and cash customer accounts against daily sales reports received from stores, etc.

Apply Now [JB3694875](#)

Graphic Designer
 Grassroots Advertising Agency
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for creating a visible image that can be used in media and print, managing multiple tasks and successfully executing projects under heavy workload and changing conditions is critical, responding to a customer's social media needs and requirements with appropriate solutions, etc.

Apply Now [JB3694401](#)

Marketing Coorinator
 INJAZ
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting the Communication Manager in implementing major events and awareness campaigns like the implementation of the INJAZ Game, INJAZ Talks and fundraising events, implementing volunteer campaigns / drives addressing the public and corporate organizations to recruit volunteers.

Apply Now [JB3693962](#)

Inventory Controller
 ORE Solution
 KSA

You will be responsible for managing stock, providing weekly updates in an accurate and timely manner, understanding deadlines, performing sales / commercial / factory operations, dealing with sales delivery vans / deadlines, assisting with the delivery of a solution, with the customer's needs being clearly understood, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695034](#)

Sales Executive
 Naqel
 KSA

You will be responsible for presenting and selling the company's services to current and potential clients, following up on new leads and referrals resulting from field activity, identifying sales prospects and contacting them and other accounts as assigned, preparing proposals and sales contracts, developing and maintaining sales materials and current services knowledge, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695303](#)

Art Director
 Pencil Brands
 KSA

You will be responsible for art direction from conception to completion for all branding imagery including logo, corporate identity and packaging; leading, developing and managing yourself to produce branding in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner; producing branding that is in line with creative briefs, marketing directives and commercial requirements, etc.

Apply Now [JB3223409](#)

Credit Officer (Saudi Nationals Only) - Rapid Access
 KSA

You will be responsible for the timely collection of account receivables including analyzing delinquent account balances and determining the appropriate plan of action to successfully resolve overdue customer debt, minimizing outstanding receivables, etc.

Apply Now [JB3694848](#)

Credit Risk Modeler
 ADCB
 UAE

You will be responsible for supporting the development, implementation and validation of credit risk methodologies, models and metrics compliant with IFRS 9 and providing tools to ensure that the bank's exposure to credit risk is maintained within Board approved limits and regulatory requirements, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695278](#)

Accountant
 Jumaira Land Advertising
 UAE

You will be responsible for preparing asset, liability and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing account information, summarizing the current financial status by collecting information; preparing the balance sheet, profit and loss statements and other reports, substantiating financial transactions by auditing documents, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695403](#)

Account Manager (Media)
 7G Media
 UAE

You will be responsible for managing a portfolio of client accounts, conducting meetings with clients as well as informing them about the current work status, managing and delivering the client's advertisement projects, understanding agency work, etc.

Apply Now [JB3693852](#)

Graphic Designer & Photographer - Carolyn Deed
 UAE

You will be responsible for a variety of work ranging from photo and tech handling to logistics / operations, setting up location studio and event rollout as visual quality controller and tech support. You should be knowledgeable about photography (professional or as a hobby) and have a strong background in graphic design.

Apply Now [JB3694516](#)

DCS Testing & Commissioning Engineer - Alstom
 Qatar

You will be responsible for performing on-site testing and commissioning activities during the commissioning of DCS sub-system, checking the similarity of signaling systems in relation to system specification documents and contractual documents, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695109](#)

Sales Representative
 NAAS Group
 Qatar

You will be responsible for listening to customer requirements and presenting appropriately to make a sale, maintaining and developing relationships with existing customers in person and via telephone calls and emails, cold calling to arrange meetings with potential customers and create new business prospects, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695178](#)

IT Sales Manager (Arabic)
 Wipro Arabia Ltd.
 Qatar

You will be responsible for driving and managing new strategic business opportunities, partnerships, alliances and / or joint ventures; managing the sales pipeline in a proactive manner to ensure attainment of the individual and group contributions to the established goals, driving deal closure by involving yourself in big and complex opportunities, etc.

Apply Now [JB3695213](#)

HR Manager
 QAFAM
 Qatar

You will be responsible for implementing and driving HR initiatives to support business strategies, providing pro-active support to the Senior Management in the areas of employee relations, organizational effectiveness, performance management, training and development, employee's benefits and compensation; liaising between departments and the HR team to develop and implement HR programs, etc.

Apply Now [JB3694770](#)



TEXAS: Kyle Chapman, president of the Texas Alt-Knights, is held back by his fellow Trump supporters from confronting Trump protester Nevin Kamath (far left) at the impeachment march at the Capitol in Austin, Texas, on Sunday July 2, 2017. Kamath tried to get into the Trump supporters' group photo and put his arm around Chapman. — AP

GOP VOTERS BLAME US CONGRESS, NOT TRUMP, FOR LACK OF PROGRESS

LET'S GIVE PRESIDENT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

NEW YORK: In firm control of the federal government, President Donald Trump and his Republican Party have so far failed to deliver on core campaign promises on health care, taxes and infrastructure. But in New York's Trump Tower cafe, the Gentry family blames Congress, not the president. Like many Trump voters across America, the Alabama couple, vacationing last week with their three children, says they are deeply frustrated with the president's GOP allies, faulting them for derailing Trump's plans. As the family of five lunched in Trump Tower, Sheila Gentry offered a pointed message to those concerned with the GOP's ability to govern five months into the Trump presidency.

"Shut up. Get on board. And let's give President Trump the benefit of the doubt. It takes a while," said the 46-year-old nursing educator from Section, Alabama. "They just need a good whoopin'," said her husband, Travis Gentry, a 48-year-old engineer, likening congressional infighting to unruly kids in the back seat of the car. As Washington Republicans decry Trump's latest round of Twitter attacks, Republicans on the ground from New York to Louisiana to Iowa continue to stand by the president and his unorthodox leadership style.

For now at least, rank-and-file Republicans are far more willing to blame the GOP-led Congress for their party's lack of progress, sending an early warning sign as the GOP looks to preserve its House and Senate majorities in next year's House and Senate elections. Inside and outside the Beltway surrounding the nation's capital, Republicans worry their party could pay a steep political price unless they show significant progress on their years-long promise to repeal and replace Democrat Barack Obama's health care law.

Even more disturbing, some say, is the Republican Party's nascent struggle to overhaul the nation's tax system, never mind Trump's unfulfilled vows to repair roads and bridges

across America and build a massive border wall. "It's a problem for Republicans, who were put in place to fix this stuff. If you can't fix it, I need someone who can," said Ernie Rudolph, a 72-year-old cybersecurity executive from suburban Des Moines, Iowa. There is no easy path forward for the Republican Party.

Health care plan

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that health care legislation backed by House and Senate Republican leaders - and favored by Trump - would ultimately leave more than 20 million additional Americans without health care, while enacting deep cuts to Medicaid and other programs that address the opioid epidemic. In some cases, the plans would most hurt Trump's most passionate supporters. Just 17 percent of Americans support the Senate's health care plan, according to a poll released last week, making it one of the least popular major legislative proposals in history.

The president on Friday injected new uncertainty into the debate by urging congressional Republicans simply to repeal Obama's health care law "immediately" while crafting a replacement plan later, which would leave tens of millions of Americans without health care with no clear solution. That shift came a day after several Republicans in Congress condemned Trump's personal Twitter attack against MSNBC hosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, which was viewed across Washington as an unwanted distraction in the midst of a sensitive policy debate.

Trump's nationwide approval rating hovered below 40 percent in Gallup's weekly tracking survey, even before the tweet. At the same time, just one in four voters approve of Republicans in Congress, Quinnipiac University found. Democrats, meanwhile, report sustained energy on the ground in swing districts where Republicans face tough re-election challenges.

Democrats need to flip 24 seats to win the House majority next fall, a goal that operatives in both parties see as increasingly possible as the GOP struggles to govern.

Taxes, infrastructure

A former Obama administration national security aide, Andy Kim, is among a large class of fresh Democratic recruits. "People are fired up," said Kim, who's challenging Rep Tom MacArthur, R-NJ. "It's not just about the health care bill. It's not just about Trump. ... They're concerned about the ability of this government to put together any credible legislation going forward." Republicans are also concerned. In Iowa's Adair County, GOP Chairman Ryan Frederick fears that Republican voters will begin to lose confidence in their party's plans for taxes, infrastructure and immigration should the health care overhaul fail.

"Everyone I know looks at trying to get Obamacare repealed and says, 'If we're making this much of a pig's breakfast out of that, what are we going to do with tax reform?'" Frederick said. "We've dreamed of killing Obamacare for seven years. And we have the House, the Senate and the presidency, and we can't do it?" he continued. "What's the deal, guys?" Louisiana Republican Party Chairman Roger Villere bemoans "factionalism" in his party. Intraparty divisions are holding up health care, he says, which in turn keeps the GOP-led government from tackling other priorities.

He's looking to Trump for leadership. "He's the ultimate negotiator," Villere said. "We'll see how good he is." Back in Trump Tower, Sheila Gentry conceded that Trump's tweets sometimes make her cringe, but she still has confidence in her president. She can't say the same for congressional Republicans. "The Republicans who are in there now that aren't being very supportive, they're going to find themselves without a job soon if they don't step it up," she said. — AP

TRUMP'S WHITE HOUSE ALL BUT 'IGNORING' SPANISH SPEAKERS

WASHINGTON: The Trump White House no habla español. Well, un poquito. After a succession of administrations that embraced Spanish-language content, President Donald Trump's White House is all but ignoring Spanish speakers even though he has a robust online presence in English. His administration has yet to offer a Spanish White House website. It has eliminated the position of director of Hispanic media outreach. And its Spanish-language Twitter account is heavy with English text and features sloppy translations.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said in January that the administration had its "IT folks working overtime" to roll out a new Spanish language site after WhiteHouse.gov/espanol went dark in the hours after Trump took office. "Trust me, it's going to take a little bit more time, but we're working piece by piece to get that done," Spicer said at the time. More than five months later, the site still urges readers to "STAY TUNED." The White House's Spanish Twitter account, @LaCasaBlanca, is also far less active in the Trump era.

The account has tweeted just 41 times since Trump's inauguration; more than one-third of those posts came on the day of his address to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 28. Of the 41 tweets, about half were written in English. The Spanish tweets are sprinkled with typos - 11 in all. While most mistakes are minor flubs such as missing accents, those accents often change the meaning of words significantly. For instance, they turn "medical" into "medicate" or "is" into "this." Notably, one of the first agencies to expand Spanish-language content during the Trump era has been US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The agency better known as ICE is responsible for carrying out deportations. Last month, it announced that it was expanding the Spanish section of its website and started a new Spanish twitter feed, @ICEspanol. The White House director of media affairs, Helen Aguirre Ferre, said she expects a Spanish website to launch later this year. She noted the Obama administration took nine months to launch its version, adding that "the priority remains to improve the English language website." She said there was no plan to hire a press officer solely dedicated to Spanish-language media at this time.

She said she and another staffer in the communications operation are bilingual and conduct interviews in Spanish. Spanish-language media are also invited to participate in press briefings, background briefings and other events, along with their English-language colleagues, she said. Former President George W. Bush began the tradition of a Spanish-language website. The Obama administration followed suit. Luis Miranda, director of Hispanic

media at the White House during the Obama administration, said the Obama-era Spanish-language website was not just a translation of the English site, but included information geared to Latinos on topics such as immigration, health issues, banking and veterans affairs.

"For us it was important that all of our constituents across the board were getting as much information as possible about what we were doing," he said. Still, the Obama White House received some criticism for using Spanglish in its initial website on his health overhaul. Activists see the lack of Spanish content as part of a larger pattern by Trump and the administration. "I believe they have written off the Latino vote as, 'I'm never going to get it, so why should I even bother?'" said Luis A. Miranda Jr., a Democratic strategist who has worked for Democrat Hillary Clinton as well as Republican Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York. (The two Mirandas are not related.)

During his campaign, Trump turned off many Latinos with his harsh anti-immigration rhetoric. He criticized rival Jeb Bush for answering a reporter's question in Spanish, saying the former Florida governor "should really set the example by speaking English while in the United States." "We have a country, where, to assimilate, you have to speak English. And I think that where he was, and the way it came out didn't sound right to me," Trump said during one Republican primary debate. Trump still won about 28 percent of the Latino vote, similar to Mitt Romney in 2012, according to exit polls.

Roberto Izurieta, director of Latin American Projects at George Washington University, said that since Trump began his campaign, his rhetoric has been "very aggressive and very anti-Hispanic." The president decided on Day One to stay with his electoral base. It means he will keep his divisive rhetoric and stay with his base, which is anti-immigrant," he said. Javier Palomarez, president of the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was a vocal critic of Trump during the campaign. But he said he has been pleasantly surprised by the administration's other Hispanic outreach efforts.

While Spanish-language communication is "important in terms of optics," he said, "at the end of the day, where the rubber meets the road for us and what matters to us is what kind of policy are you enacting, are you engaged with us." He said his members' conversations with the White House have been "constant, consistent and ongoing," with numerous in-person meetings with White House and Cabinet officials, including Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and weekly phone calls with Jennifer Korn, deputy director for the White House Office of Public Liaison. — AP



The Capitol in Washington is quiet after lawmakers departed for the Independence Day recess. The Republican leadership in the Senate decided this week to delay a vote on their long-awaited health care bill in following opposition in the GOP ranks. — AP

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY BRINGS MIXED FEELINGS FOR MINORITIES

ALBUQUERQUE: As many in the United States celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, some minorities have mixed feelings about the revelry of fireworks and parades in an atmosphere of tension on several fronts. How do you celebrate during what some people of color consider troubling times? Blacks, Latinos and immigrant rights advocates say the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, recent non-convictions of police officers charged in the shootings of black men, and the stepped-up detentions of immigrants and refugees for deportation have them questioning equality and the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the United States. Filmmaker Chris Phillips of Ferguson, Missouri, says he likely will attend a family barbecue just like every Fourth of July. But the 36-year-old black man says he can't help but feel perplexed about honoring the birth of the nation after three officers were recently cleared in police shootings.

Police shootings

Since the 2014 police shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officer shootings - of black males in particular - have drawn scrutiny, sparking protests nationwide. Few officers ever face charges, and convictions are rare. Despite video, suburban St. Paul, Minnesota, police officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was acquitted last month in the shooting of Philando Castile, a black man. The 32-year-old school cafeteria worker was killed during a traffic stop July 6, almost a year ago. "Justice apparently doesn't apply to all people," said Phillips, who saw the protests that roiled his town for weeks following Brown's death.

His yet-unreleased documentary "Ferguson 365" focuses on the Brown shooting and its aftermath. "A lot of people have lost hope." Unlike Phillips, Janette McClelland, 55, a black musician in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said she has no intention of celebrating July Fourth. "It's a white man's holiday to me. It's just another day,"

McClelland said. "I'm not going to even watch the fireworks. Not feeling it." McClelland, who grew up in Los Angeles before the urban unrest of the 1960s, said she fears cities may see more violence amid a feeling of helplessness. "I'm praying and trying to keep positive," she said.

Immigration

Immigration was a key issue during the presidential campaign for both parties. Since then,



ALBUQUERQUE: Kadhim Al-bumohammed (kneeling right), a 64-year-old Iraqi refugee in the US, listens to speakers at an Albuquerque rally in his honor. As cities and towns host July 4th parades and fireworks shows, some minority residents are expressing mixed feelings about the holiday used to reaffirm the country's founding based on equality and civil liberties. — AP

Trump's administration has stepped up enforcement and instituted a scaled-back partial travel ban that places new limits on entry to the US for citizens of six Muslim-majority countries. The temporary ban requires people to prove a close family relationship in the US or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or business. On Friday, the administration announced that Immigration and Customs Enforcement would arrest people - including relatives - who hire smugglers to bring children into the US illegally.

Patricia Montes, a Boston resident and immigrant from Honduras, said she's grateful for the opportunities and security the United States has given her. Yet this year, she doesn't know how to approach the Fourth of July holiday. "I fell very conflicted," said Montes, an immigrant advocate. "I mean, what are we celebrating? Are we celebrating democracy?" Montes said it pains her to see children fleeing violence get turned away and deported back to Central America without due process. She also is disturbed by recent immigration raids in Latino and Muslim communities that spark more fear and uncertainty.

In Texas, Latino activists have been protesting a state law that forces cities and towns to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. In New Mexico and Michigan, immigrant advocates have been rallying on behalf of Iraqi refugees facing deportation. "There's a lot not to be proud about when celebrating the Fourth of July," said Janelle Astorga Ramos, a University of New Mexico student and daughter of a Mexican immigrant. "Even though it's a time to celebrate as a country and (for) our unity, it's definitely going to be on the back of our minds."

Despite those problems and concerns, Ramos said her family will recognize the holiday and visit Elephant Butte, New Mexico, a popular summer destination. "This is our home," Ramos said. Isabella Baker, a 17-year-old Latina from Bosque Farms, New Mexico, said she'll celebrate the holiday based on her own views of patriotism. — AP

SEARCH WARRANT FOR EMAILS, AN ISSUE IN US APPEALS CASE

WASHINGTON: On the surface, the investigation was routine. Federal agents persuaded a judge to issue a warrant for a Microsoft email account they suspected was used for drug trafficking. But US-based Microsoft kept the emails on a server in Ireland. Microsoft said that meant the emails were beyond the warrant's reach. A federal appeals court agreed. Late last month, the Trump administration asked the Supreme Court to intervene.

The case is among several legal clashes that Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft and other technology companies have had with the government over questions of digital privacy and authorities' need for information to combat crime and extremism. Privacy law experts say the companies have been more willing to push back against the government since the leak of classified information detailing America's surveillance programs.

Another issue highlighted in the appeal is the difficulty that judges face in trying to square decades-old laws with new technological developments. In the latest case, a suspected drug trafficker used Microsoft's email service. In 2013, federal investigators obtained a warrant under a 1986 law for the emails themselves as well as identifying information about the user of the email account. Microsoft turned over the information, but went to court to defend its decision not to hand over the emails from Ireland.

The federal appeals court in New York agreed with the company that the 1986 Stored Communications Act does not apply outside the United States. The

administration's Supreme Court appeal said the decision is damaging "hundreds if not thousands of investigations of crimes - ranging from terrorism, to child pornography, to fraud." The emails, the administration noted, may reside on a server somewhere, but said Microsoft can retrieve them "domestically with the click of a computer mouse."

Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, said in a blog post following the high court appeal that the administration's position "would put businesses in impossible conflict-of-law situations and hurt the security, jobs, and personal rights of Americans." Technology companies and privacy experts are among those watching the case closely. "This is a big deal in an era of a global internet. Servers are not just in the United States. They're all over the world, and figuring out the rules for foreign-stored data is really important, not just for us, but for foreign governments," said Orin Kerr, a George Washington University law professor whose work is cited in the appellate ruling.

One problem identified by Kerr and other privacy scholars is that courts might not be the best place to resolve these issues. Should the same rules apply to the emails of an American citizen and a foreigner? Does it matter where the person is living? "The Supreme Court can't answer these questions in the nuanced way that's needed," said Jennifer Daskal, an American University law professor. Even Judge Gerard Lynch on the New York panel that sided with Microsoft called for "congressional action to revise a badly outdated statute." — AP

COPTER CRASH KILLS 8 AFTER INDONESIA VOLCANO ERUPTS

JAKARTA: A rescue helicopter crashed while heading to help evacuate residents near an active volcano on Indonesia's main island, killing all eight people on board, officials said yesterday. The helicopter crashed about three minutes before arriving at Dieng Plateau, the popular tourist area where the volcanic eruption Sunday injured at least 10 people. The aircraft reportedly hit a cliff on Butak Mountain in the Temanggung district of Central Java province.

All eight people on board were killed, said Maj Gen Heronimus Guru, deputy operations chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency. He told The Associated Press, "We are now at the Bhayangkara Hospital in Semarang," the Central Java provincial capital where the victims' bodies were taken. Brig Gen Ivan Tito, director of operation and training at the search agency, told TVOne station in a live interview from Temanggung, that the victims were four navy officers and four rescuers. He also said the Indonesian-made Dauphin AS365 helicopter was airworthy.

The Sileri Crater at Dieng Plateau spewed cold lava, mud and ash as high

as 50 meters into the sky when it erupted Sunday morning, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. The sudden eruption occurred while about 17 visitors were around the crater. Ten people were injured and were treated at a hospital. Soldiers and police officers were dispatched and local residents and visitors were asked to evacuate in case of further eruptions, Nugroho said.

Sileri is the most active and dangerous among some 10 craters at Dieng Plateau. Its most recent eruption was in 2009, when it unleashed volcanic materials up to 200 meters high and triggered the creation of three new craters. Dwi Suryanto, head of culture and tourism in the Sileri area, said the crater was quiet yesterday but remains closed to visitors. Other craters on the plateau are still open, he said. Dieng Plateau, located in the Central Java district of Banjarnegara, is a popular tourist attraction because of its cool climate and ninth-century Hindu temples. It sits about 2,000 meters (6,600 feet) above sea level. Some 142 people were reportedly asphyxiated in 1979 when the volcano spewed gases. — AP



DIENG: Smoke billows from Sileri Crater after it erupted in Dieng, Central Java, Indonesia on Sunday, July 2, 2017. A helicopter carrying eight people crashed while on the way to help with evacuations near a volcano that erupted on the main Indonesian island of Java. — AP

NIGERIA FIRST LADY TO VISIT HUSBAND

ABUJA: The wife of Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari is set to visit him in Britain where he is receiving medical treatment, her spokesman said yesterday, weeks after she last visited him and said he was recovering quickly. The ailing president left Nigeria's capital, Abuja, on May 7 and handed over power to his deputy, Yemi Osinbajo. It is his second period of medical leave this year, following an absence from January which lasted nearly two months. Officials have refused to disclose details of the 74-year-old's condition.

A statement issued by State House said Aisha Buhari left Nigeria on Sunday and would attend an event in Ethiopia

before continuing her journey to London today. "She will convey to the president the best wishes of Nigerians and their fervent prayers for his quick recovery," said the spokesman in an emailed statement. The president's wife said last month that the former military ruler was "recovering fast".

Buhari reduced his working day to a few hours each day after returning to Nigeria from his first stint of medical leave on March 10, diplomats and government sources said. The president was not seen outside of the presidential villa in Abuja before travelling to Britain again in May. — Reuters

ECUADOR IMPEACHES STATE EX-COMPTROLLER

QUITO: The Ecuadoran Congress has impeached a former state comptroller living in the United States for his ties to scandal-plagued Brazilian construction company Odebrecht, in the latest action as part of a sprawling bribery probe. Odebrecht, the largest construction company in Latin America, agreed in December to pay a record \$3.5 billion settlement over revelations it paid massive bribes to win juicy contracts in 12 countries.

A dozen people have been detained in connection with the probe in Ecuador, including former electricity minister Alecksey Mosquera and an uncle of the vice president. Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Sunday in favor of censoring or removing from position-Carlos Polit, in a symbolic move against the former state comptroller who had already resigned on June 20 and moved to Miami citing health concerns.

The National Assembly also voted, with 132 votes in favor and one abstention, to send the results of the impeachment trial to the 12 countries with an interest in the Odebrecht case, since Polit also has a related open tax investigation against him in Ecuador. In his defense, which he sent in writing and was read out over a two-hour period, Polit claimed he had "no political responsibility" for the charges, saying lawmakers were punishing him based on unfavorable news articles. The trial was brought

by the ruling Alianza Pais party and backed by the opposition, which is seeking similar action against Vice President Jorge Glas.

"The Odebrecht company was treated with favors," said lawmaker Daniel Mendoza of the ruling party in presenting the charges. He said Polit did not fulfill his duties by not auditing contracts signed between the state and the Brazilian construction company. "Regardless of whether you have delegated the signature, regardless of whether you have used this nefarious practice of trying to shield your actions, you have simply demonstrated that you have breached your duties," Mendoza said. Authorities raided Polit's home on June 2.

The case is part of an investigation into \$33.5 million in bribes that Odebrecht executives have admitted paying Ecuadorian officials from 2007 to 2016. The Odebrecht scandal erupted during the investigation of a massive pay-to-play scheme at Brazil's state oil company Petrobras, which has dirtied the names of a string of top Brazilian politicians and business executives.

The fallout has been felt around Latin America after Odebrecht executives admitted in plea bargains that a secret bribery department in the company systematically paid multi-million-dollar bribes to win public works contracts throughout the region. — AFP



MEDAN: A police officer stands guard near a bomb disposal truck at the entrance to the North Sumatra Regional Police headquarters in Medan, Indonesia. — AP

INDONESIA'S REPUTATION AS A MODEL OF MODERATE ISLAM INTACT: WIDODO

PLURALISM PART OF INDONESIA'S DNA, PRESIDENT SAYS

JAKARTA: Indonesia's president said yesterday his country remains a model of moderate Islam, countering critics who point to mass rallies by radical Muslims and the jailing of a Christian politician for blasphemy as evidence its reputation is crumbling. "Pluralism has always been a part of Indonesia's DNA," Joko Widodo said in an interview at the presidential palace in Jakarta. "Despite many challenges, Islam in Indonesia has always been a force for moderation."

Indonesia's state ideology includes national unity, social justice and democracy alongside belief in God, and enshrines religious diversity in a secular system of government. Hardline Islamist groups were banned under the authoritarian regime of President Suharto, which ended in 1998, but they have gained ground in recent years, emerging from the fringes of society in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country. Religious and political tensions spiraled at the end of last year when Islamists led protests by hundreds of thousands in Jakarta against the capital's then governor, an ethnic-Chinese Christian who was charged with insulting the Quran.

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, an ally of President Widodo, lost his bid for re-election to a Muslim rival in April after months of agitation against him by a radical group, the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI). In May he was sentenced to two years in jail for blasphemy. Widodo said Indonesia was "still a model" of pluralism and

noted comments on Saturday by former US President Barack Obama - on a personal visit to the country where he spent some of his childhood - that its history of tolerance must be preserved. "It is very important here in Indonesia, the United States, Europe, everywhere, to fight against the politics of 'us and them,'" Obama told a conference in Jakarta.

Careful line on homosexuality

The targets of hardline Islamic groups have included the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, many of whom have been driven underground by police raids. With the exception of the ultra-conservative Aceh province, where Islamic law is enforced and two men were publicly flogged in May for gay sex, homosexuality is legal in Indonesia.

But Widodo's own defense minister has branded homosexuality a national security threat and last week a leader of Indonesia's second-largest Muslim group called for a boycott of Starbucks because of the international coffee chain's pro-gay stand. The president trod a careful line on the question of LGBT rights, saying that "Indonesia remains a tolerant nation" whose constitution guarantees that everyone's rights are respected and protected. But he added: "We are the largest majority Muslim country so Indonesia has its own religious norms, unique values and also cultures that must be respected."

ISIS has no place in Indonesia

The muscle-flexing of hardline groups has fed fears that Indonesia will become fertile ground for Islamist militants. Widodo said he would press parliament to move more quickly on passing a new anti-terrorism law that would make it easier to both arrest and detain suspects. "We need this law," he said, hammering his finger on the table in front of him. The attempt in May by a small army of Islamic State-allied fighters to overrun a city in the southern Philippines has been widely seen as a bid by the ultra-radical group, on a backfoot in Syria and Iraq, to establish a stronghold in Southeast Asia. Philippines officials have said there were Indonesians and Malaysians among the fighters who attacked Marawi City, where a battle with government troops has ground on for six weeks.

"ISIS has no place in Indonesia," Widodo said, using a popular acronym for Islamic State. He noted that Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines had agreed to joint maritime patrols to prevent militants moving across their islands, and said he discussed cooperation on a phone call with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte last week. "Our security and intelligence agencies continue to work hard to combat this threat. We are also continuing to promote the values of moderate Islam and when I talked with President Duterte last week I said that 'your problem is my problem.'" — Reuters



VERSAILLES: French President Emmanuel Macron (center) speaks during a special congress gathering both houses of parliament (National Assembly and Senate) in the palace of Versailles, outside Paris yesterday. — AFP

MAN CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE FRANCE'S PRESIDENT

FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST TARGETS MUSLIMS, JEWS, BLACKS, GAYS

PARIS: A man has been charged with plotting to assassinate President Emmanuel Macron at France's Bastille Day military parade which the French leader is set to attend with US President Donald Trump, a judicial source said yesterday. The 23-year-old is a suspected far-right extremist who told investigators he wanted to kill Macron at the July 14 national day parade in Paris, a source close to the investigation said. He said he also wanted to attack "Muslims, Jews, blacks, homosexuals," the source added.

Police arrested the man at his home on Wednesday in the northwest Paris suburb of Argenteuil after being alerted by users of an internet chatroom where the suspect allegedly said he wanted to buy a firearm. Three kitchen knives

were found in his vehicle and analysis of his computer found that he had conducted internet searches as part of his plot, the source said. Macron, France's youngest president at 39, invited Trump as his guest of honor for the July 14 parade which commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789 — the start of the French Revolution and a turning point in world history.

The two men have radically different political views and interests, but Macron appears intent on trying to build a relationship with the US president and has warned against efforts to isolate him at a meeting of G20 nations this weekend. The July 14 assassination plot recalls the plot of "The Day of the Jackal", a book by spy writer

Frederick Forsyth in which a hitman attempts to kill former French president Charles de Gaulle, the target of numerous real-life plots. On Bastille Day in 2002, president Jacques Chirac was the target of an assassination attempt on Paris's Champs-Elysees avenue.

Terror on Champs-Elysees

Macron has frequently greeted crowds and discussed with protesters, but France remains in a state of emergency after a string of attacks since 2015. The July 14 parade takes place on the Champs-Elysees, which has been the site of two recent attacks targeting police. Late last month a man drove a car laden with weapons and gas canisters into a police van on the world-famous avenue.

In April, a known extremist shot dead a policeman on the Champs-Elysees just days before the first round of the presidential election. The man arrested outside Paris last week was charged on Saturday with plotting to commit a terrorist act, the judicial source said.

He had already been convicted in 2016 for condoning terrorism and sentenced to three years in prison, of which 18 months were suspended. He had applauded neo-Nazi mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in a bomb and gun rampage in 2011 in Norway. France has been under a state of emergency that has been repeatedly renewed since jihadist attacks in Paris in November 2015 in which 130 people were killed. — AFP

2 REBELS KILLED IN KASHMIR FIREFIGHT



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri villagers bring a resident injured by Indian security personnel to the main hospital in Srinagar yesterday. —AFP

SRINAGAR: Two suspected rebels were killed and a civilian was critically wounded in a shootout with government forces in Indian Kashmir yesterday, police said, as tensions in the disputed territory ran high. A police officer was also critically wounded in a separate incident in the Indian-administered part of the disputed Himalayan region, which has seen a spike in violence in recent months. The two militants died in a firefight with soldiers and special police counterinsurgency forces who had cordoned off a neighborhood in the south of the region yesterday. Hundreds of villagers poured out onto the streets to try to help the trapped rebels escape, many throwing stones and shouting slogans against Indian rule.

One was injured when government forces fired into the crowd. "Two militants were killed in the encounter. According to our input one more is still fighting," director general of police S P Vaid said. Another police officer speaking on condition of anonymity said all three fighters were locals. In a separate incident further south in Anantnag town militants fired at a police party in the local bus stand and critically wounded an officer, Vaid said. "We are evacuating him from the area," inspector general of police Muneer Ahmed Khan said.

Kashmir has seen a spike in violence since the start of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in late May, with 56 people killed in almost daily clashes. Last week stone-throwing protesters clashed with government forces in the main city of Srinagar. Less than two weeks ago, a senior police officer was beaten to death by a crowd outside one Srinagar mosque. Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947 but both claim it in full. Rebel groups have for decades fought roughly 500,000 Indian soldiers deployed in the territory, demanding independence or a merger of the region with Pakistan.

The conflict has left tens of thousands dead since 1989, mostly civilians. Tensions are expected to escalate further ahead of the first anniversary on Saturday of the popular rebel leader Burhan Wani who was killed by security forces. Officials say dozens of local youths have joined the rebel ranks since his death, and armed encounters have become more frequent. The killing provoked a huge outpouring of public anger in Indian administered Kashmir that has drawn a growing number of civilians into the conflict, with entire communities coming out to help the rebels and attack government forces. —AFP

INDIAN PM MODI HEADS TO ISRAEL, LIFTING THE CURTAIN ON CLOSE TIES

MODI TO BECOME THE FIRST INDIAN PM TO VISIT ISRAEL

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi begins a first visit to Israel by an Indian prime minister today, in a public embrace of a country that he has long admired for its military and technical expertise but which his predecessors kept at arm's length. India has traditionally trodden a careful diplomatic line in the region, analysts say, wary of upsetting Arab states and Iran - upon whom it relies for its vast imports of oil - and its large Muslim minority. It has been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause, even as it quietly pursued ties with Israel.

fast friendship" between Israel and India. "This visit will deepen cooperation in a wide range of fields - security, agriculture, water, energy - basically in almost every field Israel is involved in," Netanyahu told his cabinet in public remarks.

Modi will not travel to Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority and a customary stop for visiting leaders trying to maintain a balance in political ties. At home, the apparent shift in what has long been a bedrock of India's foreign policy risks sharpening criticism that the country's 180 million Muslims are

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was a regular visitor to New Delhi, pictured hugging then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi when the two were championing the Non-Alignment Movement. In May, Modi hosted Arafat's successor, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and offered help in health and information technology, but the trip was low-key. The scale of the ongoing collaboration with Israel dwarfs anything India is attempting with the Palestinians, officials say.

"We have a wide ranging partnership with Israel that ranges from

visit. But it is the defense relationship that is most advanced - India is now Israel's biggest arms market, buying weapons at an average of \$1 billion each year. Eli Alfassi, executive vice president of marketing at state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the country's biggest defence firm, said it was supplying India with drones, radar, communication systems and cybersecurity.

Missiles, food security

The centrepiece of the collaboration is the Barak 8 air defence system, built jointly by the two countries in a boost for Modi's campaign to develop a domestic defence industry. "We are adjusting to the 'Make in India' policy which says only local companies will win tenders, so we are setting up three joint projects in India with local companies," Alfassi said. IAI has signed a memorandum of understanding to build missiles with India's state-run Bharat Electronics Limited, launched a joint project with Dynamic Technologies to make drones and is scouting for a partner for a joint venture for its subsidiary Elta, which specializes in electronic warfare and communication systems, he said.

India is in the midst of a military modernization program worth more than \$100 billion to help counter rivals Pakistan and China. Israel, the United States and Russia are India's top military suppliers, and Modi's government has said it will favor countries that are ready to share technology. Avi Mizrahi, executive vice president of business development for Israel and Southeast Asia at Elbit Systems, which supplies electro-optic systems and upgrades of helicopters and combat vehicles, said it would be bidding for a tender to supply drones in partnership with India's Adani group.

The two countries stress, though, that there is more to the relationship than arms deals. Modi will be discussing a plan for Israeli help in boosting India's food security, officials said. The plan is to expand 26 agriculture expertise centers that Israel has set up in 15 Indian states to help increase output of everything from vegetables to mangoes and pomegranates. Modi wants Indian companies involved in turning these small centers into commercial entities that would help tens of thousands of farmers to boost productivity. —Reuters



MARAWI, Philippines: Smoke billows from burning houses as fighting between government troops and Islamist militants continues in Marawi on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. —AFP

MILITANTS CLING ON TO BUILDINGS IN BESIEGED SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE CITY

MARAWI: Islamist gunmen led by one of the world's most wanted terrorists still hold about 1,500 buildings in a southern Philippine city after weeks of ferocious fighting that has left hundreds dead, officials said yesterday. The Philippine military has struggled to expel scores of gunmen who rampaged across Marawi city on May 23 flying the black flag of the Islamic State group, despite day and night artillery and air strikes that have reduced swathes of the downtown area to rubble.

President Rodrigo Duterte last month vowed to "crush" the militants, but several deadlines have already been missed to end a conflict that has left scores dead and forced some 400,000 people from their homes. The gunmen are led by Isnilon Hapilon, one of the world's most wanted men, who is believed to be still alive and holed up in a mosque, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told a news conference in Manila.

In the most detailed assessment yet, he conceded there was no saying when soldiers would be able to retake all 1,500 houses and buildings still held or booby-trapped by the militants. "Since it is urban fighting a lot of our troops there are not prepared. One can say they are learning as they fight in this built-up area," he said, adding that soldiers are battling street-to-street retaking up to a hundred buildings a day. The military in

Marawi suggested a slower rate, with soldiers recapturing 40 buildings on Saturday and 57 on Sunday.

"The clearing operation is difficult because of the presence of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), booby traps left behind by the terrorists," said the military spokesman for the campaign, Lieutenant-Colonel Jo-ar Herrera. Eighty-two soldiers and police and 39 civilians have died in the weeks-long conflict, he said. Around a hundred militants are still entrenched in the city and the army has said they have used a water route to bring in ammunition and evacuate wounded fighters, helping them withstand the military offensive for weeks. Some 300 gunmen are thought to have been killed so far.

Lorenzana said military commanders wanted a swift end to the operation, "but the enemy is also very wily and resourceful". Duterte imposed martial law over the southern Philippines soon after the fighting started, saying he needed strong powers to snuff out an IS plot to carve out territory after battlefield losses in Iraq and Syria. A botched government attempt to arrest Hapilon at a Marawi hideout touched off the fighting in May. He is supported by Marawi-based gunmen led by the Maute brothers, whose group has pledged allegiance to IS, as well as several foreign fighters, Lorenzana said. —AFP



MUMBAI: Indian demonstrators take part in a protest against a spate of murders targeting minorities under the pretext of protecting cows in Mumbai yesterday. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned a string of murders targeting minorities under the pretext of protecting cows, which are considered sacred by many Hindus, after critics accused the government of turning a blind eye. —AFP

But now Modi is lifting the curtain on a thriving military relationship. He will hold three days of talks with his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, to advance sales and production of missiles, drones and radar systems under his signature "Make in India" drive, officials in Delhi and Tel Aviv said. Netanyahu, hailing what he described as Modi's "historic visit", said yesterday he and the Indian leader have worked together over the past few years to build a "stead-

increasingly being marginalized under Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, which swept to power in 2014. "Narendra Modi's visit to Israel will only strengthen its occupation of Palestine," said Asaduddin Owaisi, a member of India's federal parliament from a regional group that promotes Muslim rights.

Burgeoning relationship

In previous decades, under the left-leaning Congress Party, former

agriculture cooperation to homeland security," said Bala Bhaskar, head of the foreign ministry's West Asia division. He said India's ties with Israel and Palestine were important in their own right and neither should be viewed through the prism of the other. But an Israeli diplomat said Modi's standalone trip to Israel was an important signal.

The two sides are expected to announce strategic partnerships in areas including water, agriculture and space technology during Modi's

INDIA VIOLATES 1890 AGREEMENT IN BORDER STAND-OFF, CHINA SAYS

BEIJING, China: said yesterday that India was violating a 1890 border agreement between Britain and China that previous Indian governments have pledged to uphold, and it should be respected to end a "very serious" incursion by India. The border stand-off on a plateau next to the mountainous Indian state of Sikkim, which borders China, has ratcheted up tension between the neighboring giants, who share a 3,500 km (2,175 miles) frontier, large parts of which are disputed.

According to the Chinese interpretation of events, Indian guards crossed into China's Donglang region early in June and obstructed work on a road on the plateau. Troops from the two sides then confronted each other close to a strategic valley controlled by China that separates India from Bhutan - a close

Indian ally - and gives China access to the so-called Chicken's Neck, a thin strip of land that connects India to its remote northeastern regions. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily news briefing that the Sikkim part of the border had been settled in the 1890 agreement, and previous Indian governments had many times affirmed that in writing.

"Pacts must be respected - this is a basic principle of international law," Geng said. Indian troops crossing onto the Chinese side were a violation of this historical agreement and the United Nations charter, he added. "The nature of this is very serious," Geng said, reiterating a demand for India to withdraw its troops to its side. India's Ministry of External Affairs referred to a statement it made on

Friday, when it warned China that construction of the road near their common border would have serious security implications.

Analysts in New Delhi said that India had intervened on behalf of Bhutan. As the tiny Himalayan Kingdom was not party to the 1890 agreement between Britain and China, the dispute was between China and Bhutan over where their common border lies. Bhutan said last week that the road was being built inside its territory. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are attending a summit of the G20 group of nations in the German city of Hamburg later this week. Geng would not be drawn on whether the two could meet there, saying bilateral meetings for Xi at the summit were being arranged. —Reuters

MALDIVES OPPOSITION LAUNCHES A NEW BID TO SEIZE PARLIAMENT

COLOMBO: Maldives opposition parties yesterday launched a new bid to seize control of parliament through a third attempt to impeach the speaker. An opposition coalition said it had submitted a no-confidence motion with the support of 45 MPs-enough to force a vote in the 85-member majlis, or parliament. The main opposition Maldivian Democratic party (MDP) said the coalition now has a majority in the chamber. "Forty five signatures means we, the opposition coalition, now command parliament majority," MDP legislator Eva Abdulla said.

A previous attempt to impeach Speaker Abdulla Masheeh in April failed when the number of signatures required for a no-trust motion against the speaker was raised to 50 percent of the house, up from one third. The first attempt to impeach Masheeh in March ended in chaos when President Abdulla Yameen ordered troops to eject some lawmakers from parliament. That prompted the

United States to urge the Maldives to restore faith in democracy. The opposition coalition, led by exiled former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed, is trying to undermine Yameen before elections next year.

The opposition faces an uphill struggle, with all their key leaders out of the country or in jail after a years-long crackdown on dissent under Yameen's leadership. The clampdown has raised fears over stability and dented the Maldives' image as a tourist paradise. Nasheed has said that controlling the legislature is crucial to ensuring a free and fair presidential election in 2018. Nasheed became the country's first democratically-elected president in 2008, but was narrowly defeated by Yameen in a controversial 2013 election run-off. In 2015, he was sentenced to 13 years in prison on terrorism charges that were widely seen as politically motivated. He now lives in exile in Britain. —AFP

LEBANON SEES TOURISM REBOUND AMID...

Continued from Page 1

Since last year's doldrums during the summer tourist season, Lebanon's notoriously slow-moving and divided politicians have gotten it together to appoint a head of state after a two-year presidential vacuum, form a government, and agree to a law governing elections that has made possible parliamentary elections that were delayed since 2013. A spate of suicide bombings has been contained and militants have been pushed back, to a large extent, across the border with Syria.

Authorities have also beaten back popular unrest over corruption and non-accountability and restarted trash collection services in the capital, though the pungent smell of waste still greets travelers at the airport, thanks to a new landfill the government opened in a hurry just beyond the seaside runway.

"Really, us Iraqis, we thank you, and we are always lucky to be among the Lebanese people," said veterinarian and Basra native Ali Abdul Kareem, 24, who was spotted smoking a water pipe with three companions at a

restaurant off Hamra Street. He said it was his first time visiting Lebanon, breaking a string of successive vacations in Iran and the United Arab Emirates. "God willing, this won't be the only time we come to Beirut and Lebanon," he said.

Hotel occupancy in Lebanon, which went through 15 years of civil war that ended in 1990, is up by 25 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the president of the national hotel owners' syndicate, Pierre Ashkar, reaching 65 percent this summer.

And passenger arrivals at Beirut's airport outnumbered departures by about 24,000 during the recent Eid Al-Fitr holiday, compared to about 19,000 last year, suggesting travelers are staying longer, according to statistics from the Civil Aviation Authority. Beirut's airport is the only practical way to enter and leave the country for all except Syrians. In downtown Beirut, Egyptians are asking for directions for the leafy plaza by Parliament, kept off limits to the Lebanese for more than a year. Politicians were afraid the street protests of 2015 would escalate into riots. — AP

FIERY GERMANY BUS CRASH KILLS 18

Continued from Page 1

of its lane and struck a truck before ramming into the road divider in the southwestern Black Forest, another big tourist destination. Across Europe, the last fatal acci-

dent on a similar scale was on Jan 21 in Italy, when an accident involving a Hungarian bus carrying teenagers left 16 dead. In France, a head-on crash in October 2015 between a truck and a bus carrying pensioners claimed 43 lives. — Agencies

DRAFT LAW CALLS TO HALT WORK IF MERCURY...

Continued from Page 1

The committee will regulate, supervise and monitor the raising and distribution of charity funds inside and outside the country. The committee will also file lawsuits against violators. The committee will also receive applications to license fundraising campaigns. Applicants must explain the purpose of the campaign and where the money will be spent. The draft law bans collecting donations for armed groups or for groups with principles and objectives opposed to Kuwaiti laws or groups classified as terrorist ones by Kuwait or other states.

The bill also bans raising charity for the purpose of

purchasing arms for any purpose or any other material banned in Kuwait or by the country where the funds will be spent. The law bars raising funds to support military activities outside Kuwait, as only the ministries of defense and interior are authorized to raise charity for military activities inside or outside the country. The law bans collecting money by cash or through bank transfers and restricts collection to ATM devices. Violators of various provisions of the proposed law are subject to jail terms ranging from three to seven years - to be doubled in case of repetition. The new proposed law differs from the existing law in barring any donations for armed groups or those classified as terrorist organizations.

QATAR RESPONDS TO DEMANDS, DEADLINE...

Continued from Page 1

The crisis has raised concerns of growing instability in the region, home to some of the world's largest energy exporters and several key Western allies who host US military bases.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who yesterday started a tour of several Gulf states, called for "serious dialogue" to end the crisis. "We are worried that the distrust and the disunity could weaken all the parties concerned as well as the entire peninsula," said Gabriel, who will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Riyadh and its supporters have already severed air, sea and ground links with Qatar, cutting off vital routes for imports including food. They also ordered Qatari citizens to leave their territories and took various steps against Qatari firms and financial institutions. It is unclear what further measures will be taken if Qatar fails to meet the demands, but the UAE's ambassador to Russia Omar Ghobash warned last week that further sanctions could be imposed. As well as taking steps to expel Qatar from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, Riyadh and its allies could tell their economic partners to choose between business with them or with Doha, he told Britain's Guardian newspaper.

Meanwhile, Qatari officials have said they won't back down either. Al-Jazeera, the satellite news network funded by Qatar that the countries demand be shut down, issued a video message saying: "We too have demands. ... We demand press freedom." "Qatar is not an easy country to be swallowed by anyone," Qatari Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah told Sky News on Sunday. "We are ready. We stand ready to defend our country. I hope that we don't come to a stage where, you

know, a military intervention is made."

Qatar has long pursued a more independent foreign policy than many of its neighbors, who tend to follow the lead of regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia. Doha has said it is ready for talks to end the crisis. Kuwait, which unlike most of its GCC neighbors has not cut ties with Qatar, has been heading up mediation efforts. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has also called for compromise and hosted senior Gulf officials, but his efforts have been undermined by remarks from President Donald Trump apparently supporting Riyadh's position.

Trump spoke separately on Sunday with the Saudi king, Abu Dhabi's crown prince and the Qatari emir on his concerns over the dispute, the White House said. Trump "underscored that unity in the region is critical," the statement said, but also "reiterated the importance of stopping terrorist financing and discrediting extremist ideology." A separate statement carried on the official Qatar News Agency said the emir's discussion with Trump touched on the need to fight terrorism and extremism in all its forms and sources, and was a chance for the countries to review their bilateral strategic relations. Trump later tweeted: "Spoke yesterday with the King of Saudi Arabia about peace in the Middle-East. Interesting things are happening!"

Egypt will host the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain tomorrow to discuss "future steps in dealing with Qatar as well as exchange of points of view and the evaluation of the existing international and regional contacts in this connection," Egypt's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid said. The German government also announced that Saudi Arabia's King Salman had cancelled plans to attend this week's G20 summit in Hamburg. — Agencies

TOTAL SIGNS IRAN DEAL, DEFIES US

Continued from Page 1

Oil Minister Bijan Namadar Zanganeh said the deal was a direct result of moderate President Hassan Rouhani's resounding re-election victory in May and strong public support for rebuilding ties with the West. "The people said firmly that our oil policies should continue," he said. "We shall never forget Total being the forerunner." Zanganeh said Iran's oil industry needs some \$200 billion in investment over the next five years, and European firms have been hungrily eyeing opportunities in a country with the world's second-largest gas reserves and fourth-largest oil reserves. But they have been cautious about investing due to continuing US sanctions.

Total has appointed a compliance officer with the sole task of ensuring it does not fall foul of US measures against Iran. In particular, it must prevent cash flowing to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards - a tall order given their extensive and shadowy presence across the Iranian economy. Just a fortnight ago, the US Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill targeting the Guards over their involvement in regional conflicts and the country's ballistic missile program. The White House is also in the midst of a 90-day review on whether to abandon the nuclear deal entirely, which President Donald Trump threatened to do during his election campaign. The uncertainty has been enough to deter global firms such as BP from dipping their toes in Iranian waters, while Shell and Russia's Gazprom have signed only prelimi-

nary deals to date.

Even without the threat of sanctions, investing in the Iranian economy is not for the faint-hearted. Foreign firms in Iran still face "pervasive corruption... high levels of red tape; potential for currency instability (and) reluctance to allow foreign involvement within the domestic economy," consultancy firm BMI Research wrote in a briefing note yesterday. For all that, Iran's large population of middle-class consumers presents an irresistible opportunity for many businesses in Europe and beyond.

Any attempt to scupper the nuclear deal will likely face major push-back from its other signatories: Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was warmly received by EU leaders last month and tweeted that they were committed to the nuclear deal "despite reckless US hostility". At the signing yesterday, Pouyanne said "Total has a long history in Iran," pointing to its development of phases two and three of South Pars in the 1990s.

It will take a 50.1 percent stake in the new phase 11 project, while China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) will own 30 percent and Iran's Petropars 19.9 percent. The aim is to start pumping into Iran's domestic grid in 2021, eventually reaching 56.6 million cu m of gas per day. Iranian officials said the products would be worth a total of \$54 billion at current prices. Total had signed up to develop phase 11 back in 2009 but was forced to abandon its Iranian projects in 2012 when France joined European Union partners and imposed sanctions, including an oil embargo. — AFP

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Focus

WITH TOUCH OF PAINT, INDIA SLUM DWELLERS BATTLE EXTREME HEAT

Meenaben used to dread the onset of summer every year. Her small two-room home in a slum in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad would get so hot that she could not sit indoors for several hours in the day, even with a ceiling fan running. Two months ago, however, she agreed to try an experiment: A non-profit organization that works in the Ramesh Dutt Colony where she lives, on the outskirts of the city, painted her tin roof with white reflective paint, to try to reduce the heat.

The simple change worked. Through the month of May - usually the hottest time of year with temperatures reaching nearly 45 degree Celsius on many days - Meenaben, who goes by one name, has been able to sit in her home and even work, sewing quilts and bedcovers. "We used to really suffer from the heat. We could not sit inside, we could not work, people were falling sick," she said. "This year it has been so much better. The paint brought the temperature down by several degrees, and I have been able to sit in my home, do my work," she said.

The reflective paint is an experiment by Ahmedabad-based Mahila Housing Trust (MHT), a non-profit that is teaching women to be more resilient in 100 slums in five cities. The organisation, which focuses on upgrading and redeveloping slums and helping women secure property rights, is also helping women deal with climate change pressure, through techniques such as rainwater harvesting and composting.

"They work so hard to improve their lives, their homes. But even one setback from something like flash floods or a heatwave can have a big impact and cause them to slip back into poverty," said Bharati Bhonsale, a program manager at MHT. "A flash flood can destroy their belongings, heat stress affects their work and their health. So it's important they are equipped to manage the effects of climate change," she said.

Extreme Heat

Increasingly extreme heat is one of the many effects of climate change in India, where a modest 0.5 degree Celsius rise in average temperatures over the last 50 years has led to a nearly 150 percent hike in heatwaves that kill at least 100 people. The number of recorded deaths due to heatwaves in 2015 - more than 2,400 - was higher than the death toll from any other natural disaster that year, according to government data. Ahmedabad knows firsthand the dangers of extreme heat. A major heatwave in 2010 caused more than 1,000 deaths.

In 2013, the city adopted a Heat Action Plan that includes a warning system, and works with civil society groups to try to protect the city's most vulnerable people. MHT knows the disproportionate effect of climate change on the city's poorest residents, and is trying to do something about it. It is experimenting with reflective paint, insulated ceilings and modular roofs in homes in Ramesh Dutt Colony. These are low-cost options that can bring down indoor temperatures by several degrees, Bhonsale told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

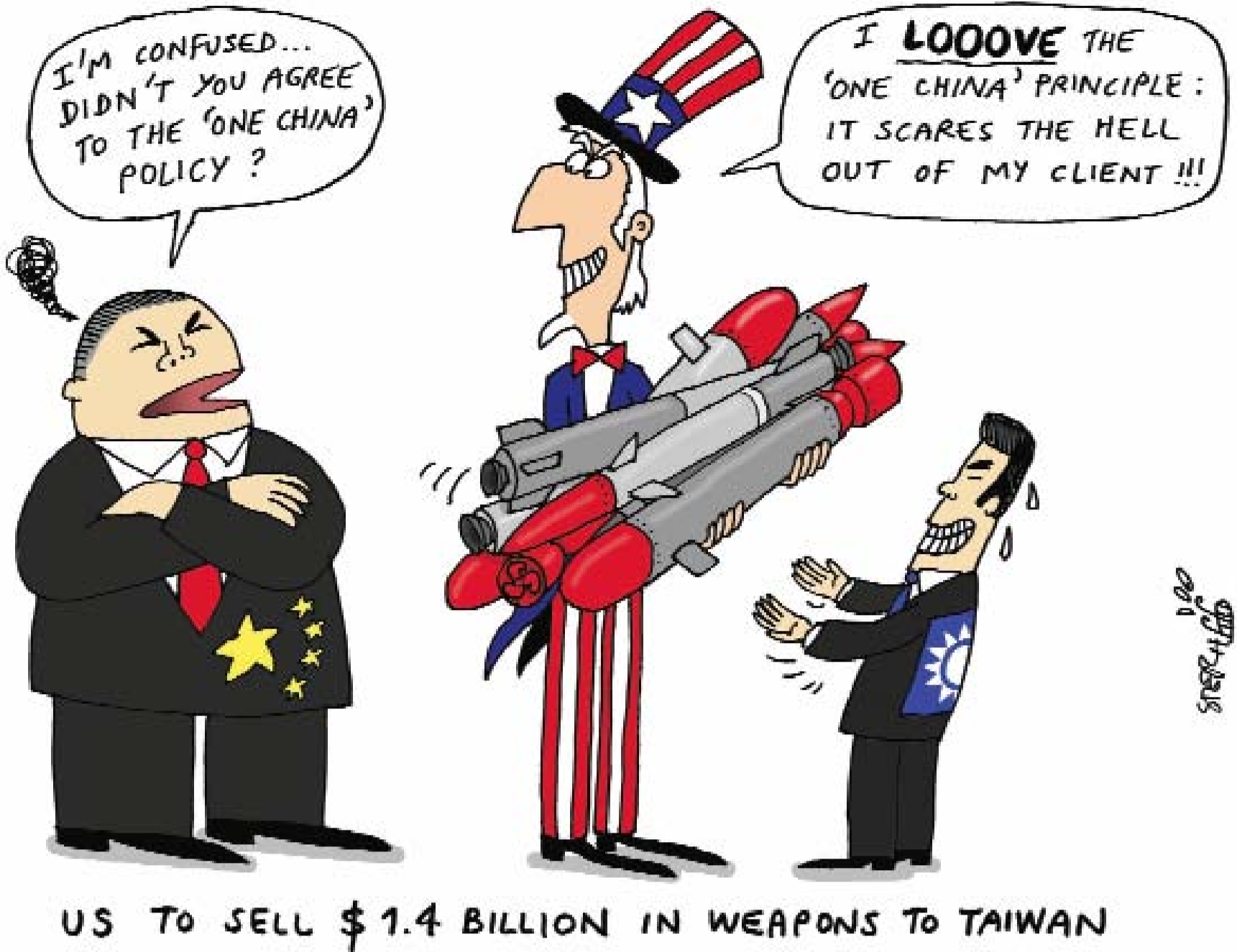
Women are also trained in measures such as using fuel-efficient stoves to reduce reliance on firewood, rainwater harvesting, composting, cleaning stormwater drains and planting shrubs to help prevent flash floods. The trust has installed a warning system in some slums that sounds an alarm during heavy rains, so residents can move documents and food to higher spots in case of flooding, Bhonsale said. "For poor women their home is also their workplace, their storehouse. They are much more sensitized to the impact of climate change, and understand the seriousness of it," she said.

Snakes and Ladders

In Ramesh Dutt Colony, the women have also learned to keep the narrow lanes trash free and look for places where rainwater may collect, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria - another effect of rising temperatures. In teaching women about climate change and its effects, Bhonsale often uses a modified version of the children's board game Snakes and Ladders. Getting a property title or using a solar cooker takes them up a ladder, while losing belongings in a flood or being unable to work because of the heat brings them sliding down on a snake.

"They may not understand the science of global warming, but they have first-hand experience of its effects, and with some education and simple solutions, they are better able to tackle it," Bhonsale said. "They no longer have to say: this is how it is, we can do nothing about it." — Reuters

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WOMEN LEAD REVAMP OF SLUMS IN GUJARAT

When Ramilaben Arvind studied the plan to move out of her one-room home in a congested slum into a modern apartment for no extra cost in India's Ahmedabad city, she immediately agreed. But first she had to get 67 other families to say 'yes'. Arvind, head of the slum's community organisation, had to convince residents to let their homes be demolished, to move elsewhere for two years, and trust that city officials and the developer would deliver flats at the same location at no cost.

"It was difficult - not everyone trusted the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation or the builder. Or me," she said, standing in the apartment she moved into two months ago. "I had to spend a lot of time with each one of them, begging, pleading, even threatening. I even told them: if you don't get the home as promised, you can take my home." Arvind's home is among the more than 3,500 slum homes in Ahmedabad that have been redeveloped as part of a state programme to upgrade cities. A further 4,000 slum homes are being redeveloped through a partnership of the city, builders and the community. While previous programs to upgrade slums generally entailed relocating unwilling residents to often badly built housing on the outskirts of the city, the 2010 policy encouraged in-situ redevelopment - or rehousing residents in the same spot.

Slum rehabilitation policies have failed

elsewhere because developers and residents could not agree terms. Ahmedabad has succeeded by involving slum residents and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and by increasing the area that developers can build, allowing taller, denser buildings, part of which can be sold at market rates to recover costs. "Ahmedabad city has a long history of working with NGOs on slum projects, so it is only natural that they are involving them in this," said Chirayu Bhatt at the Center for Environmental Planning and Technology. "Now, even developers are engaging with NGOs, and that is instrumental in moving these projects forward."

Trust

About a third of India's 1.25 billion population lives in cities, with the numbers rising every year as tens of thousands of people leave villages to seek better prospects. Up to 37 million households - a quarter of the country's urban population - live in informal housing including slums because of a critical shortage of affordable housing. India has a shortage of about 20 million urban homes, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made affordable housing a priority, setting a 2022 target for 'Housing for All'.

Upgrading slums would help meet that goal, but developers elsewhere have balked at terms, or residents have held back, fearful they may lose their homes. Involving non-profit organizations has

worked for Ahmedabad, the economic hub of western Gujarat state. "We were involved right from the start, coordinating with city officials and developers, and making sure residents had a say," said Bharati Bhonsale, a program manager at Mahila Housing Trust (MHT), a non-profit focused on women. "Because residents already knew us and trusted us, the process was far quicker and easier," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

MHT sees women residents as essential to enabling upgrades and redevelopment. It trains a woman like Arvind in each slum to be a community leader, educating her on issues and rights, on dealing with city officials and completing paperwork. "Women are the most affected by the housing situation, by the lack of facilities, so they are more invested in any process that can lead to better housing," said Bhonsale. "When the process involves just adding facilities, women will say yes even without consulting their husbands. When it involves a demolition, a temporary relocation - the men make the decision, but it's the women who convince them to say yes."

Wide Passageways

The new apartments that Arvind and her neighbors moved into are 28 sq m each, comprising two rooms, a toilet and a kitchenette. All tenants received ownership titles that have the name of the woman householder as well as the man.

They are free to transfer or sell their flats after 20 years. The flats have good quality floor tiles, plenty of natural light and wide passageways where women sometimes drag their string cots in the afternoon to nap or chat with each other.

Arvind leads the residents' association in the building, named Devipujak Nagar Co-operative Housing Society, overseeing maintenance and other issues. "This is a new lifestyle for them, so they need to learn many things: from how to use a lift, to why they should not throw trash out the window," said Bhonsale. "They adapt very quickly, and with that, their aspirations grow: they buy nice furniture, a TV, send their kids to a good school. For the kids too, it's a big boost to their confidence to say they live in a housing society rather than a slum."

This model does not work everywhere: the policy is only for slums on public land, and is not feasible for small plots. Besides, residents need proof of occupancy for 10 years. Progress has also been slow, covering about a tenth of the city's nearly 700 slums so far. "The policy is a part of the solution, not the only solution to doing away with slums entirely," said Bhatt at CEPT. "Over the long run, what we need is more low-cost housing so people are not compelled to live in slums in the first place." For Arvind though, the wait was worth the while. "It feels good to live in a proper home at last. Now we have everything we need," she said. — Reuters

IRAQI KURDISH WOMAN FEARS FOR HER LIFE

One wintry night, a brown pick-up truck drove through the Kurdish highlands in northern Iraq with four men and a woman inside. The oldest man in charge held a pistol to the woman's right thigh, ordering her to be quiet as they approached a checkpoint. After an hour of driving, the men arrived at a spring in the mountains where they beat the woman with sticks and forced her to walk for about a mile before stopping in an orchard. "Please brother, don't kill me, for the sake of Allah," the woman - who asked to be identified as Lava to protect her identity - said she pleaded with her older brother Jamal on that night about two years ago.

But her pleas were ignored and she was forced to the ground, with her hands tied behind her back and her legs bound, while two of her other brothers dug a grave. Lava knew well of the countless stories in the Kurdish press of women whose charred bodies are found in remote areas, suspected victims of so-called "honor" killings when women are strangled, stabbed or set on fire by their relatives and the authorities then notified of a suicide.

Once only common in rural areas, women's rights campaigners are concerned the practice of murdering women for what some see as "immoral acts" has also become commonplace, and accepted, in Iraq's cities and towns but the exact numbers are unknown. Anecdotal it seems the numbers are rising despite increased awareness of the crime, educational policies and an expanded school system with campaigners calling for more action by the authorities to stop these murders.

"According to the official data from the government this year there were 24 cases of honor killing cases until the end of May," said Khanim Rahim, director of the women's rights group Asuda for Combating Violence against Women in Iraqi Kurdistan. "But you need to bear in mind that there are cases that are not registered or reported to the authorities." In Feb 2015, figures reported from the Kurdistan Health Ministry showed in the last five years over 3,000 women had been killed as a result of domestic violence in the Kurdistan region. Campaigners say the real number is likely to be higher.

Crime and Punishment

Lava, whose "crime" was to be seen in the car of a young man after leaving her job at a hotel in Dohuk in Feb 2015, said two of her three brothers and a cousin threw her into the newly-dug grave and covered her with soil so only her

head stuck out. "You dishonored us. This is your punishment in this world and you should expect worse in the other world," she said her brother yelled before the men disappeared into the darkness. The Iraq National Youth Survey in 2009 found 68 percent of young men accept the killing of a woman for shaming a family.

Lava tried unsuccessfully to remove some soil off her chest to relieve the pressure on her lungs but believes she then must have fallen unconscious. She was lucky, however, a rare case of a woman surviving such a murder bid. Her brother-in-law, a respected lawyer, had heard her brothers plotting to kill her and managed to convince her father to reveal the location of her grave. "It was evening of the following day when I saw my older sister coming towards the grave accompanied by her husband and my three brothers," Lava told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a cafe in an undisclosed location in the Kurdish region. "I never thought I would come out of that grave alive."

Campaigners say Iraqi law is letting women down by not cracking down on those responsible for killing female relatives. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has taken some measures to protect women who fear for their lives by opening several protection centers and in 2009 launched the High Council of Women's Affairs to promote and protect women's rights. In 2012, the KRG launched a five-year plan to combat violence against women which it described as an "urgent priority" to remove "violence against women and providing a quiet and a happy life for them in Kurdistan and preserving the stability of the community".

Calls for Legal Changes

But in Iraq and Jordan, "honor" killings fall in a separate legal category with murderers getting lighter sentencing, although both countries are in the process of reforming the penal code that deals with violence against women. The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner called on the Iraqi government in Dec 2015 to swiftly amend its Criminal Code that permit "honor" as a lawful defence in ciders against women and family members.

For while the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has repealed sections of the Criminal Code that permit reasons of honor as mitigation for crimes of violence committed against family members, these provisions remain in force in the Iraqi Criminal Code. The US State Department said in a 2016 report on human rights practices that "honor" killings remain a serious problem throughout Iraq and this provi-

sion limited a sentence for murder to a maximum of three years in prison for such crimes.

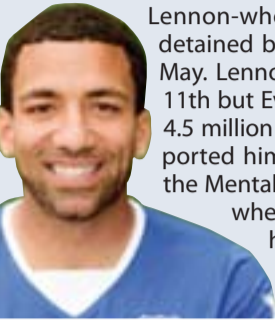
The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq documented several cases of honor killings. These included the murder in Basra of a 15-year-old girl who was decapitated, her head wrapped in a hijab, and thrown into a garbage can, and the case of a man never jailed after stabbing his 20-year-old daughter to death for dating a fellow university student. Parwa Ali, a woman parliamentarian in Kurdistan who has dealt with a number of "honor" related cases, said the government has not done enough to stop these crimes. "Unfortunately violence against women is deteriorating and most honor related cases are resolved through tribal agreement ... and not at courts," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from Sulaymaniyah. Ali said the problem was complex due to the tribal nature of political parties and their interference in the judicial process to satisfy the tribal electorate as well as a patriarchal and tribal code of behavior for women.

She also criticized the special amnesties issued by the KRG presidency which often allow such killers to go free. "We have not seen a killer of a woman serve his full sentence because they often get out under various pretexts," said Ali who was voted into parliament in 2013. Rezan Sheikh Dler, a member of the Iraq parliament's Women and Children Affairs Committee, said Article 409 still applies in Iraqi penal code and men who kill their wives for "honor" are often sentenced to one year in prison.

"As women parliamentarians in the Iraqi parliament we are trying to amend this article but it is not easy and it'll take time," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "In Jordan they have similar provisions." Pakistan's parliament last year passed legislation against "honor killings", removing a loophole in existing law that allowed killers to walk free after being pardoned by family members, after the murder of an outspoken social media star. Her brother was arrested after her death. Although Lava was one of the lucky ones to survive her attempted murder, she does not feel safe. She was not allowed to leave the family house for 18 months after the night she was rescued but in Sept 2016, one of her brothers asked her to go and work in a hotel. She saw her chance and planned an escape, fleeing earlier this year. Her future is uncertain but she is convinced that she will be killed by her brothers if she does not escape Kurdistan. "I know they will kill me one day but let me breathe freely while I am still alive," she said. — Reuters

AARON LENNON RETURNS TO TRAINING AFTER TREATMENT

LONDON: Former England international midfielder Aaron Lennon returned to training with his Premier League side Everton yesterday almost two months after being detained by police for a 'stress-related incident'. The 30-year-old former Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur star—who won the last of his 21 caps in 2013 — was photographed in the gym training. "Fantastic to see Aaron Lennon back at Finch Farm," tweeted Everton FC Photos referring to the club's training facilities. Lennon—who won the 2008 League Cup with Spurs—was detained by police under the Mental Health Act in early May. Lennon had not played for the club since February 11th but Everton—who paid Spurs £4 million (\$5.2 million, 4.5 million euros) in September 2015 for his services—supported him throughout the time he was treated. Under the Mental Health Act, police can detain people to assess whether they need urgent treatment for a mental health disorder and if they are a risk of harm to themselves or others. — AFP



SOUTH AFRICA SKIPPER DU PLESSIS TO MISS FIRST TEST

LONDON: South Africa captain Faf du Plessis is to miss the first Test with England which gets underway in three days due to family reasons, Cricket South Africa announced on their website yesterday. The 32-year-old batsman—who became only the fourth South African to score a century on his Test debut in 2012 — returned home for the birth of his first child last week, but will be unable to return in time for the opening match of the four-Test series. "Faf's wife gave birth to their first child last week but the difficult nature of the delivery has delayed his return to the UK," said South Africa team manager Dr Mohammed Moosajee. "The mother and baby have settled at home but he will be unable to make it back in time to take part in the first Test match. "He will link up with the squad in the UK later this week." Cricket South Africa said on Friday that Du Plessis will wait until his wife, Imari, and baby are settled at home before traveling to Britain. The first match of the four-test series starts on Thursday at Lord's. Opening batsman Dean Elgar—who has seven Test centuries to his credit—will captain the side in Du Plessis' absence. — AFP

SWANSEA'S KOREAN STAR KI FACES EARLY SEASON LOCKOUT

LONDON: Korean international midfielder Ki Sung-Yueng dealt a blow to Swansea yesterday as the Premier League side announced he would miss the start of the season due to a knee injury. The 28-year-old—who Swansea signed from Celtic for £6million (\$7.8m, 6.9m euros) in 2012 — is to remain in South Korea after undergoing an operation on the knee he injured in a recent 2018 World Cup qualifier against Qatar. "He will remain in South Korea to continue his rehabilitation, before returning to Swansea after Paul Clement's squad return from their pre-season tour to America," read a statement on the club website. The club's medical team have been out to South Korea to assess him following the operation. Although no date has been set yet for his return to action, the injury is not expected to keep him out long-term. Swansea, who preserved their Premier League status by the skin of their teeth last term, are hopeful of strengthening their midfield in the coming days with Spaniard Roque Mesa who plays for Las Palmas. — AFP



TEARFUL STANLEY ENDS DROUGHT WITH PGA NATIONAL PLAYOFF WIN

POTOMAC: Kyle Stanley wiped away tears while pondering five years of struggle and doubt that ended Sunday with his playoff victory over fellow American Charles Howell to win the PGA National. After both fired four-under par 66s at TPC Potomac to stand atop the leaderboard after 72 holes on seven-under 273, Stanley parred the first extra hole to capture his second PGA crown, the first coming 135 starts ago at the 2012 Phoenix Open.

"There was some doubt there for a little bit," Stanley said. "It's no fun. You question whether you are ever going to make it back." Tears trickled down his cheek. His voice cracked, then halted, as he spoke, seeking the right words to sum up his perseverance to sustain his career the past few seasons.

"I wish I didn't cry so much," Stanley said. "It just feels so good to put the work in and see the rewards. I think that's where most of the emotion is coming from."

In the dramatic playoff on the par-4 18th hole, Stanley was in the right rough off the tee in the playoff but found the greenside rough, chipped to four feet and made the putt after Howell had missed his par bid. "I'm thrilled," Stanley said. "It's very special to get a second win... I knew it was just a matter of time."

Howell, coming off a 10-week layoff with a fractured rib, has not won in 293 PGA starts since taking a playoff over Phil Mickelson at Riviera in 2007. "I'm a bit shocked," Howell said. "I can't believe how well I played. I started hitting balls eight or nine days ago. I came in here quite rusty. I'm glad to be back and hopefully can stay healthy."

Ninth-ranked Rickie Fowler made a career-high nine birdies but the US star also made two bogeys and a double bogey to settle for a share of third with Scotsman Martin Laird on 275. South Korean Kang Sung was in a pack sharing fifth on 276 that included Sweden's David Lingmerth,

Australians Curtis Luck and Marc Leishman and Americans Ben Martin, Keegan Bradley, Johnson Wagner and Spencer Levin.

LAIRD IN BRITISH OPEN

Howell had some consolation despite failing to end his decade-old win drought, joining Stanley, Laird and Kang in qualifying for the British Open, the season's next major event teeing off July 20 at Royal Birkdale. "Majors are really special so it will be really fun," Kang said. "I'll be fine with the wind, but I'm not really used to that links-style course." "To play it anytime is special," Laird said. "It's my favorite tournament." It'll be Howell's first major start since the 2015 PGA Championship and Stanley's first major since the 2013 PGA.

"British Opens are a lot of fun," Stanley said. "You have to get creative and play a non-technical style of golf I think I play really well!" Stanley, who lost his only other PGA playoff in 2012 at Torrey Pines, prevailed after a back-nine shootout that had 12 leaders within three strokes. Stanley opened with a bogey but began a run of three birdies in four holes at the fifth, sinking 10-foot putts at six and eight. He added a three-foot birdie putt at the par-5 10th and a tap-in birdie at 14. Howell grabbed a share of the lead by sinking a 27-foot eagle chip at 14, the 299-yard hole that surrendered the most eagles of any par-4 hole on tour this year.

WATNEY TIES MARK WITH 64

Fowler was foiled by a botched chip and a poor putt to double bogey 14, the week's easiest hole. "Making nine birdies is a really good thing because it's hard to give yourself those opportunities," Fowler said.

Nick Watney matched the course record of 64 set by US compatriot Russ Cochran in 2010. "There was nothing groundbreaking, no ah ha moment," Watney said. "I was doing a lot of good things. Today it all came together." — AFP



OLYMPIA FIELDS: Danielle Kang raises the championship trophy after winning the Women's PGA Championship golf tournament at Olympia Fields Country Club, Sunday, in Olympia Fields, Ill. — AP

GOLF

DANIELLE KANG WINS KPMG WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill: From a young age, Danielle Kang's parents instilled in her the belief that anything was possible. Even major championships. Kang birdied the final hole to win the KPMG Women's PGA Championship on Sunday for her first LPGA Tour title, edging defending champion Brooke Henderson.

Kang bogeyed the tricky par-3 17th, and Henderson closed with two birdies to move into a tie for the lead, coming up just short on a 30-foot eagle putt on the par-5 18th. But Kang responded with two solid shots to get to the green in two, and then two-putted for the victory. "I just told myself it was my week. It was my day," Kang said. Kang lost her father, K.S., to cancer in 2013, but her mother, Grace Lee, was one of the first people to congratulate her on the victory. She also face-timed with brother Alex, an instrumental figure in her performance at Olympia Fields, after the trophy presentation. Kang's father caddied for her when she won the US Women's Amateur in 2010 and 2011.

She keeps a journal where she writes messages to her father. "If I could wish anything, I would wish that my dad saw me win," said Kang, wiping tears from her eyes. "I think that it's been a really difficult road for me the past four or five years. It's life, though, you pick yourself up and you have to keep working hard at it, and then believe in what you're doing, and not letting yourself down."

"I just know that he's here for it. What are the

odds that my first win is a major? Pretty sure he had something to do with it. It's just incredible. But I know that he was there, because I felt - I felt him with me every day, and I still do."

It was another great finish for the LPGA Tour's second major of the season. Henderson beat Lydia Ko in a playoff last year at Sahalee in Washington.

The 24-year-old Kang trailed Henderson and Chella Choi by one after she bogeyed the par 4 10th. But Kang moved in front with four straight birdies on Nos. 11-14, getting hot with her putter at the right time.

Kang also had a clutch 21-foot par putt at 16 on her way to a 4-under 68 and the winner's check of \$525,000. Her previous best finish in a major was a tie for 14th in the 2012 US Women's Open. Henderson closed with a 66 to finish a stroke back. Choi, who was tied with Kang for the lead coming into the day, was third at 10 under after a 71.

"Really, she won this, and I was just trying to make it a little bit closer and maybe force a playoff but like I said, I played great and I wouldn't really take anything back," Henderson said.

Mi Hyang Lee (67), Amy Yang (68) and Sei Young Kim (68) tied for fourth at 9 under, and Lexi Thompson (69) and Inbee Park (68) were another two strokes back.

Kang's first victory in her 144th LPGA start was a popular one in some high-profile circles. Michelle Wie, one of Kang's closest friends on tour, followed

her around right after the win. Dustin Johnson texted "That's how you're supposed to play, congrats," and Wayne Gretzky and Caitlyn Jenner - two buddies from her days at Sherwood Country Club in California - also reached out.

While she got some great support from her friends this weekend, it was some sage advice from brother that set the tone for her breakthrough win. Feeling overwhelmed after her last practice round, Kang called Alex, who plays on the Web.com Tour, to help formulate a game plan. He told her to "just blast it down." "Alex is the one that I called to map out the golf course. He's one of the people that I lean on for everything," Kang said.

Worked out quite well. Kang posted four rounds in the 60s. She had just five bogeys, with each of them coming in the final two rounds.

Thompson looked ready to make a charge, beginning with three birdies and no bogeys on her front nine. But she sputtered down the stretch. Thompson contended for the first major title of the year, but was penalized for a controversial rules violation and lost to So Yeon Ryu in a playoff in the ANA Inspiration. The top-ranked Ryu shot a 72 in the final round at Olympia Fields and tied for 14th.

"The back nine, I think I honestly got really tired," Thompson said. "I don't really know what hit me. Overall the whole week, I played very well. Just missed a few putts that I needed to make, and kind of my wedges let me down a little bit." — AP



POTOMAC: Kyle Stanley holds the trophy after the Quicken Loans National golf tournament, Sunday, in Potomac, Md. Stanley won in a playoff. — AP

TEAM NZ FUNDING BOOST AFTER AMERICA'S CUP WIN

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand government announced NZ\$5.0 million (\$3.7 million) in funding yesterday to help the country's America's Cup-winning yachting team retain key personnel after their victory. Prime Minister Bill English said the money would help keep together the Team New Zealand syndicate that claimed yachting's oldest trophy last week with a crushing 8-1 win over Oracle Team USA in Bermuda. While the syndicate is a private entity, English said a contribution of public funds was appropriate given the next regatta in 2021 was likely to be held in Auckland.

"We are in boots-and-all in the sense that this is a big event, it will be great for New Zealand and government has a role in supporting major events," he told commercial radio.

"But we are not holding out an open cheque book for Team New Zealand to get whatever they want." Economic Development Minister Simon Bridges said that when New Zealand hosted the America's Cup in 2000 and 2003 it generated about half a billion dollars each time for the local economy. "This investment of NZ\$5.0 million will go some way towards protecting the valuable intellectual property, experience and skills that rest with key team members," he said.

"While the location for the 36th America's Cup has not been decided yet, we do know that hosting a regatta in New Zealand has the potential to generate significant economic benefits."

New Zealand's budget for the 2017 America's Cup was reportedly up to NZ\$150 million. — AFP

PERRY WINS US SENIOR OPEN BY 2 STROKES OVER TRIPLETT

PEABODY: Kenny Perry withdrew from the US Senior Open last year after two rounds with a swollen knee and doubts about whether he would ever play again.

A year later, he walked away with a gold medal around his neck and a silver trophy.

"I thought I was done. I thought, 'Retirement felt pretty good,'" Perry said Sunday after shooting a 2-under 68 at the Salem Country Club for a record 264 total and a two-stroke victory over Kirk Triplett.

"I didn't think I would ever be holding a trophy again," said Perry, who claimed his fourth major on the senior tour and his second US Senior Open. "That's how golf is: When you win you never think you're going to lose. And when you lose, you never think you're going to win again." Starting the day a stroke behind Triplett but five ahead of the next-closest competitor, Perry pulled away from his faltering playing partner on the front nine and closed with 12 straight pars to finish at 16 under.

Triplett, who tied the tournament record with a 62 in the opening round, had four bogeys on the front nine and another on the back. He shot 71, saving par on No. 18 after hitting his tee shot into a flower pot along the fairway.

"It was definitely match play," Perry said. "Once I got three up on him, I knew if I kept pounding fairways and greens, he was going to have to catch up with me. My play was flawless. I played just the way I pictured it in my mind."

Brandt Jobe, who shot 62 on Saturday to pull into third, had a 70 to finish seven strokes back.

Tom Lehman and Fred Couples each shot 69 to tie for fourth at 8 under. Perry's 264 was three strokes better than the U.S. Senior Open record set by Hale Irwin at Saucon Valley in 2000 and matched by Perry in Omaha in 2013. Perry was the only player to shoot under par in each of the four rounds at the 6,815-yard Donald Ross-designed course.

"That's Kenny Perry. That's the kind of player he's always been," Lehman said. "When he gets going, he really gets going. He makes a lot of putts. He hits it so long that he shortens up

every golf course that he plays. Therefore, if his putter is working, he's going to make a lot of birdies." Salem also hosted the tournament in 2001, when Bruce Fleischer won at even par. But overnight rain before the first three rounds softened the greens, and Triplett and Jobe each took advantage with rounds of 62 - matching the lowest score ever in a PGA Tour Champions major. "Today was probably how they wanted the golf course to play all week," said Jobe, who played his other three rounds at a combined 1 under. "It was hard out there." — AP



PEABODY: Kenny Perry tries to coax the ball after teeing off on the third hole during the fourth round of the US Senior Open golf tournament, Sunday, in Peabody, Mass. — AP

OLYMPICS

S KOREA'S MOON URGES IOC TO HELP BRING NORTH TO PYEONGCHANG

SEOUL: South Korean President Moon Jae-In yesterday urged the International Olympic Committee to help North Korea participate in next year's Winter Games, saying it would contribute to regional and world peace.

Moon, who has advocated engagement with the isolated neighbour, has suggested that two Koreas form a joint team for the 2018 Winter Games, which the South is hosting in Pyeongchang.

The South and the nuclear-armed North are separated by one of the world's most heavily-armed borders and

remain technically at war after the Korean War ended with armistice in 1953 instead of a peace treaty. Pyongyang boycotted the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Organisers of Pyeongchang 2018 have urged Pyongyang to take part to make them a "peace Olympics".

But no North Korean athletes have so far qualified for the Games, raising the prospect that none will attend.

An inter-Korea unified team could allow North Koreans to take part in team events such as ice hockey, while "wild

cards" could enable them to bypass the qualification rules.

Meeting the IOC chief Thomas Bach in Seoul, Moon renewed his push for "sports diplomacy", urging Bach's help to enable the North to take part.

"If North Korea participates, it will contribute not only to the Olympic spirit but also to regional and world peace as well as the harmony of humankind," Moon's spokesman quoted him as saying.

"I hope that the Pyeongchang Olympics will become the Olympics of peace that could heal the pain of

Koreans' division," Moon was quoted as saying. Bach's spokesman said the IOC chief and Moon agreed to "cooperate closely" on preparations for the Games, including potential participation by the North's athletes. But in a statement the IOC did not go into details over how that might happen, referring only to unspecified "modalities".

Bach said he "appreciates very much President Moon's vision of how the Olympic Games can support dialogue and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula and beyond", it added.

The North's only IOC delegate has expressed doubt over Moon's proposal of a unified team, citing political tension between two Koreas and a lack of time.

Chang Ung said last week there was not enough time to reach an agreement with the Games only seven months away, and stressed "the political situation should be resolved first".

Tension are high on the peninsula over the North's missile and nuclear weapons programmes, which have shown significant progress in recent years under leader Kim Jong-Un. —AFP

AUSTRALIA, INDIA EYE SEMI-FINALS AS WINDIES SUFFER WWC HUMILIATION

LONDON: Reigning champions Australia and India both made it three wins from three as they closed on semi-final places at the Women's World Cup on Sunday, while the West Indies were bowled out for just 48. Australia made New Zealand pay for a below-par total by reaching a target of 220 for the loss of five wickets with eight balls to spare at Bristol.

Ellyse Perry, who made her name as a fast bowler, scored 71 as she reached the landmark of 2,000 one-day international runs. "Today has been our biggest test against a fantastic team in New Zealand, they always give us a tough game," said Perry. India were held to 169 for nine by Pakistan at Derby only to bowl out their arch-rivals for just 74 for a 95-run win, with left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht taking five for 18. "She's delivered time and again for India and I'm very proud of her," said India captain Mithali Raj of Bisht.

Earlier, West Indies, the reigning World Twenty20 champions, slumped to a 10-wicket defeat by South Africa as their campaign suffered a new low in Leicester Chedean Nation, with 26, was the only West Indies batsman to make double figures as South Africa captain Dane van Niekerk became the first bowler, in either men's or women's international cricket, to take four wickets without conceding a run in her final figures.

'SURREAL'

But the real damage to the West Indies hopes was done by Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail, who reduced the Caribbean side to 16 for five.

Kapp took four for 14 and van Niekerk an astonishing four for none in 3.2 overs.

"It was quite surreal, if I could script it I would not have written it like that," said van Niekerk. To make matters even worse for the West Indies, they dropped both South Africa openers off successive balls, the Proteas completing their chase in just 6.4 overs. "I think their bowling was very good...But from our side, we just needed to execute our skills much better," said West Indies opener Hayley Matthews, out for four. West Indies total the lowest score at a World Cup since Denmark were bowled out for 47 by England in 1993, although Pakistan still hold the record after managing just 27 against Australia in 1997.

On a day when all the teams in the tournament were in action, England overpowered Sri Lanka by seven wickets at Taunton as they made it two wins from three.

Recalled spinner Laura Marsh took four for 45 as Sri Lanka were held to 204 for eight, with Chamari Athapaththu, fresh from her stunning 178 not out against Australia, caught behind for one off Nat Sciver. England captain Heather Knight made 82 and wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor, an unbeaten 74 — her first fifty since returning to the side following anxiety issues. "We knew she was batting well but to go out and do it in the middle is really pleasing after the last year she has had," said Knight of Taylor.

All the teams involved will play each other the once, with the top four going on to the semi-finals.

South Africa, England and New Zealand are in the chasing pack behind Australia and India. But Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the West Indies are in danger of being cast adrift, with all three teams yet to win a match. — AFP



ANTIGUA: West Indies' captain Jason Holder (98) is surrounded by teammates after beating India by 11 runs in the fourth ODI cricket match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda, Sunday. —AP

CRICKET

HOLDER INSPIRES WINDIES TO STUNNING 11-RUN WIN

NORTH SOUND: West Indies captain Jason Holder led from the front with a five-wicket haul as his side snatched an 11-run win over India in the fourth one-day international in Antigua on Sunday. India came into the match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium leading 2-0 in the series and set a modest target of 190 to maintain their unbeaten run in this short campaign.

But the visitors were undone by a combination of disciplined West Indies bowling and their own inexplicable lethargy at the crease. That pedestrian progress was typified by Mahendra Singh Dhoni's painstaking innings of 54 off 114 deliveries—the slowest of his 64 ODI half-centuries—before he fell off the last ball of the 49th over bowled by Kesrick Williams.

That left India needing 15 runs off the final over with only two wickets in hand.

It was Williams' only success of a miserly 10-over spell but proved critical as Holder sealed the win which keeps the series alive heading into the fifth and final match in Kingston on Thursday. He dismissed Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Shami in the space of four balls to finish with five for 27, his best-ever ODI figures as India folded for 178.

"At the halfway stage there were a few heads dropping in the dressing room but it took a big effort and I'm really pleased to play a part in keeping us in the series," said Holder after receiving the man of the match award.

"We targeted getting wickets at the front to challenge their other batters who haven't had much work to do of late. It worked this time."

Ajinkya Rahane's excellent form at the top of the order continued with a top score of 60, but the rest of the Indian batting struggled to establish any sort of momentum as the West Indies showed discipline and purpose with the ball.

Young fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, brought into the team in place of medium-pacer Miguel Cummins, set the tone for the fightback with the wickets of Shikhar Dhawan and Dinesh Karthik.

Meanwhile, Holder removed his Indian counterpart, Virat Kohli, for the second time in as many matches via a top-edged hook.

| SCOREBOARD | | |
|---|-----|--|
| NORTH SOUND, Antigua and Barbuda: Scoreboard of the fourth fixture of a five-match one-day international series between West Indies and India at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday. | | |
| West Indies | | India |
| E. Lewis c Kohli b K. Yadav | 35 | A. Rahane c S. Hope b Bishoo |
| K. Hope c Jadhav b Pandya | 35 | S. Dhawan c Holder b Joseph |
| S. Hope c Dhoni b Pandya | 25 | V. Kohli c S. Hope b Holder |
| R. Chase b K. Yadav | 24 | D. Karthik c S. Hope b Joseph |
| J. Mohammed c Jadeja b Pandya | 20 | M.S. Dhoni c Joseph b Williams |
| J. Holder c Dhoni b U. Yadav | 11 | K. Jadhav c S. Hope b Nurse |
| R. Powell c Jadeja b U. Yadav | 2 | H. Pandya b Holder |
| A. Nurse c and b U. Yadav | 4 | R. Jadeja c Powell b Holder |
| D. Bishoo run out | 15 | K. Yadav not out |
| A. Joseph not out | 5 | U. Yadav b Holder |
| K. Williams not out | 2 | M. Shami c Chase b Holder |
| Extras (lb-1, w-10) | 11 | Extras (w-10) |
| Total (9 wks, 50 overs) | 189 | Total (all out, 49.4 overs) |
| Fall of wickets: 1-57 (K. Hope), 2-80 (Lewis), 3-121 (Chase), 4-136 (S. Hope), 5-154 (Holder), 6-161 (Powell), 7-162 (Mohammed), 8-179 (Nurse), 9-184 (Bishoo) | | Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Dhawan), 2-25 (Kohli), 3-47 (Karthik), 4-101 (Rahane), 5-116 (Jadhav), 6-159 (Pandya), 7-173 (Jadeja), 8-176 (Dhoni), 9-176 (Yadav), 10-178 (Shami) |
| Bowling: M. Shami 10-2-33-0, U. Yadav 10-1-36-3 (6w), R. Jadeja 10-0-48-0, H. Pandya 10-0-40-3 (4w), K. Yadav 10-1-31-2. | | Bowling: A. Joseph 9-2-46-2 (4w), J. Holder 9-4-27-5 (2w), K. Williams 10-0-29-1 (3w), D. Bishoo 10-1-31-1, A. Nurse 10-0-29-1, R. Chase 1-0-16-0 (1w) |
| | | Result: West Indies won by 11 runs |

INDIAN OFF DAY

"Our shot selection wasn't up to mark but credit to the West Indies bowlers for the pressure they put on us to force those mistakes," said Kohli in assessing his team's surprise defeat.

"I am sure the guys are going to come back extra hard for the final match. We just needed a complete performance and today wasn't one."

Earlier, pacers Umesh Yadav and Hardik Pandya claimed three wickets each while wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav again teased and tormented the West Indies batsmen in adding two more victims to his series haul as the hosts limped to 189 for nine batting first.

While each of the top five managed to get a start, none could get past 35 as India exerted almost complete control over a line-up that lacked the inspirational spark to put the opposition under pressure.

Openers Evin Lewis and Kyle Hope were the joint top scorers with 35 apiece although their slow progress—the opening stand of 57 was broken in the 18th over—meant those who followed were required to pick up the pace.

None managed to do so for any sustained period with Pandya and Kuldeep doing the bulk of the damage to the West Indies batting line-up early on. Umesh then ensured there was to be no threat from the reputed lower-order big-hitters as he accounted for Holder, Rovman Powell and Ashley Nurse in his second spell.

India had rung the changes for this match with Karthik replacing Yuvraj Singh in the middle-order, Ravindra Jadeja coming in as a specialist spinner for Ravichandran Ashwin and Shami making his first ODI appearance since the 2015 World Cup as Bhuvneshwar Kumar was rested. —AFP



DERBY: India's Sushma Verma celebrates with India's Harmanpreet Kaur after taking a catch to dismiss Pakistan's Bibi Nahida during the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match between India and Pakistan at County Ground in Derby, England, Sunday. —AP

NISSAN INNOVATES WITH OSN TO BRING IN-GAME ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2017

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council's ICC Champion's Trophy 2017 in England and Wales came to a thrilling conclusion on June 18 with a final played between fierce rivals Pakistan and India. It was a showdown that met with huge approval in the Middle East, where both teams enjoy massive support. Nissan, as the sole global automotive sponsor of the ICC and this once every four years, one day international (ODI) competition, was right there in the thick of the action throughout the tournament with the assistance of a ground-breaking tie-up with OSN, the exclusive ICC Champions Trophy 2017 broadcaster, to showcase live, in-game highlights. Through this unique initiative, Nissan granted free, unexpected access in the region to video highlights of all the games of the ICC 2017 Champions Trophy 2017.

It was an initiative that clearly met with the approval of legions of cricket fans in the Middle East, helped no doubt by the progress to the final of both India and Pakistan. A quarter of a million of cricket fans in the Middle East experienced condensed exciting content every hour of every game through a period of 18 days. Nissan's sponsorship of the ICC is part of a long-term commitment to cricket, a sport with a huge following in the Middle East and North Africa thanks to the presence in the region of large numbers

of expats and migrant workers from some of the major cricket playing nations.

The partnership with OSN is a reflection of how Nissan and OSN are prepared to take bold and innovative steps, to give all cricket fans in the MENA region the chance to watch free, exclusive in-game highlights of the games they really want to see. The micro site showed the best of the action as the matches were still happening, making it the next best thing to live coverage.

"We know that many Nissan owners in the Middle East love their test match and ODI cricket, so our sponsorship of the ICC makes perfect sense," said Nissan Middle East Chief Marketing Officer Fadi Ghosn. "However, our partnership with OSN and the resulting co-branded micro site really took things to another level, allowing cricket fans to access the best of the action from the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 virtually as it happened. The feedback we had from fans accessing the site was that they loved it!"

For OSN SVP Sport & Sports Production Andy Warkman said, "OSN is the home of cricket in the region and our partnership with Nissan enhanced our coverage of the ICC Champions Trophy 2017. Not only could OSN subscribers enjoy the live matches on OSN Sports Cricket HD and streamed on OSN Play, together with

Nissan we made the live-in-match highlights available to the region for free on a micro site. Nissan were also part of OSN's live studio shows where Nissan were integrated into our Augmented Reality Graphics. This was truly a 360degree sponsorship and we are very proud of what OSN and Nissan have both put together."

With the tournament taking place during the holy month of Ramadan, in the Spirit of the sponsorship and creating #MomentsThatCount, Nissan ran a unique competition allowing one lucky player to win an All New Nissan Kicks. Further prizes included signed merchandise from OSN's cricket legends Michael Vaughan of England, Zaheer Khan of India, Pakistan's Waqar Younis and West Indies' Darren Sammy. Traffic was driven to the web channel via cricket enthusiast sites Cricbuzz and CricInfo, OSN channels and social media pages, while further co-branding during the OSN Showtime studio coverage of the tournament also highlighted Nissan's sponsorship of the event.

"We have really taken a new approach and gone beyond traditional media buy in order to maximise the benefits of our cricket sponsorship through our partnership with OSN during the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 tournament," said Fadi Ghosn. "It's an illustration of how we apply the notion of 'Innovation that excites' to more than just our cars!"





CINCINNATI: Cincinnati Reds third baseman Eugenio Suarez (7) tags out Chicago Cubs' Willson Contreras at third in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, in Cincinnati. — AP

BASEBALL

ARRIETA SHARP, HAPP HOMERS TWICE AS CUBS BEAT REDS

CINCINNATI: Jake Arrieta pitched one-hit ball for seven innings without allowing a stolen base, and Ian Happ homered twice in the ballpark where he played as a college star, leading Chicago past Cincinnati 6-2 on Sunday. Arrieta (8-6) was coming off a subpar performance that created friction and a surprise move. The Nationals stole seven bases off Arrieta during their 6-1 win on Tuesday, and catcher Miguel Montero complained afterward about the pitcher's move to the plate with runners on base. Montero was cut loose the following day. Back in the ballpark where he threw a no-hitter last season, Arrieta was back in form, allowing only Joey Votto's first-inning single and a pair of walks - the Reds were never in position to try to steal. Happ hit a two-run homer and a solo shot off Tim Adleman (5-5), and added an RBI single. Anthony Rizzo also had a solo homer, and Javier Baez doubled home a run.

NATIONALS 7, CARDINALS 2

Bryce Harper homered twice against Carlos Martinez and Max Scherzer struck out 12 over seven scoreless innings as Washington beat St. Louis. Harper also doubled and had four RBIs to pace Washington, which snapped a three-game skid and had lost five of seven. The Cardinals had won four straight and six of seven overall, including series victories over the Arizona Diamondbacks and Nationals. Scherzer (10-5) allowed two hits and two walks while lowering his major league-leading ERA to 1.94. Scherzer's double-digit strikeout performance was his 10th this season and 59th of his career. Martinez (6-7) entered the game ranked fourth in the NL in ERA but allowed five runs in five innings.

ASTROS 8, YANKEES 1

Yuli Gurriel finished a triple shy of the cycle, Carlos Correa tied a career-high with four hits and had three RBIs, and Houston handed New York its 14th loss in 19 games. Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in a three-run second off Luis Severino (5-4) as the Astros improved the best record in the major leagues to 56-27. Houston had 14 hits, including seven doubles, and went 6 for 17 with runners in scoring position. New York, which led the AL East by four games on June 13, lost two of three to the Astros and dropped three games behind division-leading Boston. Chris Devenski (5-3) pitched two perfect innings in relief to get the win.

INDIANS 11, TIGERS 8

Jose Ramirez homered twice, and Cleveland snapped Justin Verlander's decade-long streak of games with at least one strike-

out, chasing the Detroit star in the fourth inning. Verlander (5-5) had struck out a batter in 331 consecutive appearances and was tied with Curt Schilling for the sixth-longest streak since 1913. He hadn't gone without a strikeout since April 28, 2007, when he lasted only three innings against Minnesota. On Sunday, he allowed seven runs and nine hits with three walks in 3 1/3 innings. Mike Clevinger (4-3) allowed a run and two hits in six innings. He walked five and struck out seven. The Indians held on after Detroit scored six runs in the ninth inning, including homers by James McCann and Nicholas Castellanos. Cody Allen retired the final batter for his 16th save in 17 chances.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, ROCKIES 3

Ketel Marte lined a run-scoring single in the ninth inning and Arizona overcame the first earned run allowed by Fernando Rodney in 21 games. Rodney (2-2) had his hitless outings streak end at 11 with three straight singles in the ninth inning, including Charlie Blackmon's tying hit. Rodney got a pair of pop ups with two on to end the inning. Brandon Drury hit a one-out single in the bottom half and Chris Iannetta followed with a double off Adam Ottavino (1-3). Marte fell into a 1-2 hole against Chris Rusin before lining a one-hopper off the wall, sending the Diamondbacks rushing out of the dugout to mob him. Chris Owings hit a two-run homer and Drury had three hits for Arizona, off to the best start in franchise history at 52-31. Colorado has lost 10 of 11.

PADRES 5, DODGERS 3

Jhoulys Chacin pitched five scoreless innings, Manuel Margot homered and drove in two runs, and San Diego got a rare victory over the Dodgers. The Padres lost seven of the first eight meetings with the Dodgers this season but defeated Kenta Maeda (6-4) for the second time in 13 weeks. San Diego went ahead 5-0 against Maeda while Chacin (7-7) was recording his second scoreless outing in 17 starts this year. Chacin, who struck out six, retired cleanup hitter Cody Bellinger three times with a man on base, twice on strikes and once on a 2-0 pitch with two runners aboard. Brandon Maurer got the last three outs for his 16th save.

BRAVES 4, ATHLETICS 3, 12 INNINGS

Kurt Suzuki led off the 12th inning with his second home run of the game, helping Atlanta complete a three-game sweep. One inning after closer Jim Johnson got his sixth blown save, Suzuki lined a shot to left on a 3-1 pitch from John Axford (0-1). Suzuki also homered

and Scott Alexander picked up his first major league victory for Kansas City. The Royals have won 15 of 21 games to move a game above .500 and into a tie with the Twins for second place in the American League Central. Escobar went 7-for-16 with four extra-base hits, including a home run, with seven RBIs and scored four runs in the four-game series to raised his average 50 points since June 13. Travis Wood, making his first start since Sept. 19, 2015, after 108 relief appearances, was removed in the fifth after facing three batters and retiring none. Brian Dozier and Robbie Grossman had RBI-singles in the inning. Alexander (1-2) replaced Wood and induced Eduardo Escobar to ground into an inning ending double play with the bases loaded. Hector Santiago (4-8) was charged with four runs and four hits, a hit batter and a walk in 3 1/3 innings.

PHILLIES 7, METS 1

Nick Pivetta allowed one hit in seven impressive innings for his second major league win, and Philadelphia stopped the New York Mets' four-game winning streak. Maikel Franco had a two-run double in a four-run second aided by a pair of sacrifice bunts. Rookie catcher Andrew Knapp added an RBI single and dashed home from second on a wild pitch by Rafael Montero. Leadoff man Daniel Nava had three hits and two RBIs to help the major league-worst Phillies prevent a three-game sweep and finish their 4-5 road trip on a positive note. Philadelphia outhit the Mets 12-2. Making his 10th major league start, Pivetta (2-4) permitted only T.J. Rivera's home run on an 81 mph slider with one out in the fifth. He struck out four and walked four.

ORIOLES 7, RAYS 1

Manny Machado hit a three-run homer, Kevin Gausman pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and Baltimore avoided a three-game sweep. Mark Trumbo also homered and Seth Smith had two RBIs for the Orioles, playing their final home game until July 14. Gausman (5-7) struck out nine and walked two in the finest of his 18 starts this season. The right-hander allowed only one runner past first base in lowering his ERA from 6.07 to 5.61. Jesus Sucre ended Baltimore's shutout bid with an eighth-inning homer off Mychal Givens. Tampa Bay starter Alex Cobb (6-6) gave up seven runs and six hits over 6 1/3 innings.

RED SOX 15, BLUE JAYS 1

Mookie Betts hit two home runs and matched a career-high with eight RBIs to help Boston rout Toronto. Betts went 4 for 6 as AL East-leading Boston won for the sixth time in seven games, completing the three-game sweep. He hit an RBI single in the second, a three-run homer in the fourth, a two-run blast in the sixth, and a two-run single in the seventh. It was the second multihomer game of the season for Betts, who also hit two at Philadelphia on June 14. Betts had eight RBIs against Arizona on Aug. 14, 2016. Drew Pomeranz (8-4) pitched six innings for his third straight road win. Hanley Ramirez had three hits, including a two-run homer, as the Red Sox collected a season-high 21 hits. Joe Biagini (2-8) took the loss as he was chased in the sixth inning by Betts' second homer.

GIANTS 5, PIRATES 3

Brandon Belt started San Francisco's comeback with an RBI single in a three-run seventh inning, then added a two-run homer in the eighth as the Giants got their season-high sixth straight win. Jordy Mercer's two-run homer in the third off Jeff Samardzija (4-9) put the Pirates ahead. Trevor Williams took a two-hit shutout into the seventh, when Hunter Pence walked leading off and Buster Posey doubled. Belt and Brandon Crawford hit consecutive run-scoring singles off left-hander Tony Watson (4-2), and Kelby Tomlinson's sacrifice fly gave San Francisco a 3-2 lead. Belt homered in the eighth off Edgar Santana, his 16th this season.

ROYALS 6, TWINS 2

Alcides Escobar had two hits and two RBIs

WHITE SOX 6, RANGERS 5

Yolmer Sanchez hit a two-run home run with two outs in the eighth to rally Chicago past Texas. The Rangers had the bases loaded in the ninth, but David Robertson (4-2) struck out Carlos Gomez to end the game. Todd Frazier walked with one out in the eighth and, two batters later, Sanchez drove the ball to right-center off Texas reliever Jose Leclerc (1-2) for his fourth homer of the season. It handed the Rangers bullpen its American League-leading 17th blown save. Jonathan Lucroy had given the Rangers a 5-4 lead with a two-run single in the fifth. Melky Cabrera also homered for Chicago, and Mike Napoli hit his 16th for Texas.

MARINERS 5, ANGELS 3

Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and James Paxton retired the first 16 hitters he faced in Seattle's win over Los Angeles. Paxton (6-3) continued his career-long dominance of the Angels, throwing 6 1/3 innings of two-hit ball in his best start since missing most of May with a forearm strain. The left-hander has a career 2.04 ERA against the Halos, the second-best among active pitchers. Jean Segura had four hits and drove in two runs as the Mariners took two of three from their AL West rivals. Danny Espinosa got the Angels' first hit off Paxton in the sixth, and Yunel Escobar chased him with an RBI single in the seventh inning of Los Angeles' third loss in four games. Jesse Chavez (5-9) yielded just four hits and two runs over five innings in his fifth consecutive winless start for the Angels. — AP



SAN DIEGO: San Diego Padres right fielder Hunter Renfroe, left, left fielder Matt Szczur and center fielder Manuel Margot, right, leap in celebration after the Padres defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 in a baseball game in San Diego, Sunday. — AP

MLB results/standings

Washington 7, St. Louis 2; San Diego 5, LA Dodgers 3; Arizona 4, Colorado 3; Atlanta 4, Oakland 3 (12 innings); Seattle 5, LA Angels 3; Kansas City 6, Minnesota 2; Miami 10, Milwaukee 3; Houston 8, NY Yankees 1; Chicago White Sox 6, Texas 5; San Francisco 5, Pittsburgh 3; Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 1; Chicago Cubs 6, Cincinnati 2; Cleveland 11, Detroit 8; Philadelphia 7, NY Mets 1; Boston 15, Toronto 1.

| American League Eastern Division | | | | National League Eastern Division | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----|------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------|-------|------|
| W | L | PCT | GB | Washington | Atlanta | NY Mets | Miami | |
| Boston | 47 | 35 | .573 | - | 48 | 34 | .585 | |
| NY Yankees | 43 | 37 | .538 | 3 | 40 | 41 | .494 | |
| Tampa Bay | 43 | 41 | .512 | 5 | 38 | 43 | .469 | |
| Baltimore | 40 | 41 | .494 | 6.5 | 36 | 44 | .450 | |
| Toronto | 37 | 44 | .457 | 9.5 | 27 | 53 | .338 | |
| Central Division | | | | Central Division | | | | |
| Cleveland | 44 | 37 | .543 | - | Milwaukee | 44 | 40 | .524 |
| Minnesota | 41 | 40 | .506 | 3 | Chicago Cubs | 41 | 41 | .500 |
| Kansas City | 41 | 40 | .506 | 3 | St. Louis | 39 | 42 | .481 |
| Detroit | 36 | 45 | .444 | 8 | Pittsburgh | 37 | 45 | .451 |
| Chicago White Sox | 36 | 45 | .444 | 8 | Cincinnati | 35 | 46 | .432 |
| Western Division | | | | Western Division | | | | |
| Houston | 56 | 27 | .675 | - | LA Dodgers | 55 | 29 | .655 |
| LA Angels | 43 | 43 | .500 | 14.5 | Arizona | 52 | 31 | .627 |
| Seattle | 41 | 42 | .494 | 15 | Colorado | 48 | 36 | .571 |
| Texas | 40 | 42 | .488 | 15.5 | San Diego | 34 | 48 | .415 |
| Oakland | 35 | 47 | .427 | 20.5 | San Francisco | 33 | 51 | .393 |

CYCLING

MARCEL KITTEL COY OVER YELLOW JERSEY CHANCES

LIEGE: Marcel Kittel admitted he doesn't feel confident about his yellow jersey chances ahead of yesterday's lumpy third stage in the Tour de France from Verviers to Longwy. The big German moved up to third in the overall standings with victory in Sunday's second stage, thanks to the 10-second time bonus he claimed on the line. If he manages to keep up with the leaders yesterday's uphill finish at the end of the 212.5 kilometre third stage, he would then have another flat stage today

likely to finish in a bunch sprint.

He's just six seconds off race leader Geraint Thomas, with time bonuses of 10sec, 6sec and 4sec on the line for the top three finishers each day. But Kittel isn't counting his chickens.

"I think this is going to be difficult... because the finish is quite difficult," said the German. "It's similar to the second stage last year (in which the pure sprinters were dropped). "I will see, I don't know. It's hard for me now here to say."

Kittel stressed, though, that the yellow jersey was not his priority, with

his Quick-Step team looking for stage victories and him personally having an eye on claiming the green points jersey—although there is the not so small matter of trying to beat five-time winner and world champion Peter Sagan in that category. The course looks very much like one of the Ardennes one-day classics, particularly with the short 1.4 km climb to the finish with an average gradient of 5.8 per-

cent, peaking at 11 percent in one section. That should be enough to ensure that the pure sprinters have been dropped before the line, although the bumpy nature of the course, with five categorised climbs, might have shed some of them long before the finale.

It's the kind of course that should have Sagan and Olympic champion Greg van Avermaet licking their lips.

But plenty of others will also be eying a stage victory, not least the Ardennes

Classics specialists such as Australian Michael Matthews, Ireland's Dan Martin and Belgium's Philippe Gilbert.

The overall contenders will also likely be keen to keep near the front as there is a chance for small time gaps to appear by the line. If Thomas struggles at the finish, which is unlikely, the yellow jersey could come into play, although his Sky teammate Michal Kwiatkowski of Poland or team leader Chris Froome are two of the best placed riders to capitalise. —AFP



BRISBANE: Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines reacts after his loss to Jeff Horn of Australia, during their WBO World Welterweight title fight in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday. —AP

BOXING

I'LL URGE PACQUIAO TO QUIT, SAYS TRAINER ROACH

BRISBANE: Manny Pacquiao's trainer advised the Filipino legend to quit boxing yesterday after his sensational defeat to unheralded Australian Jeff Horn.

While controversy raged over the scoring of Sunday's World Boxing Organization welterweight title bout in Brisbane, after all three judges awarded it to unbeaten Horn, there were doubts whether 38-year-old Pacquiao would return for a possible rematch. Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach said he would consider advising Pacquiao to retire after a glittering 22-year professional career in which he won world titles at an unprecedented eight weight divisions. "I'm going to talk to Manny about maybe calling it a day, maybe this is it," Roach said.

Given no chance by most observers, the 29-year-old Horn's ultra-aggressive style rocked Pacquiao, with the three judges scoring the fight 117-111, 115-113 and 115-113 to the Australian before 51,000 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

Pacquiao, (59-7-2) who insisted on a Brisbane rematch as a clause in his contract for the fight, declared however that he would "absolutely" return for a rematch.

"We have a clause for a rematch. No problem," Pacquiao said in the ring after the judges' decision. But Australian boxing great and three-time world champion Jeff Fenech also called for Pacquiao, who retired briefly last year, to hang up his gloves for good this time. "If they let Manny fight again, that's stupid," Fenech said.

"He should go relax and enjoy the money he has made. He's got nothing to prove. Retire. Jeff fought the right fight and took Manny to places he'd not been before ... he made it a bit dirty."

A sense of Pacquiao's declining powers is that the Philippines senator hasn't stopped an opponent in eight years.

Roach however called for an investiga-

tion into the scoring of American judge Waleska Roldan. She had the bout 117-111 to Horn, giving Pacquiao only three of the 12 rounds, despite Horn finishing the fight badly bruised and with a shut right eye.

HORN 'OUT ON HIS FEET'

According to CompuBox statistics, Pacquiao landed almost twice as many punches as Horn - 182 to 92. Judges American Chris Flores and Argentine Ramon Cerdan both thought it was closer, but Horn had edged the fight 115-113.

"I respect the judges' decision," Pacquiao said. "He was much tougher than I expected. Much, much tougher." Pacquiao told Philippines television: "We thought that we won this fight."

However, Top Rank veteran supremo Bob Arum, who was ringside, felt the win was fair. "It could have gone either way," he said. "A couple of close rounds, but you can't argue with the result. I scored a lot of the early rounds for Jeff. Then I had Manny coming back in the middle."

"The 12th round, Jeff really won. If you give Manny the 11th, you have it a draw. You give Jeff the 11th, it's 7-5."

Horn's father, Jeff Snr, revealed after the fight that he had been ready to throw in the towel after the brutal ninth round.

His son had been battered by Pacquiao and blood was streaming from a nasty cut over Horn's right eye. As American referee Mark Nelson made his way to Horn's corner to ask them whether they wanted to stop the fight, Jeff Snr feared the worst. "He was dead in the water in round nine, he was gone," Jeff Snr said. "I was very worried. If I had a towel I may have thrown it myself in the ninth. I looked at his eyes and I thought he was out on his feet. I really thought he was in danger of getting hurt in round nine. "I didn't expect him to come back like he did in round 10." —AFP

LIONS HAVE 'POKED THE BEAR', SAYS GATLAND

WELLINGTON: Warren Gatland says his British and Irish Lions "poked the bear" with their second Test win over the All Blacks and warned against riling up the world champions ahead of this weekend's series decider.

But despite advising his players to mind their tongues, the coach could not resist his own dig at the world champions' lack of running rugby in the first two Tests.

"Ironically, this is the best team in the world and, for two Test matches, they really haven't stressed us," he told British media. "They have squeezed us and made us give away penalties but we haven't seen the expansive rugby that the All Blacks are known for. "We've coped with that and, if we can continue to improve in other areas, then we are going to see, hopefully, a great Test match." He expected a strong response from the All Blacks to the Lions' 24-21 win over a 14-man New Zealand in Wellington.

"Yes, we have poked the bear but hopefully the wounded Lion from last week is still recovering as well," he said.

Gatland said his players should watch what they say about their opponents in the build up to the third Test in Auckland on Saturday. "Hopefully we don't give them any ammunition this week and concentrate on ourselves because they will be

using anything they can to motivate themselves," he said.

He believed there was room for the Lions to improve as they chase a first series win in New Zealand since 1971, particularly the 13 penalties conceded in Wellington.

"I'm happy we got ourselves out of a hole and showed some real character and courage and I'm happy with our physicality but we've got to make sure we don't give away stupid and soft penalties," he said. "Key players were guilty of that."

Gatland was relaxed about the Lions spending a few days in a South Island tourist spot to relax ahead of the Eden Park match. Queenstown was the scene of the infamous dwarf-tossing bar-room antics that derailed England's 2011 World Cup campaign but Gatland said he did not envisage similar incidents involving the Lions. "These players are true professionals. They'll have a couple of quiet beers," he said.

"On the last two tours we've gone away somewhere, freshened them up and had a couple of light sessions later in the week. That's worked really well for us."

The scope for the Lions to get into trouble may be limited anyway as Altitude, the bar where the England players came unstuck, closed in 2013. —AFP

RUGBY

COACH WANE GLAD AS WIGAN END WINLESS LEAGUE RUN

LONDON: Wigan coach Shaun Wane said he was happy but frustrated after watching his Warriors side claim their first Super League victory since April. Former South Sydney Rabbitohs winger Joe Burgess scored two late tries to seal a 28-12 win over Widnes on Sunday. The Warriors went into a 16-0 lead before allowing Denis Betts's men to cut that advantage to just four points, until Burgess's double in the dying minutes.

"I'm happy with the win, a bit frustrated," said Wane. "There were too many errors, too many unforced errors. They got two tries from poor defensive errors but, apart from that, we defended really well."

"I think if we keep hold of the ball, we get rid of those unforced errors"

10 penalties, eight unforced errors—we could have won by a bigger margin and that's what we need to do. "We need to be a bit more ruthless and we weren't that today—though I'm happy we won." The win for the defending champions ended their eight-match winless run in the Super League. But despite Widnes threatening to come back into the game, Wane said he was always confident of the victory.

SALFORD BACK ON TRACK

"I wasn't nervous," he said. "I was confident we'd get the game and we've made some massive improvements."

In Sunday's other game, Salford ended a run of three defeats in a row to climb up to second in the table. Salford secured a 36-20 victory over Huddersfield and kept the pressure on top-of-the-table Castleford.

Rob Lui scored one try and helped set up another five for the hosts. Salford coach Ian Watson said he was pleased to see his side get their season back on track.

"After three losses, we did not want to say we have had a good season up to that and that was it," he said. "There have been a few negative comments from people saying we have run the race. But this group is not about that. "We want to be really successful. A true team bounces back from defeat and we worked really hard to get that result."

Defeat for Huddersfield—their first in five games—drops them down to eighth and leaves them flirting with danger. They are just two points ahead of Catalans Dragons, and the Middle 8s mix, with three games of the regular season left.

"We are going to need to win at least two out of the next three games, that's for sure," said Huddersfield coach Rick Stone. Elsewhere, new Dragons coach Steve McNamara was delighted to win his first game in charge of the French side. Julian Bousquet's last-minute try for the Dragons was enough to snatch victory from Leigh on Saturday.



Shaun Wane

The 40-36 win lifts them to ninth in the table and the former England coach paid tribute to his players. "It's a proud moment for me to be here after a win," said McNamara. "The attitude and behaviour of the players on the field tonight was one that pleased me."

"They gave everything tonight, never gave up and were rewarded at the end of the game with picking up the two points," he added. "It's a result that has the ability to give us confidence in the coming weeks." —AFP



WELLINGTON: Lions second rower Alun Wyn Jones runs at New Zealand second row forward Sam Whitelock during the second rugby test between the British and Irish Lions and the All Blacks in Wellington, New Zealand, Saturday.—AP

JONES WARNS OF ALL BLACKS BACKLASH

WELLINGTON: Alun Wyn Jones is bracing for a furious All Blacks backlash when the British and Irish Lions arrive in Auckland for Saturday's third Test series decider.

But first the Wales lock is allowing himself a moment to savour the Lions' 24-21 win over a 14-man New Zealand in Wellington. Jones was at the heart of an impressive display by the Lions pack at Westpac Stadium, more than justifying his selection after a lacklustre performance in the opening Test had critics calling for his head.

The 31-year-old said the tourists needed to rest and regroup before a clash with the back-to-back world champions in Auckland that will see them chase the first Lions series victory in New Zealand since 1971.

"We've got to make sure we enjoy this win because I've had similar occasions in the past and not enjoyed them," he told reporters before the squad headed to the South Island resort town of Queenstown for a break.

"We'll get the best out of everyone if we do enjoy it. Work sometimes becomes an

obsession and that's not good. You have to realise where you are and what you're doing."

But he warned his teammates needed to be back at their best against the wounded All Blacks at Eden Park, where the hosts have not lost since 1994.

"It's still a level series and that's all it is at the moment. We stepped up from the first Test and there's no doubt that they'll do that this week. We need to build on this and be ready," he said. "We're 1-1 and we've got a big week ahead. We need to switch off and recover, but then we'll look at those penalties and certain areas where we can probably play a little bit wider."

'CHOMPING AT THE BIT'

Jones was heartened that the Lions forwards finally combined to show what they were capable of as a unit in Wellington after performing only in fits and starts for much of the tour.

"Individual people make packs and when you do your individual role in that you get a

complete pack," he said. "For the large part there was a lot of that, particularly in the first half. "We have showed our physicality in spurts. Against the Crusaders I think we showed what we could do as a pack. We answered some questions again (in Wellington)."

"On the whole, the performance wasn't complete, but we'll patch those areas up because we're going to be facing an All Blacks team that's chomping at the bit next week." Jones has previous experience of a Lions decider after captaining the side to a convincing 41-16 third Test win over Australia in Sydney in 2013 to seal the series 2-1.

He said that experience taught him that the Lions did not need to change their preparation radically for this weekend's high-stakes game but they must maintain their focus. "We know what's at stake and the intensity in the game will go up again, as it did four years ago," he said.

"Very little will change from our point of view. I don't see why we can't improve." —AFP

FABIO CAPELLO HITS ROCK-BOTTOM IN CHINESE SUPER LEAGUE

SHANGHAI: Fabio Capello's Jiangsu Suning slumped to the bottom of the Chinese Super League at the weekend after a defeat to a Shanghai SIPG side missing their banned star players and manager Andre Villas-Boas.

The Italian coach was left still searching for his first league victory since being appointed last month at Jiangsu,

who have spent heavily on midfielder Ramires from Chelsea and attacking midfielder Alex Teixeira.

They were runners-up last season but hit rock-bottom at the weekend with the 1-0 home loss to SIPG, who closed the gap on leaders and reigning champions Guangzhou Evergrande to one point. SIPG did it without the suspended

Oscar, Hulk and Wu Lei, and Villas-Boas was also absent as he served the first of a two-match ban for a social media post protesting about an eight-game ban dished out to Oscar for sparking a brawl.

Their victory, thanks to the only goal of the game by striker Elkeson, made it no wins from three games for former Real Madrid boss Capello in the league.

SIPG's win, coupled with Evergrande's 4-3 defeat at Tianjin Quanjian, made it a hugely satisfying weekend for the club after a troubled week of bans and suspensions for Villas-Boas and his stars.

Tianjin Quanjian blew the title race wide open at the halfway stage of the season on Sunday with Brazilian Alexandre Pato scoring for Fabio

Cannavaro's side. Another Brazilian, the midfielder Paulinho who has been linked with a move to Barcelona, scored twice for the beaten league leaders.

The victory for Cannavaro's Tianjin propelled them up to fourth in the table after 15 games and ended a 10-game winning run in the league for Luiz Felipe Scolari's Evergrande. —AFP



Andre Iguodala

BASKETBALL

IGUODALA STAYS WITH WARRIORS, TUCKER AND NENE IN HOUSTON

NEW YORK: Free agent swingman Andre Iguodala has agreed a three-year deal to remain with the NBA champion Golden State Warriors, with the 33-year-old reserve confirming the move on Twitter.

"Sources close to Andre Iguodala reporting agreed to terms to return to the bay..." Iguodala tweeted, a poke at the uncertainty surrounding all news in the first days of the NBA's 2017-18 free agency frenzy.

Talks with free agents began Saturday but the league forbids contract signings until Thursday. That doesn't prevent deal-making but it does keep teams from talking about their moves until they are finalized. Iguodala's deal, worth \$48 million (42 million euros) according to multiple reports, comes after he met with the San Antonio Spurs and Houston Rockets.

The Warriors are working to retain the core of a club that has won two NBA crowns in three seasons and came within a game of sweeping all three.

Golden State agreed to terms on the richest contract in NBA history with a five-year "supermax" deal worth \$201 million to star guard Stephen Curry, the two-time NBA Most Valuable Player reaping the benefits of a salary cap jump and a willingness to take less than he could make elsewhere to keep the Warriors a title contender and on budget.

That's much the same decision that appears to have been made by NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant, who left Oklahoma City for Golden State in a free agent deal last July. Durant opted out of his contract so the Warriors had more money to pay top reserves Iguodala and Shaun Livingston but is expected to rejoin the club. He would likely command a huge deal next year but his sacrifice this season keeps the nucleus of a championship dynasty together for another campaign.

Iguodala was the 2015 NBA Finals MVP, his insertion into the lineup producing

matchup issues Cleveland could not overcome, and he was a finalist for this year's NBA Sixth Man of the Year award given to the top bench player.

Iguodala averaged 7.6 points, 3.4 assists and 4.0 rebounds in 76 games last season and has averaged 13.0 points, 4.5 assists and 5.3 rebounds over 13 seasons with Philadelphia, Denver and Golden State.

ROCKETS GET NENE, TUCKER

His rejection of the Rockets, who landed point guard Chris Paul in a deal with the Los Angeles Clippers to join star shooting guard James Harden, prompted Houston to strike a deal with forward P.J. Tucker, multiple reports saying it was for four years and \$32 million.

Tucker met with the Toronto Raptors, who obtained him last February in a deal with Phoenix, but talks with Houston players, including Harden and Paul according to ESPN, prompted him to join the Rockets.

Known for intense defensive play, Tucker averaged 6.7 points, 5.8 rebounds and 1.4 steals in 81 games for the Suns and Raptors last season. The Rockets also agreed to terms with Brazilian free agent center Nene, who took a three-year deal worth \$11 million, ESPN reported, after a four-year offer for \$15 million was withdrawn because it violated NBA salary level rules.

IBAKA REJOINS RAPTORS

Spanish free agent forward Serge Ibaka agreed to a three-year deal worth \$65 million to stay with the Toronto Raptors, ESPN and the Toronto Star reported. Ibaka averaged 14.2 points and 6.8 rebounds in 23 games after being traded from Orlando.

The Cleveland Cavaliers, who lost to Golden State in the finals for the second time in three seasons last month, reached deals to keep 3-point sharpshooter Kyle Korver and add Spanish reserve point guard Jose Calderon. —AFP

CONFED CUP SHOWS RUSSIA READY TO HOST WORLD CUP

SAINT PETERSBURG: Germany's Confederations Cup-winning coach Joachim Loew and FIFA president Gianni Infantino have led the calls for giving Russia the seal of approval to host next year's World Cup. Lars Stindl's first-half goal in Sunday's final sealed Germany's 1-0 win over Chile, bringing down the curtain on the 2017 Confed Cup—a warm-up for next year's World Cup finals.

This could be the last Confed Cup in its current format—Infantino has said the competition is under review—but the fortnight-long tournament proved Russia can host a World Cup.

With less than a year to go before the World Cup starts on June 14 2018, fears racism and hooliganism would blight the Confed Cup proved unfounded. "We had been hearing before this tournament about a lot of 'problems' we would experience here," said Infantino.

"If a problematic tournament looks like this one, well, I want to have many problematic tournaments going forward," he quipped. Germany's head coach Loew warmly praised the hosts after his inexperienced squad, minus their World Cup winning stars, came of age to beat Chile. "Many thanks to Russia - you have been great hosts in the different cities where we have played," said Loew.

"We have seen excellent conditions at the stadiums, this has been brilliantly organised and we've met some outstanding people along the way." The 16 matches passed off without incident off the field and the main talking points were the controversial testing of the video assistant referee (VAR) and Cristiano Ronaldo's performances for Portugal. The Real Madrid superstar produced three man-of-the-match performances, but left the tournament when Portugal lost their semi-final to Chile—jetting off to be with his new-born twins rather than help beat Mexico in the third-place play-off.

The VAR received a mixed reception, but

Infantino has described it as "the future of football". Infantino admits the system needs refining and FIFA will decide whether to use it at next year's World Cup. The system largely removed blatant refereeing mistakes, but led to some disruptions during matches.

"The VAR is a very positive tool for the sport as it helps referees avoid committing mistakes," said legendary former ref Pierluigi Collina, now chairman of FIFA's Referees Committee.

"We are aware we can improve, but it would be very surprising after so few matches if it was perfect."

The system is not error-free—after Chile's Gonzalo Jara elbowed the Confed Cup's top-scorer Timo Werner in the face during the final—a scene reviewed by the VAR—Jara was only booked.

Off the pitch, allegations of doping in Russian football again emerged during the tournament, but the local organising committee (LOC) said they have shown Russia is ready. "For Russian football, this tournament has been unprecedented in many ways," said LOC boss Alexey Sorokin.

"It has allowed us to watch beautiful football and dispel many concerns people may have had about large-scale events here." Security was extremely high at all four venues in Moscow, St Petersburg, Kazan and Sochi—seven more will be added for next year's World Cup.

'FLYING COLOUR'

To enter the stadiums and fan zone, fans had to pass safety checks, including bags being x-rayed and the use of metal detectors, typical of those found at airports. There was an extra layer of security as supporters had to register their details and present a FAN ID, bearing their picture, with a match ticket to be allowed into the stadiums. Given the tradition of Russian supporters coming to games late, there were reports of some Fan ID centres at venues being overwhelmed just before kick-off. —AFP

EX-CHELSEA ICON TERRY SIGNS FOR ASTON VILLA

LONDON: Former long-serving Chelsea captain John Terry signed a one-year contract on a free transfer for second tier side Aston Villa yesterday. Terry, 36 and who left champions Chelsea after 22 trophy-laden years at the end of last season having lifted the Premier League title, is reported to have agreed a weekly salary of £60,000 (68,300 euros, \$77,700) with the club that is owned by Chinese businessman Tony Xia. "WelcomeJT: It's official - John Terry signs... Full story ?? bit.ly/2t8lxv3 ?? #PartOfThePride #AVFC," tweeted Aston Villa with a photograph of the former England skipper in their kit.

Villa manager Steve Bruce—a former central defender of renown himself having captained Manchester United—made no bones about the significance of persuading Terry to join.

"It has to be the biggest signing of my career," said Bruce. "It's not often you get a player of John's calibre to play for you. "A lot of the younger players will look up to him and it can only be a good thing for the dressing room." Bruce, though, had one minor quibble.

"We would love to have signed him when he was 26 not 36 but physically he is incredibly fit for his age..." he said. Terry, whose final appearance for Chelsea was mired in controversy with several fans winning money on betting on him being substituted in the 26th minute the same number as his shirt, said he preferred to drop down a league than have to face Chelsea.

"It was that mental side of playing against Chelsea that would be too much to get over," said Terry, who had offers from Premier League sides West Brom and Swansea.

"I had 22 unbelievable years at the football club. This is a new chapter. I wish Chelsea well but my thoughts are 100 percent here and the ambition to get back in the Premier League."

Terry joins the side against whom he made his senior debut 19 years ago in a League Cup third round tie. "Life has come full circle," he said. Chelsea also tweeted their best wishes. "Wishing John Terry the very best of luck at Aston Villa! (with a thumbs-up icon)," the champions tweet-



BIRMINGHAM: New Aston Villa signing John Terry, right, with Manager Steve Bruce during the media conference at Villa Park, Birmingham, England, yesterday. Former England and Chelsea captain John Terry has signed a one-year deal with second-division Aston Villa, saying he is "delighted" and is looking to "help the squad achieve something special this season." — AP

ed. Terry is expected to fly out to Portugal to join his team-mates at the club's pre-season training, before the new season which begins at home to Hull City, Bruce's former club, on August 5th. The signing is a bit of a coup for Villa—who endured a

torrid time last season never threatening to return immediately to the Premier League finally finishing 13th—as they faced competition from not only Premier League clubs but also Turkish giants Galatasaray. —AFP



FRANKFURT: Joachim Loew (R), head coach of the German national football team, the president of the German Football Federation Reinhard Grindel (C) and players of the team leave the plane after arriving at the airport in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, yesterday, one day after they won the 2017 Confederations Cup football tournament. — AFP

SOAKED LOEW HAILS GERMANY'S RISING CONFED CUP STARS

SAINT PETERSBURG: Joachim Loew has hailed Germany's next generation of stars after beating Chile 1-0 in Sunday's Confederations Cup final—but says the challenge is to defend the World Cup next year.

Lars Stindl's simple tap-in was enough to seal Germany's victory in Sunday's final in St Petersburg as the youthful world champions lifted the Confed Cup for the first time.

Germany's head coach cut a soggy figure at the post-match press conference when his players stormed the stage and showered him. "I am immensely proud of this team, we have only been together for three-and-a-half weeks," said Loew in a beer-soaked shirt. "You could feel something was happening in training, we came together and it's a really deserved win."

Loew took a gamble by leaving first-choice stars like Thomas Mueller, Jerome Boateng, Toni Kroos and Mesut Ozil at home and bringing inexperienced young-

sters to Russia. Germany's captain Julian Draxler was voted the Confed Cup's player of the tournament and striker Timo Werner finished as the top scorer in Russia with three goals and two assists. German football has a bright future after their Under-21 team were crowned European champions on Friday in Poland. However, head coach Loew says the hard work for his rising stars is just beginning as they bid to earn a place in die Mannschaft's squad for next year's World Cup.

Only three of the Confed Cup winning team—Jonas Hector, Joshua Kimmich and Julian Draxler—are first-choice starters. "Despite our success here and with the juniors in Poland, we'll still have to reconfirm our victories next year (at the World Cup), but the job starts now, the work is just beginning," said Loew. "The young ones are only just coming up, this is the first tournament for many of these players." They have

done well, but staying at the top is another matter and we will have to work hard to defend our title next year.

"The team had to fight back, the Chileans are very robust and things were heating up in the second half, we were fighting for every metre to defend our lead.

"It was a magic match for our young players, they haven't had much experience, but they showed their single-minded determination, which was quite impressive."

Chile were lucky not to have defender Gonzalo Jara sent off for elbowing Werner in the face during the second half, but despite a review by the video assistant referee (VAR), Jara was only booked. "I didn't see it from where I was standing, but the VAR was consulted and I saw the reply," said Loew.

"It could have been worthy of a red card and I think if a referee sees something like that, he could and should have dismissed him." — AFP

Sports

Danielle Kang wins KPMG Women's PGA Championship



I'll urge Pacquiao to quit, says trainer Roach



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ARRIETA SHARP, HAPP HOMERS TWICE AS CUBS BEAT REDS

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WIMBLEDON: Spain's Rafael Nadal serves against Australia's John Millman during their men's singles first round match on the first day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London yesterday.—AP

VENUS IN TEARS OVER CRASH AS MURRAY, NADAL STROLL

LONDON: Venus Williams wept at Wimbledon over the "devastation" of a fatal road accident for which she is facing legal action as Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal eased into the second round yesterday.

Williams, the 37-year-old five-time champion, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of her maiden appearance at the All England Club.

But that landmark has been overshadowed by her involvement last month in a road accident near her Florida home which resulted in the death of a 78-year-old man.

"There are really no words to describe, like, how devastating and yeah. I'm completely speechless. It's just..." Williams said before she left a news conference to compose herself.

The family of Jerome Barson, who fractured spine and numerous internal injuries in the smash, said they intend to sue the American star. When she was asked how she was coping

mentally, Williams added: "I have no idea what tomorrow will bring. That's all I can say about it. That's what I've learned."

Despite the tragedy at home, Williams remained focused enough on Court One to clinch a 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 victory over Belgium's Elise Mertens in the first round. Defending men's champion Murray celebrated the news that he's about to become a father again by reaching the second round.

The top seed and world number one downed Kazakh lucky loser Alexander Bublik 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, shrugging off two brief rain delays and showing little sign of the hip problem which plagued him in the build-up. "I have felt OK the last few days and the adrenaline you feel by playing a match numbs any pain you may have," said the British star after seeing off world number 134 Bublik.

Murray, whose baby daughter Sophia was

born last year, next faces Dustin Brown, the man who knocked out Rafael Nadal two years ago.

EMOTIONAL KVITOVA

German world number 97 Brown came back from a set and a break down to beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-4.

World number two and two-time champion Nadal secured his 850th career victory with a 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 demolition of Australia's John Millman. Fresh from winning his 10th French Open title, Nadal is just the seventh player to reach the 850-win mark, joining Roger Federer, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe, Andre Agassi and Guillermo Vilas.

Nadal, seeded to face Murray in the semi-finals, will play Donald Young for a place in the last 32. "I haven't had many matches on grass for the last few years, but I had some positive feelings," said Nadal who missed last year's tourna-

ment with a wrist injury. There was lots of emotion for 2011 and 2014 women's champion Petra Kvitova as the popular Czech downed Sweden's Johanna Larsson 6-3, 6-4. Kvitova was playing just her eighth match since suffering a potentially career-ending hand injury fighting off a knife-wielding burglar at her home in December.

"I felt the energy from the crowd and it was amazing to be back here at Wimbledon and playing on the beautiful Centre Court," said the 27-year-old Kvitova. Nick Kyrgios, who beat Nadal at Wimbledon in 2014, won't get another opportunity to repeat that shock. The combustible 20th seeded Australian was 6-3, 6-4 down to France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert when he called it quits on Court Three after failing to shake off the hip injury which has plagued him in recent weeks.

Kei Nishikori, the Japanese ninth seed, beat

Italy's Marco Cecchinato 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 in just 72 minutes. Women's second seed Simona Halep, blasted off court in the French Open final by Jelena Ostapenko, downed New Zealand qualifier Marina Erakovic 6-4, 6-1.

Halep, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 2014, next faces Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maria. Former world number one Victoria Azarenka starts against Catherine Bellis of the United States and will be playing her first Grand Slam since taking time off after last year's French Open to have her first child Leo in December.

The two-time Australian Open champion made the semi-finals at the All England Club in 2011 and 2012. Men's fifth seed Stan Wawrinka, looking to complete the career Slam, faces Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

French Open winner Ostapenko, the 2014 Wimbledon junior champion, takes on Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus.—AFP

CYCLING

BROTHERLY LOVE INSPIRED SAGAN TO TOUR STAGE WIN

LONGWY: Peter Sagan said having his brother alongside him as he won his eighth Tour de France stage yesterday made it extra special.

The world champion surged clear on the uphill finish to win the 212.5km third stage from Verviers in Belgium to Longwy. But he credited his brother Juraj, the Slovak national champion, for working hard all day for his Bora team. "It's very nice, I'm very happy for him because he can feel also the atmosphere of the Tour de France for the first time," said Sagan, 27, of his 28-year-old brother. "I have to say thank you to all my team because they did an amazing job, especially my brother, all day in the front pulling to catch the breakaway."

Sagan also said it was his brother who had first got him interested in bicycle racing. "It's special because he's my brother, we can race on bikes. For sure without my brother, I'm not here now. It was his idea and after I followed."

One of Sagan's shoes was unclipped in the sprint finish but he kept his cool, re-clipped and pushed on to win ahead of Australian Michael Matthews, with Dan Martin of Ireland in third.

Briton Geraint Thomas kept the yellow jersey after coming home in eighth, one place ahead of his Sky team leader and reigning champion Chris Froome, two seconds behind

the winner. It meant that Froome moved up to second overall, 12 seconds behind Thomas, with Matthews third on the same time and Sagan just one second further back in fourth.

It briefly looked as if Thomas and Froome might be caught out as Australian contender Richie Porte launched an attack some 800 metres from the finish, with even two-time former winner Alberto Contador unable to hold his wheel. Porte couldn't keep it up, though, and actually finished 14th, behind other contenders such as Romain Bardet and Nairo Quintana.

'FANTASTIC POSITION'

But he admitted afterwards he hadn't planned to go on the attack on the 1.6km long final climb. "The guys put me in a fantastic position there in the final," he said. "I felt good but there were still 500 metres to go, it was a little bit too far." Thomas insisted he and Froome hadn't been too worried, but said it showed Porte was in good form. "As we started the climb, myself and Froome were a little far back, 20 positions.

"It needed a bit of an effort (to get back up). Richie attacked, a strong attack, but we weren't too stressed about it. We knew Sagan and some other guys were likely to cover it.

"Certainly it showed he's in great form and will always look to use his legs to gain some time." With a lap of the renowned Spa-Francorchamps motor racing circuit included along the course and the sun out, there was much to enjoy for riders and fans alike.

A six-man breakaway was allowed around two minutes for most of the day's racing and spent their time battling for king of the mountain points along the five climbs.

Having seen his compatriot and Cannondale team-mate Taylor Phinney claim the polkadot jersey on Sunday, American Nathan Brown took the necessary points to keep it in the family.

For the most part, the peloton and overall favourites enjoyed a leisurely day in the saddle.

But in the final 60km, three more escapees joined up with the breakaway, whose advantage was down to one minute, and gave it added impetus. However, the punchers' teams weren't prepared to give them any leeway and Frenchman Lilian Calmejane, the last man standing, was caught with 10km to ride. From then on, it was up to the specialist punchers and Sagan, once again, proved the strongest.

He also closed in on the green points jersey, still held by Sunday's stage two winner Marcel Kittel of Germany, which Sagan has won in each of the last five years.—AFP



VERVIERS: Stage winner Slovakia's Peter Sagan celebrates on the podium after winning at the end of the 212.5 km third stage of the 104th edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Verviers, Belgium and Longwy, France.—AFP

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China opens up \$10 trillion bond market

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TEHRAN: Ali Kardor (L), Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Patrick Pouyanne (2-L), Chairman and CEO of French energy company Total, Ezzatollah Akbari (2-R), Managing Director of Petropars Group and CNPC International president Lyu Gongxun (R) sign an offshore gas field agreement in Tehran yesterday. — AFP

IRAN'S INVESTMENT GOLD RUSH TOO SLOW TO EMERGE?

TEHRAN: When Iran signed its landmark deal with world powers in 2015, curbing its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, many expected an investment gold rush. But despite thousands of business delegates flooding into Tehran from all over Europe, Asia and beyond, big deals have been slow to emerge. That makes the agreement with French energy giant Total—which will lead to a 20-year, \$4.9 billion project to develop an offshore gas field in Iran—a potential breakthrough for the country.

Who has done deals so far?

Major investments have been few and far between. French car firm PSA was quick off the block, signing a 400-million-euro deal in June 2016 to build Peugeot vehicles with Iranian carmaker Khosro, and a 300-million-euro agreement in October to build Citroens with Iran's SAIPA. Hotel group Accor says it is working on 10 to 15 projects

in Iran, hoping to capitalize on the tourism boom since the nuclear deal.

The only other headline deals have been for aircraft, but here the money has been going in the other direction, such as the billions spent by Iran Air to buy 100 planes from Airbus and 80 from Boeing. There has been a cavalcade of so-called preliminary or "exploratory" deals by major firms including Renault, Hyundai and Shell, but so far none have translated into actual investments. A UN trade report published in June said total foreign direct investment into Iran last year was just \$3.4 billion—way below the \$4.7 billion it received in 2012 before sanctions hit, and not even in the same universe as the \$50 billion target set by President Hassan Rouhani when he signed the nuclear deal.

What is holding them back?

Two things: US sanctions and Iran's domestic economic

mess. Although many international sanctions were lifted under the nuclear deal, Washington maintained many related to human rights, ballistic missile tests and Iran's role in regional conflicts. US lawmakers are in the process of tightening these sanctions, leaving many international firms worried they could face massive fines or be barred from working in the United States, and President Donald Trump has threatened to tear up the nuclear deal entirely.

Firms face major compliance headaches trying to figure out if their money might end up in the hands of sanctioned entities such as the Revolutionary Guards—a tough task given their shadowy involvement across much of the Iranian economy. But even without the threat of sanctions, Iran remains a risky investment prospect due to its pervasive corruption and red tape, a banking sector crippled by toxic debt and a fluctuat-

ing currency. All this has scared off many investors, and crucially, the global banks needed to finance long-term deals.

What comes next?

All eyes are on Washington, where Trump's administration is in the midst of a 90-day review on whether to stick by the nuclear deal. The other signatories—Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia—are determined to keep the deal alive, which would make it hard for the US to enforce sanctions as it did in the past. But the US has unparalleled powers to fine foreign firms. Many grimly recall the \$8.9 billion fine meted out to French bank BNP Paribas just three years ago. Iran hopes Total deal will give confidence to other firms to move in, and that an international bank will similarly take the plunge, triggering the long-awaited gold rush. But for now, it remains a waiting game. — AFP

US MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY EXPANDS IN JUNE: ISM

WASHINGTON: US manufacturing activity expanded in June with big jumps in all the key components, including production, new orders and employment, the Institute for Supply Management said yesterday. "This was a really strong performance," said Timothy R Fiore, chair of ISM's Manufacturing Business Survey Committee. The ISM purchasing managers index surged nearly three points to 57.8 percent, the highest since August 2014, on a four-point jump in new orders to 63.5 percent.

That was far stronger than analysts had expected, with the consensus forecast just 55.0. Anything above 50 indicates growth. The production index jumped 5.3 points to 62.4 percent, which in turn drove a 3.7 point increase in employment to 57.2 percent—the ninth consecutive increase. "New orders were up strongly, supported by an increase in production. The employment expanded to meet production needs," Fiore told reporters in a conference call. However, continued uncertainty over the Trump administration's trade policy—amid multiple threats of action against key trading partners—remains a concern that could impact investment. "This uncertainty doesn't really help the business environment," Fiore said.

Of the 18 industries surveyed, 15 reported growth, but as expected in such a strong month, inventories declined, falling 2.5 points to 49 percent, while the backlog of orders rose two points to 57 percent. The price index fell 5.5 points to 55 percent, indicating prices are still increasing but at a slower rate. Fiore noted that the close of the second quarter and the need to meet production goals, as well as possible ramping up of production ahead of normal summer shutdowns and vacations could have contributed to the big jump in June.

But comments from those industries surveyed indicate orders are remaining strong and despite past reports of struggles to find qualified workers, hiring showed an uptick last month at the end of the school year, he said. Asked if the production gains were sustainable, Fiore said it is possible. "We'll see," he said. "If new orders continue to come in as they have been and companies can keep up... and supply chain doesn't become a constraint, there is no reason this cannot continue."

Barclays analyst Michael Gapen said he was more inclined to view this increase as a real move following a similar jump in February and March which he and his colleagues "discounted... as reflecting, among other items, excessive optimism about policy expectations." "We take a more constructive view of the recent improvement... and see the rise as driven more by actual changes on the ground, as activity has rebounded in the second quarter relative to earlier in the year."

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, noted that the state of the manufacturing sector "disproportionately influences perceptions of the pace of growth," even though it should not have such a large impact on the overall economic outlook and by extension the course of action by the Federal Reserve. So "this report will come as something of a jolt to investors comfortable with the idea that the economy has slowed to the point where the Fed need take no further action." The central bank has been widely expected to raise the benchmark interest rate a third time later this year, but some economists have been pushing back against that certainty given the very tepid inflation rate and absence of wage pressures. — AFP



RENTON, Washington: In this Feb 13, 2017 photo, work continues on the interior of the first of the large Boeing 737 MAX 9 models as it sits at the front of the assembly line and almost ready to roll out at the company's airplane production facility. — AP

KSA UP AS EM INCLUSION DRAWS CLOSER

NBK MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Regional equities retreated in 2017, continuing to underperform international markets, with the exception of Saudi Arabia. The MSCI GCC ex-Saudi Arabia price index declined 5.2 percent on the quarter, with most regional markets closing in negative territory amid notably lower volumes. Saudi's performance, however, was boosted late in the quarter, with its index up 7 percent in 2017, after MSCI put it on a watch list for possible inclusion in the emerging market index. Total GCC market capitalization stood at \$971 billion at the end of the quarter, having added \$17 billion during 2017, on the back of the Saudi rally.

Internationally, most equity markets continued to advance, making new highs despite losing some of their momentum. Nothing seemed to stop the rally in international equities that started last November with the election of President Trump. Equities have since shrugged off a handful of political, security and economic setbacks. The MSCI advanced market index was up 2 percent in 2017 and 13 percent since November's election. US equities continued to be buoyed by promises of more business-friendly policies albeit being less hopeful on the timing.

European equities continued to take the lead from US markets, little affected by events that could have weighed on sentiment. Brexit developments, terrorist attacks, bank and Greek debt issues had little lasting impact on stocks. Instead, investors chose to focus more on the positives, including a steady flow of solid economic data from core economies, the election of a pro-EU and pro-business president in France and a central bank committed to pursuing an accommodative monetary policy despite strengthening economic conditions. The Euro Stoxx 50 was down 1.7 percent on the quarter, but remains up 4.6 percent year-to-date.

Emerging markets (EM) continued to outperform as foreign inflows picked up. The MSCI EM index was up 6 percent in 2017 as fears of more protectionist US trade policies took a backseat. Emerging markets, along with other risky asset classes, benefitted from the continued flow of positive data from advanced economies. Flows to these markets picked up supported by easy monetary policies by the major central banks and a gradual predictable path for Fed rate hikes. Indeed, the latest Fed hike in June was almost entirely priced in by markets. According to the IIF, net portfolio flows to emerging markets totaled \$41 billion in the first two months of 2017, bringing the six-month moving average to \$25 billion for the first time since November 2014.

GCC markets end in negative territory

GCC markets bucked the trend and continued to underperform with most ending the quarter in negative territory. Sentiment in the region remained closely linked to oil prices which fell below \$50 per barrel despite the

Table 1: GCC markets indicators for 2Q17

| | Market capitalization (USD billion) | Average daily turnover (USD million) | Growth in 2016 profits (% y/y) | Price/earnings per share |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bahrain (Bourse) | 21 | 2 | 14 | 9.3 |
| Kuwait (Boursa) | 91 | 55 | 1 | 15.5 |
| Oman (MSM) | 21 | 8 | 0 | 10.9 |
| Qatar (QSE) | 133 | 76 | -12 | 12.7 |
| Saudi (Tadawul) | 468 | 764 | -6 | 16.4 |
| Abu Dhabi (ADX) & Dubai (DFM) | 236 | 146 | -2 | 18.7 |
| GCC | 971 | 1046 | -5 | - |

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, Thomson Reuters Eikon

recent extension of production cuts by OPEC. Amid low oil prices, ongoing fiscal consolidation and some sovereign rating downgrades, business and consumer confidence has remained subdued. This, in turn, weighed on equity prices with the MSCI GCC ex-Saudi price index retreating 5.2 percent in 2017.

The exception were Saudi shares which rallied as MSCI announced the potential inclusion of the market in its emerging markets index and the King elevated his son to crown prince. On 20 June, MSCI announced that it was placing the Saudi market on its EM watch list. The announcement came on the heels of a series of stock market reforms. Adding Saudi shares to its EM index could result in \$9 billion, or 2 percent of market cap, in passive inflows. Inclusion in the index is expected in mid-2019, if not earlier. Saudi shares jumped 5 percent in the first trading session after the announcement, which coincided with the news that Mohammed Bin Salman was elevated to crown prince.

Meanwhile, corporate earnings announcements did not provide much support to equity prices in 2Q17 across the GCC. The growth in 1Q17 profits of 630 listed GCC companies was strong at 18 percent y/y. Profit announcements were also better than expected with a sample of companies announcing earnings that were on average 3 percent higher than expectations. But markets seemed unfazed by either the strong results or reduced valuations that now look quite attractive.

Political rift effects Qatar

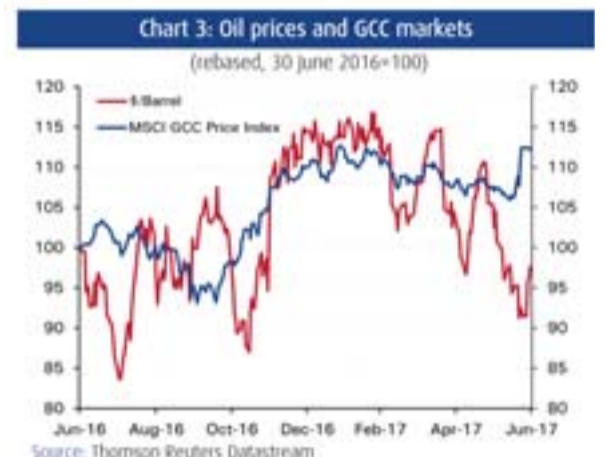
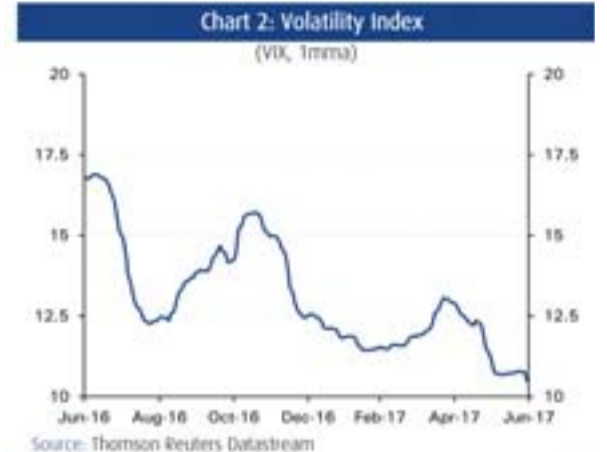
Qatar underperformed regionally with the ongoing political rift with its neighbors hitting equities hard. Qatar's general index declined 15 percent in 2017 having dropped more than 7 percent the day Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain

and Egypt announced that they would sever ties with the emirate. The political crisis hurt confidence in Qatar, raising economic and financial concerns, and triggering downgrades to the state's rating. The performance of Qatari equities was weak for month seven before the crisis. The second tranche upgrade by FTSE to EM status in mid-March failed to provide much uplift. Also, an MSCI index rebalancing in May saw a net outflow of foreign funds from Qatar for the first time in 16 months.

Activity in regional markets weakened notably with all markets seeing declines in turnover. The daily traded value averaged \$1 billion down 30 percent compared to the previous quarter. Kuwait saw the sharpest drop in activity following an exceptionally strong first quarter. Regional activity declined further as the summer season and Ramadan approached.

Foreign flows to the region also saw a sharp drop. According to EFG Hermes, inflows to the region averaged \$126 million in the first two months of 2017, down 70 percent compared to its 1Q17 average. Indeed, part of this big drop was due to Qatar's FTSE upgrade which saw a sharp rise in flows to the market in March. Meanwhile, flows to GCC markets and market liquidity more generally have been impacted by the rise in regional debt issuances, as banks and sovereigns tapped debt markets.

Regional equities will continue to be driven to a large extent by developments in oil markets and progress on fiscal adjustment and structural reform. Regional politics will also be monitored closely and will have an impact, probably on some markets more than others. Internationally, progress on tax reform and infrastructure spending initiatives in the US will be closely watched, while monetary policy in advanced markets will continue to be a key focus for investors.



TESLA'S 'MODEL 3' CAR TO GO ON SALE

NEW YORK: Electric car maker Tesla says its keenly awaited Model 3 car for the masses will go on sale on Friday. CEO Elon Musk made the announcement yesterday on Twitter. The car is to start around \$35,000 and with a \$7,500 federal electric car tax credit, could cost \$27,500. Tesla says the five-seat car will be able to go 215 miles on a single charge and will be sporty, accelerating from zero to 60 miles per hour in under six seconds.

Musk had said that production was on track to start in July, but Tesla has often faced delays in getting vehicles to market. The Palo Alto, California-based company aims to make 5,000 Model 3 sedans per week by the end of this year and 10,000 per week in 2018. Tesla hasn't said how many people have put down \$1,000 refundable deposits for the Model 3, but Musk has said people who put down a deposit now won't get a car until the end of 2018, suggesting it could be close to 500,000.

Whether Tesla can meet its production goals is an open question. Its last new vehicle, the Model X SUV, was delayed nearly 18 months. Musk says the Model 3 is much simpler to make, but 14 year-old Tesla has no experience producing and selling vehicles in high volumes. Tesla made just 84,000 cars last year. Bigger rivals like General Motors, Volkswagen and Toyota routinely sell around 10 million vehicles per year. Even if the Model 3 is on time, servicing all those vehicles will still be a challenge. Model S and Model X owners are already worried about having to share Tesla's company-owned charging stations with an influx of new cars.

And while Tesla is promising to increase its network of stores and service centers by 30 percent this year, it began 2017 with just 250 service centers worldwide. That leaves many potential owners miles from a service center. Musk has



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, Tesla Motors unveils the new lower-priced Model 3 sedan at the Tesla Motors design studio in Hawthorne, California.—AP

said a new fleet of mobile service trucks will be deployed to help customers who are far from service centers. Tesla also plans to double its global high-speed charging points to 10,000 by the end of this year and increase them by another 50 percent-100 percent in 2018. Until recently, Tesla owned the market for fully-electric vehicles that can go 200 miles (324 kilometers) or more on a charge.

But that's changing. GM beat Tesla to the mass market with the Chevrolet Bolt, a \$36,000 car that goes 238 miles (about 200 kilometers)

per charge. Audi plans to introduce an electric SUV with 300 miles (486 kilometers) of range next year; Ford will have one by 2020. Volkswagen plans more than 30 electric vehicle models by 2025.

Automotive competitors like Mercedes and Volvo - not to mention tech companies like Google and Uber - can also match Tesla's efforts to develop self-driving vehicles. And they have deeper pockets. Tesla has had only two profitable quarters in its seven years as a public company.— AP

JAPAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE HITS THREE-YEAR HIGH: BOJ

TOKYO: Confidence among Japan's biggest manufacturers has risen for the third straight quarter to the best level in more than three years, a key central bank survey showed yesterday as exports continue to grow. The Bank of Japan's Tankan report-a quarterly survey of more than 10,000 companies-showed a reading of 17 among major manufacturers, the highest since the first quarter of 2014.

The key index, which rose from 12 in the previous survey, also beat market expectations of a result around 15. The better-than-expected Tankan would normally be good news for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has been trying to revitalise Japan's economy. But the results came a day after his Liberal Democratic Party suffered a crushing defeat in elections for the Tokyo municipal assembly.

The vote was seen as a barometer of current public sentiment toward his government which has been beset by a series of scandals that have dented its support. Abe swept to power in late 2012 on a pledge to cement a lasting recovery in the world's third-largest economy with a growth plan eponymously dubbed Abenomics. The scheme-a mix of aggressive monetary easing and huge government spending along with reforms to the economy-stoked a stock market rally as it weakened the yen and fattened corporate profits, but the effect on the wider economy has been less dramatic.

Recently the country's prospects have been improving on the back of strong exports, with investments linked to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics also giving the

economy a shot in the arm. "The jump in the Tankan's headline index for large manufacturers suggests that economic activity accelerated last quarter," said Marcel Thieliant, senior Japan economist at Capital Economics. "Capacity shortages have intensified and manufacturers are reporting the smallest declines in output prices since 2008," he wrote in a commentary.

The latest survey also showed the average currency exchange rate expected by large manufacturers came in at 108.31 yen to the dollar for the year to March 2018, much stronger than current market rates. As the actual rate is currently around 112 yen, "there appears to be room for sentiment to improve further, especially in manufacturing," economists Yuichiro Nagai and Yukito Funakubo of Barclays said in a research note. A weaker currency is positive for Japanese exporters as it makes their products more competitive abroad and inflates repatriated profits.

The Tankan, closely watched for being the broadest indicator of how Japan Inc is faring, marks the difference between the percentage of firms that are upbeat and those that see conditions as unfavourable.

The latest report comes after a batch of government data on Friday showed inflation ticked up in May, but weak spending underlined the challenges still facing Tokyo's battle to ramp up prices and slay years of on-off deflation. The index for non-manufacturers rose to 23 from 20 in the previous Tankan, reaching the highest level since the final quarter of 2015.—AFP

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 Baht | 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 | 0.005984 | 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 | 0.009907 |
| 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 |

DELAYS, COST OVERRUN SEEN IN CONTESTED UK NUCLEAR PLANT

PARIS: A project to build a nuclear plant at Hinkley Point in Britain will overrun by £1.5 billion (\$1.95 billion, 1.71 billion euros) and may face further delays, its main supplier said yesterday. EDF, the state-run French company that has the lion's share of the controversial scheme, made the announcement after a long review. EDF is part of a French-Chinese consortium that was awarded the two-reactor project last year despite criticism from green groups and cost warnings from experts. "The final project costs are now estimated at £19.6 billion at 2015 rates, an increase of £1.5 billion," EDF said in a statement.

The higher estimate derives from "better discernment of the design" and "the volume and sequencing of work on site and the progressive implementation of suppliers' contracts," it said. It also warned of a possible delay of 15 months in delivering the first reactor, and nine months for the second. If this risk is confirmed, the deal would add "around £0.7 billion" to costs, EDF said. The

announcement came after EDF on June 26 acknowledged that it was carrying out a "full review" of costs and scheduling.

Named Hinkley Point C, the project, built in the southwestern English county of Somerset, is being showcased as the first British nuclear power station to be built in more than two decades. It will provide seven percent of Britain's power needs, replacing old, carbon-emitting coal-fired plants, according to the British government. But the costs and timetable have been repeatedly revised. In 2007, an EDF boss promised that, in 2017, Britons would be able to cook their Christmas turkeys using electricity from the facility.

Troubled project

Critics have focused on the proposed design, which uses a novel EPR reactor that has run into huge problems of cost overruns and delays at sites in France and Finland. Yesterday, EDF said that construction work on the first reactor at Hinkley Point was still scheduled for "mid-2019." However, the

date depended on the final design of the reactor, it said. This decision is expected by the end of 2018, but "the schedule is tight," it admitted.

Detractors also question an electricity price guarantee to EDF of £92.5 for every megawatt hour of power produced by Hinkley over the following 35 years, rising with inflation, despite falling energy prices. On June 23, Britain's National Audit Office (NAO) said the expected cost of top-up payments had ballooned from £6 billion to nearly £30 billion. The deal "has locked consumers into a risky and expensive project with uncertain strategic and economic benefits," the NAO said. Environmentalists are also fiercely opposed, urging the government to instead focus on renewable sources like wind and solar power to meet Britain's energy needs.

The 3,200-megawatt project, scheduled under the deal to go online in 2025, has a designed operational lifetime of 60 years. The deal was approved by Prime Minister Theresa May's government only last September, amid uncertainty about the future

of the British economy caused by Brexit. EDF, mainly owned by the French government, is funding around two-thirds of the cost and its Chinese partner, China General Nuclear Corporation, is financing the remainder.

Doubts within EDF

Construction work on non-reactor structures began in March this year, and EDF has already signed major contracts with suppliers such as the French giants Bouygues and Areva and General Electric of the United States. Internal divisions surfaced last year within EDF about pushing ahead with Hinkley Point while the firm struggled with a debt mountain of more than 37.4 billion euros and grappled with the merger of the reactor unit of French nuclear builder Areva. The company's financial director, Gerard Magnin, quit in disagreement with the plan. The remaining 17 members of the board approved it by only 10 votes to seven at a crunch meeting on July 28.—AFP

CHEESE, CARS AT ISSUE AS JAPAN AND EU INCH TOWARD TRADE PACT

TOKYO: Japan's foreign minister is expected to head to Brussels this week to seek a breakthrough in talks on a free trade agreement with the European Union. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said over the weekend that he was hopeful the two sides would resolve remaining differences, mainly over trade in cheese and autos, before Friday's summit of the Group of 20 industrial nations. Such a deal will require finessing Japan's protections for its dairy farmers, whose home market is protected by tariffs of up to 40 percent on processed cheese.

Talks on the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement ended late Saturday with officials saying they believed they could resolve remaining differences and reach a political deal by the time Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and EU leaders are due to meet on Thursday. Kishida and Cecilia Malmstrom, the European Commissioner for Trade, both said they believed an agreement was within reach despite remaining sticking points over EU tariffs on cars and Japan's tariffs on cheese.

Japan wants the EU to lift tariffs on autos, a demand that EU officials said was difficult to do immediately. Both sides are asking the other to open their markets to each other's wines, and there are a few other issues still yet to be resolved, the Yomiuri and other newspapers reported. It was unclear just what the potential for compromise on cheese might be, given Japanese farm minister Yoji Yamamoto's rejection of a EU request that Japan match its commitments for relaxing its trade rules on cheese imports to match those it agreed to in negotiations with members of the Trans Pacific Partnership.

That trade pact was cast into question

by US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the formerly US-led Pacific Rim trade initiative. But the 11 remaining members have been discussing ways to pursue a revised version without the US as the anchor. Australia and New Zealand, the biggest exporters of cheese and other dairy products to Japan, fought hard to persuade Tokyo to gradually open its market over a 15-year period. Both Japan and the EU have a tradition of protecting their politically powerful farm sectors, and dairy products are an especially sensitive issue for the EU, with its long traditions and half the world's market share for cheese.

Japanese eat only about 2 kilograms of cheese per person a year, way less than Europeans, partly because of different tastes and food cultures, and partly because costs are so high. A small, chocolate-bar sized block of imported Parmesan costs over \$7 and a similar amount of Swiss cheese at least \$6. Costs are relatively high thanks to a complicated system that is engineered to ensure the country's 17,700 dairy farmers, overwhelmingly small family businesses, continue to provide a stable supply of raw milk, even though their average costs are double those of farmers in Europe and the US.

About a quarter of the cheese imported into Japan is reprocessed and repackaged so as to "add value" before products reach consumers. A glut in milk production in the past two years in the US, Europe and Oceania has helped push prices lower and boosted imports, according to a recent US Department of Agriculture report. It also has lent urgency to the EU's effort to win easier access to Japanese consumers.—AP



HONG KONG: Hong Kong's new Chief Executive Carrie Lam speaks during the Bond Connect launching ceremony in Hong Kong. —AP

CHINA OPENS UP \$10 TRILLION BOND MARKET

BEIJING TRYING TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE YUAN

SHANGHAI: China yesterday widened access to its \$10 trillion bond market, which analysts said will boost Beijing's drive to internationalize the yuan and more deeply integrate its markets with the world financial system. The new window for foreign investors was opened via Hong Kong, where "qualified investors" such as central banks, sovereign wealth funds and major financial institutions are now allowed to buy Chinese bonds—the world's third-largest market after the United States and Japan. Qualified investors include central banks, sovereign wealth funds, and other major financial institutions, according to the People's Bank of China (PBoC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, who jointly announced the move on Sunday.

Trading got off to a tepid start, however, with analysts saying questions about the yuan's stability and fears over mounting Chinese debt levels will keep foreign enthusiasm in check. The 10-year government debt yield had risen only slightly by late afternoon to 3.572 percent, or

0.0076 points, according to Bloomberg. Bond yields rise inversely to their prices. The People's Bank of China (PBoC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority jointly announced the step on Sunday amid weekend celebrations for the 20th anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to Beijing in 1997.

The PBoC said in a statement yesterday that the new platform would "promote Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, and provide a more convenient investment channel for overseas investors." It will also steadily push forward the opening up of China's financial market," it said. The link-up was launched in Hong Kong by the city's new chief executive Carrie Lam, who hailed it as "another new chapter in the development of mutual capital markets access between the mainland and Hong Kong."

Foreign investors already have ways to access Chinese bonds but currently hold less than 1.5 percent of anything issued in China, according to estimates by Bloomberg.

China has been working to assimilate more with global markets, which allows access to increased foreign investment at a time of slowing domestic economic growth and helps internationalise its currency, which can increase a country's global monetary clout.

Opening up

The new platform mirrors previously established link-ups between the share markets of Hong Kong and mainland China that now allow foreign and Chinese investors to buy stocks in the each other's markets. The connect scheme currently only allows foreign investors to buy Chinese bonds—including government, corporate and central bank debt—but is expected to become two-way eventually.

Analysts said the new opening was not expected to prompt a rush of foreign investment. But it was hailed by some as a step toward Chinese debt being included in key global bond indices, which will encourage financial institutions to raise their investments in China

bonds. "The enhanced ease of investment under Bond Connect will attract more overseas funds, creating a more diversified investor base and further enhancing the market's size and depth," said Helen Wong, Greater China chief executive for banking giant HSBC said. "This will help pave the way for China bonds to be included in major global bond indices in the future."

Ratings agency Moody's called the move a "milestone" in yuan internationalization. China has for years faced foreign complaints about restricted access to its markets, but has recently made a series of liberalization pledges. Last month, leading index compiler MSCI said it would include Chinese shares in its global emerging-market indices, citing loosening restrictions on foreign ownership of Chinese stocks. After years of runaway growth, China is grappling with slowing economic expansion, and has moved to stanch massive capital flight by Chinese funds seeking better returns overseas while trying to lure more foreign investment.—AFP



TOKYO: In this photo, a customer looks at various types of imported cheese sold at a department store in Tokyo. —AP

GCC MARKETS IMPACTED BY RIFT

NBKC MONTHLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: June was a month characterized by mixed performances. The MSCI All Country World Index ended the month up 0.28 percent while the MSCI Emerging Market Index also closed up 0.5 percent in June. In the US, equities reached new highs with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones each closing up 0.5 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively, for the month while the Nasdaq Composite Index was down 0.94 percent.

In Europe, French President Macron was able to secure his party a parliamentary majority while across the English Channel, UK's May lost her party the majority it held in parliament. In terms of market performance, the German DAX and French CAC 40 indices were down 2.3 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. In the GCC, markets were impacted by the rift among GCC countries, mainly the Qatar equity market. On the commodity front, Gold closed in the red in June 2.2 percent. Brent also closed down 4.8 percent in June and registered its lowest price year to date.

US

US Manufacturing and Services continue to shrink relative to the previous month and expectations, yet remain above the 50 marker. Preliminary numbers for June issued by Markit show manufacturing and services at 52.1 and 53.0, respectively. Initial Jobless Claims came in at 244,000 for June, slightly higher than May's reading. Durable Goods Orders, in May, con-

tinued to fall recording a drop of 1.1 percent month on month. Housing Starts and Building Permits in May showed further signs of decline coming in at -5.5 percent and -4.9 percent, respectively versus April's -2.8 percent and -2.5 percent. Further retracting in May compared to April is Retail Sales dropping 0.3 percent. Existing Home Sales in May increased to 5.62m from April's 5.56m, an increase of 1.1 percent. New Home Sales also increased between April and May by 2.9 percent to 0.610m. GDP for Q1 on annualized basis increased, coming in at 1.4 percent compared to the previous reading of 1.2 percent.

UK

The UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for the month of June came in at 54.3 compared to the previous month's reading of 56.3. The Consumer Price Index in May increased by 0.3 percent on a month on month basis and by 2.9 percent on a year on year basis. Retail Sales, on a year on year basis, increased by less than expectations or the previous month's reading posting a slight gain of 0.9 percent whereas on a month on month basis the reading was -1.2 percent. Gross Domestic Product for Q1 2017 remained constant at 2 percent on a year on year basis. UK equities were down, closing the month with a loss of 2.8 percent, as measured by the FTSE 100.

EU

On a preliminary basis for the month of June, the Eurozone Market Manufacturing PMI and Services PMI were both above the 50 marker. The preliminary Market Services PMI was slightly down at 54.7 compared to May's reading of 56.3 while the Market Manufacturing PMI was slightly above at 57.3 versus 57.0. Consumer Confidence in June registered at -1.3 percent unchanged from the previous month. During the month of June, Q1 2017 Gross Domestic Product figure, on a year on year basis, was released exceeding expectations coming in at 1.9 percent compared to 1.7 percent. European equities declined in June by 2.7 percent, as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600.

Japan

Japan's imports and exports for the month of May, on a year on year basis, were positive. Imports increased by 17.8 percent beating expectations of 14.8 percent whereas exports increase by 14.9 percent slightly below expectations of 16.1 percent. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI for the month of June, on a preliminary basis, came in at 52.0 versus May's reading of 53.1. Housing Starts in May on a year on year basis, registered a decline of 0.3 percent compared to April's growth of 1.9 percent. Gross Domestic Product for Q1 2017 came in positive although far below expectations at 1.0 percent versus 2.4 per-

cent. Japanese equities were up in June, as measured by the Nikkei 225, increasing 2.0 percent.

China

China's Imports and Exports both increased year on year in May in dollar terms by 14.8 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively leading to a trading surplus of USD 40.81b. The Consumer Price Index was down 0.1 percent in May, yet on a year on year basis was up 1.5 percent. Retail Sales in May were flat. The Caixin Manufacturing PMI for the month of June was 50.4 compared to May's 49.6 indicating the economy has begun entering expansionary mode. Chinese equities, as measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index, reported a gain of 2.4 percent in June.

GCC

The GCC equity markets closed out the month of June with mixed performance. The MSCI GCC Index was up 4.7 percent in June with a year to date gain of 2.1 percent. Dubai and Saudi Arabia's equity markets closed up for the month 1.6 percent and 8.1 percent, respectively. The remaining GCC markets were negative for the month led by Qatar down 8.8 percent, Muscat down 5.6 percent, Kuwait down 1.3 percent, Bahrain down 0.7 percent, and Abu Dhabi down 0.04 percent. Egypt reported a gain of 0.4 percent for the month of June.

EURO, POUND FALL BACK AGAINST DOLLAR

LONDON: The euro and pound fell against the dollar yesterday after rallying last week when central banks signaled tighter monetary policy in reaction to solid economic growth and high inflation. As the year's second half got under way, European stock markets rebounded from heavy falls ahead of the weekend. The dollar last week tumbled after the ECB, Bank of England and Bank of Canada indicated that the age of cheap cash-in place since the financial crisis was drawing to a close as the world economy gets back on track.

"I think the coordination of language reflects a coordination of the recognition that

the global economy is pointing higher and the time for emergency policies in individual jurisdictions has ended," Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader, said yesterday. During the first half, the euro jumped about ten percent against the dollar, while the pound gained almost as much from its January lows, despite. British political uncertainty caused by the country's decision to leave the EU.

On equity markets yesterday, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was up 0.4 percent around midday, compared with Friday's close. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 gained 0.7

percent and the Paris CAC 40 jumped 1.0 percent, as traders reacted to regional manufacturing PMIs. The UK's manufacturing reading came in at a three-year low of 54.3, which "doesn't bode well for the country's second quarter growth", noted Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. "While the UK economy suffered its latest setback, the eurozone continued to power ahead, with the region's own manufacturing PMI arriving at a six-year peak of 57.4," he added in a note to clients.

In company news yesterday, shares in EDF were down 0.6 percent at 9.43 euros after the French power supplier said a project to build a

nuclear plant at Hinkley Point in Britain will overrun by £1.5 billion (\$1.95 billion, 1.71 billion euros), as it warned also of delays of up to 15 months. EDF is part of a French-Chinese consortium that was awarded the two-reactor project last year despite criticism from green groups and cost warnings from experts. Elsewhere yesterday, Tokyo's Nikkei stocks index ended 0.1-percent higher, boosted by a slightly weaker yen and a pick-up in confidence among Japanese businesses, traders said.

However, investors were spooked by a

huge defeat for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo assembly elections, with his ruling party losing more than half its seats as he is rocked by a series of scandals and falling support. Shanghai meanwhile edged 0.1 percent up following a better-than-expected private survey showing Chinese manufacturing expanded last month. China yesterday widened access to its \$10-trillion bond market, which analysts said will boost Beijing's drive to internationalize the yuan and more deeply integrate its markets with the world financial system. —AFP

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Monday 03 July 2017 | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Change | Closing | Last Closing | | | | | | |
| Price Index | ¥ -47.30 | 6,565.22 | 6,612.52 | | | | | | |
| Weighted Index | ¥ -3.10 | 395.81 | 398.91 | | | | | | |
| KSX 15 | ¥ -13.11 | 902.02 | 915.13 | | | | | | |
| Trades | | | | | | | | | |
| Security | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change | | |
| MARIN | 72 | 63 | 91125 | 3,527 | 5 | 63 | ¥ -8.0 | | |
| IPG | 330 | 330 | 1,000 | 330 | 1 | 330 | ¥ -30.0 | | |
| NAFESCO | 1,430 | 1,207 | 1,590 | 2,032 | 15 | 1,387 | ▲ 181.0 | | |
| ENERGYH | 36.0 | 33.1 | 53,455 | 1,843 | 7 | 34.5 | ¥ -4.5 | | |
| GPI | 38.0 | 38.0 | 100 | 4 | 1 | 38.0 | ▲ 0.1 | | |
| ABAR | 60 | 55 | 432 | 24 | 2 | 60 | ¥ -4.5 | | |
| Oil & Gas | | | 187,702 | 7,781 | 31 | 949.69 | ▲ 40.90 | | |
| KFOUC | 288 | 232 | 183,258 | 46,408 | 18 | 254 | ¥ -36.0 | | |
| BPCO | 570 | 565 | 70,000 | 39,800 | 9 | 570 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| ALKOUT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 590 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| ALQURAN | 334 | 334 | 44,532 | 14,674 | 14 | 334 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| Basic Materials | | | 297,790 | 101,881 | 41 | 1213.13 | ¥ -31.60 | | |
| KCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 490 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| CABLE | 415 | 410 | 501 | 205 | 3 | 415 | ¥ -5.0 | | |
| SHP | 207 | 206 | 18,671 | 3,800 | 5 | 206 | ¥ -10.0 | | |
| PCEM | 920 | 920 | 26,500 | 24,380 | 4 | 920 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| MRC | 88 | 74 | 1,055 | 86 | 8 | 88 | ¥ -1.0 | | |
| ACICO | 262 | 262 | 3,500 | 917 | 2 | 262 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| KBMMAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| NICBM | 198 | 198 | 500 | 99 | 1 | 198 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| EQUIPMENT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48.0 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| NGCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 119 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| GYPSSUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 95 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| SALBOOKH | 59 | 59 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 59 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| AGLYT | 830 | 818 | 1,112,316 | 915,965 | 94 | 818 | ¥ -4.0 | | |
| EDU | 374 | 365 | 604,905 | 223,417 | 37 | 370 | ¥ -1.0 | | |
| CLEANING | 45.0 | 30.0 | 1,050 | 41 | 2 | 45.0 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| KGL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| KPCF | 165 | 165 | 8,481 | 1,396 | 1 | 165 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| HUMANSOFT | 4,198 | 3,940 | 18,235 | 78,140 | 5 | 3,940 | ¥ -259.0 | | |
| NAFAIS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| GFC | 65 | 65 | 6,000 | 390 | 2 | 65 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| MAFADEN | 27.1 | 26.4 | 47,860 | 1,264 | 5 | 27.1 | ¥ -0.1 | | |
| CGC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 619 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| MTCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| UPAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 881 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| ALAFCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 315 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| MUBARRAD | 79 | 74 | 35,000 | 2,670 | 6 | 74 | ¥ -4.0 | | |
| LOGISTICS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| SCFM | 78 | 78 | 3,047 | 238 | 1 | 78 | ¥ -4.7 | | |
| GCMM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| QIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 78 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| FCM | 83 | 79 | 1,414 | 115 | 2 | 83 | ¥ -0.2 | | |
| RKWC | 90 | 76 | 167 | 15 | 2 | 90 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| SPCC | 88 | 81 | 24,040 | 1,961 | 8 | 88 | ¥ -0.9 | | |
| Industrials | | | 1,913,223 | 1,253,159 | 189 | 1852.50 | ¥ -49.50 | | |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| CATL | 221 | 220 | 8,015 | 1,325 | 2 | 221 | ¥ -13.0 | | |
| DANAH | 71 | 71 | 150,100 | 10,657 | 5 | 71 | ¥ -4.0 | | |
| FOOD | 2,300 | 2,300 | 50 | 115 | 1 | 2,300 | ¥ -150.0 | | |
| Consumer Goods | | | 156,165 | 12,097 | 8 | 1052.53 | ¥ -50.20 | | |
| MHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 453 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,100 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| YACCO | 177 | 154 | 12,800 | 1,984 | 6 | 160 | ▲ 8 | | |
| Health Care | | | 12,800 | 1,984 | 6 | 1610.22 | ▲ 6.10 | | |
| KCIN | 1,160 | 1,160 | 15 | 17 | 1 | 1,160 | ¥ -230 | | |
| KHOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | ▲ 0 | | |
| SULTAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | ▲ 0 | | |
| CABLETV | 30.0 | 24.0 | 65,428 | 1,872 | 18 | 29.0 | ¥ -1 | | |
| EYAS | 766 | 608 | 61,160 | 38,233 | 23 | 766 | ▲ 6 | | |
| IFHR | 302 | 300 | 105 | 32 | 2 | 300 | ▲ 4 | | |
| OUAFUEL | 119 | 118 | 486,482 | 57,675 | 41 | 118 | ¥ -2 | | |
| MUNTAZAHAT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | ▲ 0 | | |
| JAZEERA | 479 | 450 | 55,836 | 26,404 | 8 | 472 | ¥ -2 | | |
| SOOR | 119 | 118 | 27,675 | 3,292 | 9 | 119 | ▲ 0 | | |
| FUTUREXO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 107 | ▲ 0 | | |
| ALRAI | 121 | 120 | 14,000 | 1,693 | 5 | 121 | ¥ -2 | | |
| ZMAH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 | ▲ 0 | | |
| Mazzan | 925 | 925 | 26,196 | 24,231 | 4 | 925 | ▲ 4 | | |
| Consumer Services | | | 736,897 | 153,448 | 111 | 993.68 | ▲ 6.00 | | |
| ZAIN | 418 | 411 | 1,538,759 | 635,225 | 179 | 411 | ¥ -2 | | |
| OOREDOO | 1,100 | 1,080 | 7,838 | 8,602 | 5 | 1,100 | ▲ 45 | | |
| VITSTELEC | 39.4 | 38.0 | 809,933 | 31,563 | 39 | 39.0 | ▲ 1 | | |
| VIVA | 620 | 785 | 87,265 | 69,185 | 70 | 785 | ¥ -30 | | |
| Telecommunications | | | 2,443,795 | 744,575 | 293 | 573.27 | ¥ -6.20 | | |
| NBK | 690 | 685 | 978,625 | 671,424 | 79 | 685 | ¥ -4 | | |
| GBK | 245 | 238 | 460,000 | 110,380 | 11 | 240 | ¥ -7 | | |
| CBK | 319 | 304 | 83,200 | 25,406 | 17 | 304 | ¥ -7 | | |
| ABK | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 327 | ▲ 0 | | |
| ALMUTAHED | 410 | 400 | 370,624 | 148,834 | 41 | 400 | ¥ -15 | | |
| KIB | 245 | 242 | 78,936 | 19,264 | 6 | 245 | ▲ 1 | | |
| BURG | 332 | 330 | 292,025 | 96,844 | 24 | 331 | ¥ -1 | | |
| KFIN | 483 | 478 | 3,083,127 | 1,483,514 | 138 | 478 | ¥ -5 | | |
| BOUBAYAN | 406 | 405 | 561,490 | 227,866 | 52 | 405 | ¥ -1 | | |
| AUB | 206 | 205 | 752,908 | 154,388 | 35 | 206 | ▲ 1 | | |
| ITHMR | 43.8 | 42.6 | 4,479,515 | 182,529 | 124 | 43.4 | ¥ -1 | | |
| WARISBANK | 255 | 251 | 263,380 | 66,534 | 74 | 252 | ¥ -5 | | |
| Banks | | | 11,403,830 | 3,196,982 | 601 | 907.82 | ¥ -7.90 | | |
| KINS | 250 | 250 | 319 | 80 | 1 | 250 | ▲ 0 | | |
| GINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 530 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| AINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 480 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| WINS | 82 | 82 | 225 | 18 | 1 | 82 | ¥ -3.4 | | |
| KUWAITRE | 190 | 188 | 175,340 | 33,289 | 4 | 188 | ▲ 7.0 | | |
| FTI | 52 | 48.0 | 48,629 | 2,426 | 23 | 49.0 | ¥ -11.0 | | |
| WETHAQ | 55 | 55 | 500 | 28 | 1 | 55 | ¥ -1.0 | | |
| BKQWT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 355 | ▲ 0.0 | | |
| Insurance | | | 225,913 | 35,841 | 30 | 1032.24 | ¥ -23.60 | | |



TOKYO: A man in front of a stock quotation board of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in front of a securities company in Tokyo.—AFP

| National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------|---------|---------------------|----------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| At 02:00 PM Previous Day | | | | | | | | | |
| Global Stock Indices | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % | | | | |
| Dow Jones | 21,387.03 | 21,349.63 | -62.60 | ▼ | 0.29 | 8.03 | | | |
| NASDAQ | 6,144.35 | 6,140.42 | -3.93 | ▼ | -0.06 | 14.07 | | | |
| S&P 500 | 2,419.70 | 2,423.41 | 3.71 | ▲ | 0.15 | 8.24 | | | |
| Financial Times | 7,312.72 | 7,337.77 | 25.05 | ▲ | 0.34 | 2.73 | | | |
| DAX | 12,325.12 | 12,413.66 | 88.54 | ▲ | 0.72 | 8.12 | | | |
| CAC 40 | 5,120.68 | 5,174.24 | 53.56 | ▲ | 1.05 | 6.42 | | | |
| Hong Kong | 8,906.89 | 8,950.56 | 43.67 | ▲ | 0.83 | 9.25 | | | |
| Nikkei 225 | 20,033.43 | 20,055.80 | 22.37 | ▲ | 0.11 | 4.93 | | | |
| Taipei | 1,611.90 | 1,614.41 | 2.51 | ▲ | 0.16 | 6.31 | | | |
| Hang Seng | 25,764.58 | 25,784.17 | 19.59 | ▲ | 0.08 | 17.20 | | | |
| Tel Aviv | 3,226.48 | 3,223.46 | -3.02 | ▼ | -0.09 | 11.90 | | | |
| MENA Stock Indices | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Previous Close | Last Price | Change | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % | | | | |
| Kuwait | 6,612.52 | 6,565.22 | -47.30 | ▼ | -0.72 | 13.07 | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | 7,486.31 | 7,376.30 | -110.01 | ▼ | -1.47 | 3.83 | | | |
| UAE | 3,383.31 | 3,424.69 | 41.38 | ▲ | 1.22 | -4.18 | | | |
| AlUthmaniyah | 4,443.46 | 4,414.45 | -29.21 | ▼ | -0.66 | -2.26 | | | |
| Bahrain | 1,319.35 | 1,316.01 | -3.34 | ▼ | -0.25 | 8.10 | | | |
| Qatar | 8,822.15 | 8,936.5 | | | | | | | |

AIRBUS UNVEILS LEANER STRUCTURE

PARIS: Airbus rolled out a leaner new structure yesterday, completing a recent merger between its parent company and its dominant plane making arm, and including a shift in the reporting line for its key commercial sales team to group CEO Tom Enders. That move, which confirmed a Reuters report, raised concerns among some insiders and customers about a possible power struggle with long-standing Airbus boss Fabrice Bregier, though Airbus denied any tensions.

Cementing changes first outlined last year, the "one Airbus" reorganization involves a single headquarters in Toulouse, France, with Bregier confirmed as group-wide chief operating officer and president of commercial aircraft. "We need to become more integrated, more collaborative and less bureaucratic for speedier decision-making and execution," Enders said in a letter to employees. The revamp, which saves hundreds of millions of euros in

overheads, is designed to complete a decade-long drive to turn the former European consortium - with a history of strong French and German government influence - into a more normal company, and prepare for digital innovations sweeping through industry.

But in an unexpected adjustment reported by Reuters on Friday, Airbus said its commercial sales team, best known for contesting leadership of the jet market with Boeing, would now report directly to Enders and by-pass Bregier. That decision is seen as sensitive because it revisits a power-sharing deal between the German Enders and Frenchman Bregier that initially gave the latter responsibility over all plane making activities. Enders said in his commercial aircraft role, Bregier would lead programs, support and services, engineering, manufacturing, procurement and quality. "However, due to the heavy operational challenges in our

largest revenue-driving business, and to slightly rebalance our internal burden-sharing, I will lead sales and marketing," he said in his letter. The decision sent tremors through the commercial arm and raised questions over the future of Bregier, an industrial and marketing heavyweight whose ties to Enders are seen as key to Airbus's ability to smooth output and face a resurgent Boeing. "People are very surprised. There is no doubt that this is an important step," a person close to the company said.

A jet financier expressed "surprise" at the move, given well-established relations between many airlines and Bregier.

Other critics said the sudden move reflected a heavy-handed new management style or risked being perceived as a weakening of French interests. "It is creating a culture in which people will go back to 'Germans versus French' and people having to choose which camp they are in. It is not good for morale or

the culture of the company," said a person with detailed knowledge of the group. An Airbus spokesman called it a routine internal matter of reporting lines, as with any normal company.

Political test

The new structure comes almost 10 years to the day after leaders of France and Germany agreed in Toulouse to abolish a system of dual control over the company, with the CEO role shared between two people, one French and one German. Enders had to wait another five years to become sole CEO of the group and another year beyond that to reduce the political influence of French and German government shareholders. Both now own 11 percent but their power is limited under a 2013 overhaul.

Analysts say Paris and Berlin have generally had their attention elsewhere during the euro zone crisis but that their hands-off approach remains to be tested against

a recently softening market for jets, with thousands of jobs at stake. Airbus also faces a raft of politically charged decisions, such as how long to keep building its slow-selling A380 or its response to corruption probes in Britain, France and Austria. Despite resisting interference, Enders appeared to recognize the significance of French politics to Airbus by writing a letter of support in the familiar 'tu' form to then-presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron, which many in Paris saw as a gaffe.

Enders is, however, convinced Airbus has to find a new agility to cope with the way 'Big Data' and simultaneous breakthroughs in other technologies are creating opportunities for newcomers such as US rocket maker SpaceX. He acknowledged the new reorganization, which unions say could affect over 1,000 jobs, would be "uncomfortable" for some. But he told staff Airbus was "waving goodbye to an era in which a return to 'stability' was a realistic aspiration"—Reuters

FRANKFURT GAINS BREXIT BOOST WITH RELENTLESS LOBBYING

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: One year on from Britain's vote to leave the European Union, determined lobbying and political leverage have helped German financial capital Frankfurt grab pole position in the race for bank business quitting London. Wheels were turning in the financial world well before British Prime Minister Theresa May formally notified the EU at the end of March that she planned to lead the UK out of the 28-member bloc.

Once Brexit is finalized, financial firms could lose so-called "passporting" rules that allow them to sell financial services across the EU from London-prompting many to look to the remaining 27 states for a new base. In Frankfurt, public- and private-sector organizations set out to woo banks

to the city on the river Main, where construction workers and cranes are busily adding floors to new skyscrapers being built.

Their efforts have been crowned with success. Last week, major Korean bank Woori announced that it would apply for a German banking license, matching decisions from Japan's Nomura, Daiwa and Sumitomo investment banks. Meanwhile, US giant Goldman Sachs announced in mid-June that it would be doubling its staff in Frankfurt from the present number of 200. "Frankfurt's chances of profiting from Brexit have significantly increased in the past few months," said Michael Kemmer, general manager of the Association of German Banks (AGB). —AFP

WHAT AMAZON WANTS FROM WHOLE FOODS: DATA ON SHOPPING HABITS

AMAZON TO SELL MORE GOODS AND SERVICES ONLINE, OFFLINE

NEW YORK: Why is Amazon spending nearly \$14 billion for Whole Foods? One reason: People who buy yoga mats and fitness trackers on Amazon might also like grapes, nuts and other healthy items at the organic grocery chain. In short, the deal stands to net Amazon a wealth of data-driven insights into how shoppers behave offline - insights that are potentially very lucrative. To be sure, there are plenty of other benefits to the combination.

Amazon will derive steady revenue from more than 460 Whole Foods stores; it can also introduce robots and other automation technologies to cut costs and improve the bottom line. But ultimately, Amazon wants to sell even more goods and services to both online and offline shoppers - including stuff they might not even realize they need. Amazon has been quiet on its specific plans so far, but analysts are enthusiastic about the possibilities. "This will be a fun time for Amazon," said Ryne Misso of the Market Track retail research firm in Chicago. "They are introducing a whole new set of shopper profiles that span grocery stores and durables."

The tracking

Amazon is a pro at using data on past shopping and browsing to prod you to buy more. The home page, for instance, offers quick access to recently viewed items and suggests products "inspired by your shopping trends." Amazon sends emails about price cuts on items you've searched for but haven't bought - yet. Brian Handley, CEO of the mobile analytics firm Reveald Mobile in Raleigh, North Carolina, said that while Amazon doesn't necessarily have better artificial-intelligence capabilities than its rivals, it has scaled in the number of shoppers and variety of businesses it has. Whole Foods can help by giving Amazon a better understanding of what people do at physical retail stores, where 90 percent of worldwide retail spending still happens, according to eMarketer.

Amazon could learn whether a particular customer tends to come once a month to stock up, or make smaller and shorter visits more frequently. Wi-Fi

hotspots in stores might collect unique signals emanating from smartphones to figure out which aisles customers spend the most time in. Same with sensors on product shelves, something Amazon is currently testing at a convenience store in Seattle.

"They will break that data down to build stories about their consumers," Misso said. All this might feel creepy, but it's something Amazon already does and does well online. Larry Ponemon, who

heat prepared meals. Amazon's challenge will be to "separate the profitable businesses that can be better done online and the profitable businesses that can be better done at retail," said Larry Light, CEO of the brand consulting firm Arcature in Delray Beach, Florida. Amazon might find that some items sell better at some locations than others. It can stock just the most popular items at each location; other items are just a click away for home delivery. It's an approach

you just watched a Mexican food show on Amazon video, Amazon might point you to deals on avocados and perhaps offer subscriptions for regular deliveries of tortillas and canned beans. Or it might automate a grocery shopping list based on a chosen recipe on your Kindle e-reader. Just bought some camping equipment? Amazon might offer granola bars and other ready-to-eat meals for your hikes. Likewise, someone who just bought a fitness tracker might be in the

market for more produce.

Implications for industry

Walmart remains the leading retailer overall and has its own huge stake in groceries; its retail revenue is more than three times that of Amazon, even with Whole Foods included. Yet it's on the defensive. To beef up its online operations, Walmart has gone on a spending spree for e-commerce companies such as Jet, Bonobos, ModCloth and Moosejaw. Analysts say these companies should help Walmart get into the data game as well. —AP



SEATTLE: In this file photo, shoppers roam through an Amazon Go store, currently open only to Amazon employees, in Seattle. —AP

runs the Ponemon Institute privacy think tank, said he personally would find tracking of his self-described unhealthy eating habits "very creepy." But he doesn't expect any consumer backlash because Amazon and Whole Foods have both earned a high level of trust and loyalty.

Reconfiguring the store

To make stores more profitable, Amazon could push customers to order lower-profit bulk items such as detergent and toilet paper over the internet. That would free up store space for higher-profit items, such as perishables and ready-to-

Amazon is already taking at its eight physical bookstores. Handly said that even if Amazon can't get rid of every lower-profit item on shelves, it can use data to figure out ways to drive more customers to those aisles.

Beyond groceries

Amazon will be able to use grocery data to drive other purchases as well. Say you buy a lot of ingredients typically found in Asian recipes. Amazon might then suggest a Thai or Japanese cookbook. It might also recommend a new rice cooker. It works the other way, too. If

KUWAIT NATIONAL EXCHANGE WLL WINS RIGHT TO USE UAEXCHANGE IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: UAEXCHANGE is a global money remittance, foreign exchange and payment solutions brand. UAE Exchange Group has announced that Kuwait National Exchange WLL chain of remittance houses has been appointed to represent the brand "UAEXCHANGE" in Kuwait. The decision, made by Kuwaiti authorities, came after the UAE Exchange Group decided to dissolve its partnership with its local partner in Kuwait, citing differences. The Group then moved to serve its customers through Kuwait National Exchange WLL, which is now legally authorized to use the brand "UAEXCHANGE".

"UAE Exchange Group is a proud partner in Kuwait's prosperity and in the development of the remittance and financial industry in the country. We regret to inform our stakeholders that we have been forced to dissolve our partnership with UAE Exchange Kuwait due to irrevocable differences. However, we will continue to serve our customers in Kuwait through Kuwait National Exchange WLL. We are very pleased to announce that, the authorities in Kuwait have authorized the association between UAE Exchange Group and Kuwait National Exchange WLL. This officially marks Kuwait National Exchange WLL as a Group-affiliated financial services provider in the country," said Dr. B.R. Shetty, Chairman, UAE Exchange Group.

"Our first priority is to ensure continuity of services to customers and the well-being of our staff members. We are confident that Kuwait National Exchange will set new standards for customer service and innovation in the country. Meanwhile, we look forward to the Kuwaiti legal system demonstrating its world-class credentials by safeguarding our rights," said Promoth Manghat, CEO, UAE Exchange Group.



Promoth Manghat

Commenting on the launch of GST in India, Promoth Manghat said, "The launch of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a historical decision for India. International media has been hailing it as a visionary constitutional moment, which is the result of governments of states and union territories forgoing certain aspects of their sovereignty for the cause of the nation. This pooled sovereignty is also being hailed worldwide. This coming together of the nation to launch

GST will change the business landscape of India drastically. Henceforth supply chain will become more efficient as it needn't be replicated in every state.

"The drastic reduction in costs of manufacturing and logistics clubbed with efficiency gain will benefit the consumer immensely. As India transforms into a single market, its administrative mechanism will pass through the litmus test. This might ask for a lot of preparation from the government and India Inc. Also the other challenge that seems to raise hood is that compared to other nations, India's tax bracket is on a higher side, which might not go well with the various stakeholders that India has to answer."

He added, "With this single market concept, India emerges into an opportunity that's larger than Europe, USA, Brazil, Mexico and Japan put together. For the government this decision is a big win. The international perception of Modi being just an able administrator can now be modified with adding the dimension of being a reformist too, who could achieve consensus among over 30 provinces in India. As far as remittance is concerned, there hasn't been much of a change, as some banks continue to charge the same percentage of service tax."

GB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAW

Kuwait: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on July 2, 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of June 28 to 29, 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner. The winners were:

Osamah Ghulom Ali Al-Kandiri, Walea Ameer Ali Al-Haddad, Mohammed Saif Farhan Sabah Al-Enezi, Shareef Nasarallah Shareef Al-Awadhi

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw line-up includes daily draws (two winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000). Al-Danah's 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on July 13 and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on September 28. The final Al-Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on January 11, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah Millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking. Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

● Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize

according to Guinness World Records.

● Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000.

● Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day.

The most chances to win

Only bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait.

Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more can enter the daily draw within two days.

EAG HONORED WITH TREASURY ACCOLADES AT LONDON AWARDS

ABU DHABI: Etihad Aviation Group's (EAG) treasury team has once again been acknowledged for airline treasury management excellence with four key accolades at the 2017 Adam Smith Awards presented by Treasury Today magazine. Following a string of successes in recent months with leading awards from various international organizations, the group took home further honors at the annual event held in London. For the third consecutive year, Etihad Aviation Group has been recognized by the leading publication for its ongoing commitment to Treasury excellence.

EAG won the award for Best in Class Treasury in the Middle East, and was Highly Commended in three further categories - Best Funding Solution, Best Risk Management Solution and Best Trade/Supply Chain Finance Solution. The awards were nominated by EAG partners, including Openlink, First Abu Dhabi Bank, ADCB, Citibank and MUFG. More than 200 entries spanning 30 countries were received for the prestigious Adam Smith Awards, now in their 10th year and firmly established as the ultimate industry benchmark for exceptional achievement in corporate treasury.

Treasury Today said this year proved particularly challenging against a backdrop of a tough operating environment, as innovation and creativity within treasury departments were key criteria for the winning entries. Ricky Thirion, Etihad Aviation Group Interim Group Chief Financial Officer, said: "These awards are testament to the great work by the treasury team in finding solutions to further strengthen the business in a challenging environment. "Our treasury team has worked very hard over the year to deliver a best in class global treasury department, and the fact that we were nominated by our key financial partners demonstrates their confidence in our business." The Best in Class Treasury in the Middle East award was for a number of innovative practices, including raising



Adam Boukadida, Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) Acting Group Treasurer, centre, Roger Fleischman, of J P Morgan, left, and Michael Guralnick, of Citibank, pose with some of EAG's Adam Smith awards.

US\$1.5 billion through a debut Sukuk, the largest ever in Abu Dhabi, as well as a Murabaha program for US\$145 million - the airline's first Islamic private placement. The Best Trade/Supply Chain Finance Solution accolade acknowledged EAG's agenda to centralize treasury operations in the UAE by overhauling processes using technology and reducing manual intervention with its growing supply chain network.

The Best Funding Solution award recognized Etihad's treasury team for leading a short-term, cost effective bridging solution of US\$230 million over a six-month period for two new A380s in the wake of the suspension of European credit agency support for Airbus aircraft deliveries. The Best Risk Management Solution award reflected the high level of investment in technology aimed at reducing manual processing of all key treasury requirements.

Etihad Airways' treasury team, hailing from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities, leveraged off each other's skills to make a positive impact to the business.

The team manages and oversees cash and liquidity, risk management and hedging funding, as well as relationships with banking partners, investors and rating agencies. The treasury team is also responsible for insurance, direct customer payments, as well as group wide tax management. From its Abu Dhabi base, Etihad Airways flies to, or has announced plans to serve, more than 110 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. The airline has a fleet of over 120 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, with 204 aircraft on firm order, including 71 Boeing 787s, 25 Boeing 777Xs, 62 Airbus A350s and 10 Airbus A380s.



50 YEARS OF MERCEDES-AMG BRAND VALUES

Renowned for its cutting-edge technology and passion for dynamic, emotive products, Mercedes-AMG stands worldwide for outstanding engine expertise and development. Its brand pledge of 'driving performance' illustrates the passion and inner drive of all employees to question the status quo, push the boundaries of what is possible and to facilitate intensive driving experiences for the customer with dynamic performance cars.

Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG complement one another perfectly: AMG benefits from the classic Mercedes values such as safety and comfort, and Mercedes gains more sportiness from AMG. With the widely extended product portfolio, Mercedes-AMG is happy to face the competition from the performance brands of major automotive manufacturers and from the classic sports car brands alike. The brand pledge of Driving Performance embodies much more than the pure power of the vehicles.

It also describes the inner drive always to strive for peak performances, which makes the employees in Affalterbach inextricably linked with the customers all over the world. The will to go the extra mile and explore the limits at any cost exemplifies this. That was already the case in 1971, when the 300 SEL 6.8 AMG achieved its unimaginable victory at the 24-hour race in Spa-Francorchamps. And that is still true today, as evidenced by models with full-blooded motorsport

technology, and continues into the future, when AMG will provide a tangible experience of Formula 1 racing for non-racers as well.

Superiority, intensity and character help shape the Driving Performance. This also characterises the actions and can be experienced by the customer - in the vehicle, during the brand experience in the Driving Academy or in the communication. For the customer, this results in an intensive experience for all the senses. The standard therefore is to make intense brand experiences possible that linger.

400 performance centers

A further key to the success of Mercedes-AMG is the particularly intensive customer care. The more than 400 AMG Performance Centers in 40 countries play an important role in this regard. This is where customers and fans immerse themselves in the brand environment of Mercedes-AMG. The history of the brand and its DNA can be experienced first-hand, for instance through the unparalleled quality of the customer support and advice from the trained AMG sales and service experts.

Another central component of customer support is the online AMG Private Lounge. Launched in 2006 for US customers, it was expanded internationally in 2009 and brought an international dimension to the official AMG Brand Community. The online platform invites AMG owners to share



their passion for the brand with other AMG enthusiasts. Inside knowledge, direct contact with Affalterbach, exclusive events and opportunities to communicate and exchange ideas create a tangible brand experience.

The community spirit is further strengthened by highly exclusive events only for Private Lounge members and the shared brand experience. At present the AMG Private Lounge Community has an accredited membership of 55,000 worldwide. No other car manufacturer offers anything comparable.

AMG driving academy

At the AMG Driving Academy customers experience the fascination of the AMG brand in a thrilling way. It offers driving experiences and training sessions for individual requirements, giving customers the opportunity to become acquainted with the potential of a Mercedes-AMG and simultaneously increase their handling safety on roads and race tracks.

During AMG RACETRACK training, the participants develop their driving skills under the instruction of coaches experienced in racing and with the

aid of data recording and video analyses. They are coached by top instructors - including racing greats like Bernd Schneider and Karl Wendlinger or trainers active in motorsport's long-distance and rally series, such as Jan Seyffarth and Hannes Dazinger.

Mercedes-AMG Performance Centre in Kuwait

Driven by high demand for AMG products and the need to provide a more personalized service for its drivers in the region, the Mercedes-AMG Performance Centre in Kuwait was opened as an extension of Albisher and Alkazemi's Mercedes-Benz showroom in Shuwaikh. The 550 square meters Centre is the first facility catering exclusively for Mercedes-AMG vehicles in Kuwait.

Commenting on the Performance Centre in Kuwait, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Albisher, Director and Michael Ruehle, CEO of A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company said: "An AMG vehicle is not only a promise of first class performance, but also first class service. Our AMG specialists are fully trained and highly knowledgeable, ensuring all customers receive the personalized consultation they deserve. It's a great opportunity for car enthusiasts to come and see the new collections and experience the AMG brand beyond the engine performance, and we encourage anyone who would like to speak with our team to visit the Centre." The Mercedes-AMG Performance Centre is linked to Mercedes Kuwait showroom in Shuwaikh.

BB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF CASH BACK DRAW



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is pleased to announce the first group of its summer campaign Cash Back draw winners for the month of June. The lucky winners of the Cash Back draw are:

Rizwana Quavi Narvel
Qasem Ahmad Eissa
Ahmad Ramzi Ibrahim
Naser Hamed Alsarhan
Shereen Saleem Jouri

Supporting its customers' seasonal financial needs and demands, Burgan Bank's recent summer campaign entitles its credit and ATM cardholders a chance to win back their spending when using their cards. The seasonal offer is designed as a three month campaign that started on June 1 and ends on August 31, 2017 and will announce five winners every month who will be refunded at a maximum amount of KD 1,000.

Customers who spend more will have higher chances of winning as with every international transaction, they will receive two chances to enter the draw while every local transaction provides them with one such opportunity. All credit card holders who make local or international transactions will enter the draw, as for the ATM card holders they can participate in the draw with international transactions only. Burgan Bank debit and credit cards accommodate customers' different needs with flexibility and convenience for all financial transactions.



CHEVROLET ALGHANIM ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF 2018 TRAILBLAZER

KUWAIT: 2018 Chevrolet Trailblazer brings together superior levels of refinement, styling, comfort and technology with class-leading performance and drivability to meet the versatile needs of increasingly discerning drivers. The midsize sport utility vehicle is ready to take its driver anywhere by offering off-road capabilities combined with premium ride and handling dynamics.

allows the driver or passengers to project a simplified version of their smartphone screen onto the car's color touchscreen. Complemented by Siri Eyes Free and voice recognition software, the driver can give verbal commands - ensuring his or her hands never have to leave the steering wheel.

Redesigned exterior, interior

On the outside, the new Trailblazer's more angular lines exude a refined toughness, while retaining strong proportions that underline its go-anywhere capability. Most notable of these features are the front grille, bumper and lamps that come with daytime running lights, giving a unique light signature to the model.

Inside, the Trailblazer boasts a newly designed dashboard and front console with a contemporary feel, enhanced by soft-touch materials and contrast stitching. The full seven-seater's "theater-style seating" allows second- and third-row occupants a better all-around view, while individually controlled air-conditioning ensures maximum comfort in the summer months.

A refined SUV

The new Trailblazer comes with a 3.6L engine tuned to offer better performance and improved fuel economy, which produces 275 horsepower and 350 Nm of torque.

Complementing the improved engine is a tougher, more rigid chassis and fully boxed frame, which are designed to improve ride stability and drive comfort through unparalleled driver control.

Additionally, the new Trailblazer features Electric Power Steering (EPS) that makes steering effort lighter in the city and at parking speeds. This is achieved by reducing power assist proportionately as speed builds, so the driver gets a properly weighted steering feel at highway speeds. Over long distances, this technology makes up the track gradient and reduces judder generated by the imbalance of the wheels.

To ensure the ride is as quiet as it is refined, the Trailblazer benefits from a new wind noise package that was developed with newly redesigned door, window and windshield seals; front door glass that is 10 percent thicker; and a new aerodynamic headlamp design. As a result, the Trailblazer is 8 percent quieter on the road than its predecessor.

Premium features

Safety remains Chevrolet's number one priority. The new Trailblazer comes with a host of active and passive safety features that include the Traction Control System (TCS), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Panic Brake Assist (PBA), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Descent Control (HDC), Hill Start Assist (HSA), Anti-Rolling Protection and Trailer Sway Control. This is in addition to front airbags for the driver and passenger.

Other technological features which can be found on the Trailblazer include Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Front Parking Assist, and the Tire Pressure Monitoring System. It also features the remote-start function, a useful feature in the region's hot climate. The engine can be started using the key fob, allowing the cabin to be cooled sufficiently before occupants enter the vehicle.

Recognizing the importance of connectivity to today's drivers, the new Trailblazer is fitted with new technologies usually found in the premium segment, such as Apple CarPlay(r). This

World-class quality

The new Trailblazer boasts an improved interior and exterior, reduced cabin and engine noise, and enhanced technology and safety features, while maintaining the SUV's serious off-road capability, aligning it with the successful trucks offered by Chevrolet.

From the beginning, the team was given a clear mission to "put our customers at the center of everything we do" so they set out to make the new Trailblazer a segment leader in the region.

To ensure world-class quality, significant improvements were made to GM's manufacturing plant in Rayong, Thailand. This includes, process improvements, additional automation, tighter process controls, improved design robustness, increased error proofing, in-depth Program Quality Readiness Reviews, and a true passion for quality across the entire team. As a result of these improvements, the facility was awarded Global Certification - becoming one of GM's top plants worldwide.

Chevrolet complete care

All 2018 Trailblazer owners will receive a new level of customer experience courtesy of Chevrolet Complete Care. The comprehensive aftersales package promises additional value with competitive and transparent maintenance pricing; one-hour servicing; 2 days advanced booking; a regional 3-year/100,000-km warranty; and 4 years of regional 24x7 roadside assistance.



CAESARS CARGO COMPANY APPOINTED AS GSA FOR SAUDIA CARGO IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Saudia Cargo has appointed Caesars Cargo Company as their General Sales Agent (GSA) for the cargo operations in Kuwait. Caesars Cargo Company established in 2007 as a subsidiary of Caesars Travel Group has grown over the years and now representing the cargo operations of many leading airlines such as Gulf Air Falcon Cargo, Air Arabia Cargo, Pegasus Cargo and Atlas Cargo. Moreover, they have two agent offices in Al Dajeeb and Jaleeb for directly dealing with the clients.



"As our cargo business continues to expand, so does our reputation. As one of the world's major players in the cargo aviation market, Saudia Cargo is known for their efficiency and reliability, offering secure and convenient connections through their local and international hubs. Following a competitive tender process where we were able to demonstrate our depth of knowledge and professionalism, we were delighted to win the Saudia Cargo business."

"Being strategically located in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Saudia Cargo is uniquely positioned to provide a bridge between East and West via their hubs, thus giving us increased flexibility to use their capacity efficiently and move your cargo with minimal ground handling time," said by P N J Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Caesars Travel Group.

Taha Al-Maimani - Manager, GSA and Commercial Agreements of Saudia Cargo, said, "It is important to have a local partner, who shares a common vision and has an experienced team of professionals with deep knowledge and extensive network into the local market. Upon assigning Caesars Cargo Company as our GSA, Saudia Cargo is looking forward to offering customers a great cargo experience with a reliable, fast, and safe freight product."

Air freight services are currently used all over the world, with many global businesses turning to using air freight services to transport their goods from one side of the country to another. This has become so easy during these days as there are now airports all over the world; this is why it is so reliable to turn to using air freight services, as they are able to transport your goods to any place in the world. Most of the commercial carriers and their dedicated freighters are playing a key role in the cargo business at this moment.

Commenting on Caesars Cargo's appointment as GSA, Mazen Saba-Regional Director, MENAT of Saudia Cargo, said: "With their considerable experience of Kuwait market and long-established reputation, we believe Caesars Cargo Company is the right partner to help drive our business forward and deliver on our ambitious growth targets in Kuwait air-freight market."

Caesars Travel Group and its subsidiary, Caesars Cargo Company has been a forerunner in the cargo industry with a touch point in every vertical of the industry since its inception in Kuwait. "Caesars Cargo Company by signing this GSA assignment of Saudia Cargo for Kuwait is a reflection of our commitment to become the Kuwait's leading Cargo Operator, giving our customers a myriad of services under one roof. At Caesars Travel Group, we always go with the pulses of our customer's taste which is our mission. The increase in moving cargo shipments to various countries has become very easy as we have the infrastructure with various leading airlines representing as cargo GSA under Caesars Cargo Company", commented by Unni Krishnan, Manager-Business Development of Caesars Cargo Company.

CANON EUROPE TAKES ITS YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRAM TO NEXT LEVEL



KUWAIT: Canon Europe, leader in imaging solutions, has announced that following a number of successful activities to engage young people across Europe on visual storytelling, its Young People Program has entered a new stage. This will involve offering a series of interactive workshops to young students in which they will be encouraged to take photos or videos of subjects that relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and express their views on the need for change. The aim is to show the power of visual storytelling and raise awareness of the need to deliver the 17 SDGs, which were created to eliminate poverty, protect the planet and achieve prosperity for all.

Xavier Longan, European Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations SDG Action Campaign said, "Engaging young people and giving them the tools they need to tell their stories and raise their voices is critical to make sure we make the 17 Sustainable Development Goals a reality by 2030. We are confident this program will inspire creativity, raise awareness on the importance of the goals and encourage people to take action."

Stuart Poore, Director of Sustainability and Government Affairs at Canon Europe commented, "The Young People Program is one of several sustainability projects Canon Europe is currently running in the EMEA region that deliver social and environmental benefits through our people and products, demonstrating our commitment to our corporate philosophy of Kyosei: living and working together for the common good. We hope this Program will help us grow the positive power of imaging technology and services whilst amplifying the voice of young people in developing the United Nations' SDGs. We look forward to seeing the results of each local initiative."

The first event took place on 22nd June in Cologne, Germany, where a group of 15 students were joined by Pulitzer prize winner and highly acclaimed photographer Daniel Etter and Instagrammer Karla Schwede to learn about visual storytelling. Both Daniel and Karla guided the students in the task of documenting some of the 17 SDGs through photography. The workshop was closely followed by events in the UK, Finland and Poland in 2017, and in other locations throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa in the future, in order to reach as many young people as possible.

Canon Europe has been delivering visual storytelling workshops for young people since 2015, and to date, 14 countries across Europe have run events, reaching more than 1,100 students including many who would not have had the chance to have their talents identified.

SOPHOS XG FIREWALL AMONG HIGHEST PERFORMING PRODUCTS BY NSS LABS

DUBAI: Sophos, a global leader in network and endpoint security yesterday announced that NSS Labs has rated the Sophos XG Firewall as one of the highest performing firewalls in the industry in its most recent Next-Generation Firewall Group Test Report. The XG Firewall was "Recommended" as one of the top three products for security effectiveness. It passed all stability and reliability tests, offering some of the highest levels of protection and performance at great value.

The NSS Labs evaluation included 11 market leading next-generation firewalls which were rated for security effectiveness, performance, stability and reliability, and total cost of ownership (TCO). The Sophos XG Firewall outperformed many other market-leading products across the stringent test criteria, placing it amongst the top-ranks of the seven products that also earned the NSS Labs 'Recommended' rating.



Dan Schiappa

Vital tool
"Trusted, independent testing is a vital tool for any organization assessing its security needs. NSS Labs plays a critical role in determining which products deserve their place on the IT security shortlist," commented Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of the Enduser and Network Security groups at Sophos. "Sophos is committed to developing the most effective and easy to manage security products for organizations of all sizes. We are proud that this NSS Labs test validates the XG Firewall as a leader in the industry for protection, performance, and value. We continue to invest heavily in our next-generation firewall platform as we enhance our synchronized security strategy. As proven by the recent WannaCry outbreak, effective network protection prevents the spread of sophisticated, fast moving attacks and will remain a critical component of any comprehensive security strategy for years to come."

Thomas Skybakmoen, distinguished research director from NSS Labs commented, "We continue to develop and maintain rigorous testing standards to reflect enterprise defenses that are constantly being challenged by attackers and adopting new evasion techniques at a record pace. The Sophos XG Firewall has executed well in this evaluation with high levels of security effectiveness and zero false positives."

A copy of the NSS Labs Next-Generation Firewall Test Report for the Sophos XG-750 Firewall and the associated Security Value Map (SVM) graphic, which plots all vendors included in the evaluation are available from the Sophos website, here.

New features

Released in December 2016, the latest version of the next-generation Sophos XG Firewall added significant new features including:

1. Sophos Sandstorm - Blocks evasive zero-day threats like ransomware, disguised as executables, PDFs and Microsoft Office documents - sending them to its cloud-sandbox to be detonated and observed in a safe environment.
2. Synchronized Security - Extends Security Heartbeat by adding missing heartbeat detection and destination heartbeat protection. Control access to endpoints and servers based on the status of their heartbeat, restricting potentially compromised systems until they are completely safe. In addition, the XG Firewall can determine the application responsible for generating unknown traffic on your network.
3. Enterprise-Grade Secure Web Gateway (SWG) - New inheritance-based policy building tool enables multiple user and group based web control policies. Plug a full web policy into a single firewall rule for enforcement - dramatically reducing rule count.
4. Microsoft Azure Support - Available as a preconfigured virtual machine within the Azure Marketplace, IT managers can deploy seamlessly using Azure Resource Manager templates or customize deployment according to their needs. Sophos XG Firewall provides detailed, out-of-the-box reports that are generated and stored locally, giving them a view of exactly what their users are doing.
5. Streamlined User Experience - XG Firewall makes managing network security easier than ever with all-new navigation with a logically organized menu and tabs for click access to anywhere. Streamlined firewall rule screen makes it easier and more intuitive to build sophisticated rules.

The Sophos XG Firewall is available on-premise as a hardware appliance or for all the major virtualization platforms as well as through the Microsoft Azure marketplace for securing infrastructure-as-a-service deployments in the cloud. Available models range from a desktop appliance with integrated Wi-Fi to rack-mount appliances purpose built for the data center. Pricing is available from authorized Sophos partners worldwide.

CISCO'S NEW TRAINING, DEVELOPER PROGRAMS ACCELERATES ADOPTION OF INTENT-BASED NETWORKING

NEW NETWORK CAN RECOGNIZE INTENT, MITIGATE THREATS

DUBAI: Cisco yesterday announced that its global ecosystem of customers, developers and partners are embracing the company's ambitious vision for a new era of networking. Unveiled last week, Cisco's new network can recognize intent, mitigate threats, and learn over time—representing one of the most significant breakthroughs in the history of enterprise networking.

This new network is the result of years of research and development by Cisco to reinvent networking for an age where network engineers managing hundreds of devices today will be expected to manage one million by 2020. Companies that are managing their networks through traditional IT processes will not be able to scale in this new age. Cisco's approach creates an intuitive system that constantly learns, adapts, and protects, to optimize network operations and defend against today's evolving threat landscape.



Scott Harrell

"Cisco is delivering a more intuitive system that automates the edge of the network and embeds machine learning and analytics at a foundational level," said Scott Harrell, Senior Vice President of Product Management for Enterprise Networking, Cisco. "Intent-based networking signifies a paradigm shift for our industry and a completely new era of networking. It's exciting to witness our global ecosystem—three million network engineers, 60,000 partners and 450,000 developers—embrace the future of networking."

Already, 75 leading global enterprises and organizations are conducting early field trials with these next-generation networking solutions, including Jade University of Applied Sciences, NASA, Newcastle Hospitals, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Scentsy, UZ Leuven and Wipro.

Intent-based networking

To drive adoption of its intent-based networking solutions, Cisco announced new training and developer programs to 28,000 networking professionals at the company's annual user conference, Cisco Live. Attendees will learn about the impact intent-based networking will have on their organizations and begin developing the skills needed in the new era of networking.

Network engineers: Today, 80-95 percent of network operations are manually configured. Intent-based networking automates routine tasks by translating business intent into network configuration, freeing up network IT teams to drive more strategic initiatives with the business. To help network engineers evolve, Cisco is embedding new skills into its learning curriculum. This fall, Cisco will introduce two new training offerings around SD-Access, building on the existing DNA training portfolio and Network Programmability training and certifications available for net-



work engineers and application developers. To learn more, read this blog.

Application developers: The shift to open, programmable networks will create a range of new opportunities for app developers. As the network becomes code, and apps and infrastructure become more closely intertwined, app developers will gain a new platform to innovate. The new DNA Developer Center will provide Cisco's DevNet community of more than 450,000 developers with the tools they need to bring applications directly into the network and create smarter software.

Channel partners: The shift from hardware- to software-centric networking is driving Cisco's channel partners to evolve their networking practices, develop new skills and pursue new business opportunities. Cisco is providing the programs, incentives and tools to help its partners build networking practices that incorporate software, security, automation and analytics for their customers. Read this blog to learn more.



SILICON VALLEY INVESTORS TAKING HEAT OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT

NEW YORK: Sexism in Silicon Valley may be coming in for a reckoning, prompted by women coming forward with stories of sexual harassment by industry bigshots. Apologies, resignations and self-reflection have followed, although it's too soon to tell if they will produce meaningful change.

Dave McClure, a prominent venture investor, said on Saturday that he is sorry for making "inappropriate advances" toward several women in workplace situations, and is no longer leading the venture capital fund he co-founded, 500 Startups. He remains a general partner at the firm.

McClure's apology - titled "I'm a Creep. I'm Sorry" - follows a New York Times report on sexual harassment in the tech industry that described offensive behavior by McClure and other prominent venture investors, as related by female entrepreneurs.

Reports of sexism in the industry are not new, but more women are speaking out on the record and naming their harassers. That's even though women have faced ostracism for calling out such behavior, with companies playing down or outright ignoring complaints. Those issues can be particularly acute for women leading startups, as their companies are dependent on clubby venture capitalists for funding. But there are signs that this might be changing as more women come forward.

In June, several female entrepreneurs told

the trade publication The Information of harassment by a partner at the VC firm Binary Capital; he and another partner resigned a week ago. The accused partner, Justin Caldebeck, issued an apology, but that itself drew criticism from others in the tech industry, including Google product manager Brenden Mulligan.

"It feels like you're trying to nudge us to feel sorry for you that you need to leave your precious firm behind. YOU CAUSED THIS," Mulligan wrote in a post on Medium. One of Caldebeck's accusers, Niniane Wang, wrote that she "laughed out loud" reading the apology post.

What is sparking the shift? It might be a woman named Susan Fowler. Earlier this year, the former Uber engineer also outlined a culture of harassment at the company. Uber's CEO has since resigned and the company has promised to institute broad changes to prevent such things from happening again.

Still, it's too soon to tell whether the incidents will lead to meaningful change. LinkedIn co-founder and former CEO Reid Hoffman lamented a "lack of outrage and commentary" following the revelations.

"This is important, because the question for women entrepreneurs is whether people just don't care," Hoffman wrote in a post on LinkedIn. "Here's why writing quickly is important: YES, MANY OF US DO CARE. This is entirely immoral and outrageous behavior." —AP

FACEBOOK DRONE COULD ONE DAY PROVIDE GLOBAL INTERNET ACCESS

YUMA: A solar-powered drone backed by Facebook that could one day provide worldwide internet access has quietly completed a test flight in Arizona after an earlier attempt ended with a crash landing. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's long-term plan for the drone, called Aquila, is to have it and others provide internet access to 4 billion people around the world who are currently in the dark.

"When Aquila is ready, it will be a fleet of solar-powered planes that will beam internet connec-

tivity across the world," he wrote Thursday on Facebook. The drone's second flight was completed in May at Yuma Proving Ground, The Yuma Sun reported.

The drone flew with more sensors, new spoilers and a horizontal propeller stopping system to help it better land after the crash in December. It was in the air for an hour and 46 minutes and elevated 3,000 feet (910 meters).

The drone flew with the engineering team watching a live stream from a helicopter chasing

the drone, said Martin Luis Gomez, Facebook's director of aeronautical platforms. The team was thrilled with the outcome, Gomez said. "The improvements we implemented based on Aquila's performance during its first test flight made a significant difference in this flight," he said.

The drone weighs about 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms) and has a longer wingspan than a Boeing 747. The drone runs mostly on autopilot, but there are manned ground crews to manage certain maneuvers. —AP

DYNAMITE FISHING, DRUGS, THREATEN MYANMAR'S 'SEA GYPSIES'

MYEIK ARCHIPELAGO: With a swift breath the teenage boy dives into the turquoise waters of southern Myanmar, a spear clutched in his hand, but below him lies nothing but a graveyard of broken, grey coral. He is one of the Moken, a nomadic seafaring tribe who have perfected this freedive fishing technique over hundreds of years among the 800 islands that dot the Myeik archipelago and neighboring southern Thailand. Until recently the sea provided them with everything they needed: a base for boats they lived in, fish and seafood to eat and bounty such as pearls to trade with islanders for fuel and rice. But the waters have been devastated by the commercial fishing industry that has eaten away the area's once abundant marine life.

The destruction has been wrought by fishing boats, many believed to be from neighbouring Thailand, who use dynamite and trawlers to sweep the seabed. In a cruel chain reaction, some Moken youths have ended up working for the fishing fleets that are destroying the ecosystem that supported them through the generations. "When we were young, a husband could easily support his family," Kar Shar, the Moken leader in Makyone Galet village, recalled as he smoked his pipe outside his stilted, corrugated-iron house. "Now the whole family has to work to survive, and sometimes even that is not enough."

Many islanders, including local Karen and Burmese as well as the Moken-known as Salon in Myanmar or "Sea Gypsies" in the West-have been caught up in the trade. Impoverished, stateless and with restricted working rights, some Moken began diving for fishing crews in the early 90s and continued after the former military government forced many to live on the islands. "There is a lot of dynamite fishing," said Jacques Ivanoff, an expert at France's CNRS and the Musée de l'Homme



Photo shows an aerial view of Moken fishing boats in the Myeik Archipelago, off the coast of southern Myanmar. —AFP Photos

who has spent decades working with the Moken. "Left alone... (they) have no other choice to make a living."

Drugs an added scourge

It's risky, illegal work. The fishermen travel to the deserted outer islands where they are less likely to be caught. There the divers search for the best spot, before throwing in the dynamite and quickly reversing away. Some breathe through thin plastic tubes hooked up to compressors, while others use no equipment. Many suffer decompression sickness, which can leave them crippled and unable to walk. Others die as they swim up to the surface, or never surface at all—a terrible price to pay for a business whose profits largely slip overseas. "People say the boats are from Thailand," said 54-year-old Moken man Ko Matt.

For many the potential profits make

the dangers worth it. Divers can earn more than \$100 in a night, compared to an average wage of \$3 a day on the islands. Some Moken have turned to drugs to cope with the strain of the work. Win Myat was a teenager when his uncle died, lost to the caffeine-laced methamphetamine pills known as 'yaba' that have flooded the area. "He would spend all his money on drugs," the 20-year-old told AFP on Nyaung Wee island. "In the end he was very weak and always became angry if he did not have the pills," he added, requesting his name be changed.

"He made a lot of trouble for our family. Then he died." Rights activist Khin Maung Htwe estimates around 40 percent of Moken men on the islands use narcotics, either yaba or heroin from Myanmar's drug-producing borderlands. Most are young men, leaving the Moken women to marry the local ethnic Karen and Burmese



Moken children play in shallow waters in front of their home in Nyaung Wee village in the Myeik Archipelago, off the coast of southern Myanmar. Until recently the sea provided the Moken, a nomadic seafaring tribe, with everything they needed: a base for boats they lived in, fish and seafood to eat and bounty such as pearls to trade with islanders for fuel and rice.

and settle further into a more land-based culture. "Now there are not as many Moken men as women left," said Tun Aung Soe, 20, whose mother is Moken and his father ethnic Burmese. Experts say the Moken's population in Myanmar has fallen from around 5,000 over 10,000 if you include other sea nomads the Moken and Urak Lawoi-to 2,000-3,000 today.

'Better on boats'

The collapse of fish stocks has been a disaster for the Moken. A Norwegian fisheries research vessel which surveyed the Myeik archipelago in 1980 and again in 2013 found rampant overfishing had led to a 90 percent fall in the biomass of open ocean species of fish. Robert Howard, marine program advisor for environmen-

tal NGO Flora & Fauna International, said there are an estimated 8,000 smaller boats and many other large trawlers operating in the area. "If that keeps going the fishery will eventually collapse," he warned.

Many of the Moken say fishing is no longer enough to sustain them. Today less than half of those living on the Myeik archipelago lead the seafaring life of their ancestors, and that number is declining. No one has made a kabang, the traditional wooden boat in which people used to spend most of their lives, for a decade. Kar Shar, the Moken leader in Makyone Galet village, longs for those days again. "When we lived on the boats we could move to other places if the current place was not good, but now we cannot," he said. "Life was better on the boats." — AFP

INMATE SUICIDE SHAPED A COURT ORDER ON ALABAMA PRISON CARE

PSYCHIATRIC CARE FOR INMATES 'HORRENDOUSLY INADEQUATE'

BIRMINGHAM: If any one witness led to a sweeping court order demanding that Alabama improve psychiatric care in state prisons, it was Jamie Wallace. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia and imprisoned in Alabama for killing his mother, Michelle Franklin Wallace, the inmate said he sometimes heard the voice of the dead woman and others telling him to harm himself. He did, with fatal consequences, just 10 days after testifying as the first witness in a trial over mental health care in state prisons.

The story of Wallace's hanging while in state custody served as the backdrop for a federal judge's ruling on Tuesday that Alabama's psychiatric care for inmates is "horrendously inadequate" and violates constitutional standards. US District Myron Thompson, in a 302-page decision outlining multiple deficiencies in the state system, wrote of being "extremely concerned" after Wallace showed him scars from past suicide attempts and testified about a lack of psychiatric treatment while in state custody.

"Without question, Wallace's testimony and the tragic event that followed darkly draped all the subsequent testimony like a pall," said the judge, who repeatedly cited Wallace's treatment to depict a system that locks away troubled inmates with only sporadic psychiatric care. It's unclear exactly what sort of changes will occur because of the decision: Rather than mandating specific actions, Thompson ordered the state to meet with inmates' lawyers to work on reforms. A special legislative session, additional funding and more hiring are possible.

Whatever the solution, Thompson made clear he doesn't want a repeat of what happened to the 24-year-old Wallace.

Already suffering from psychiatric problems as a teenager, Wallace was released from a mental facility only weeks before shooting his mother and trying to kill his grandfather in 2009. He pleaded guilty in 2011, rejecting a defense lawyer's suggestions that he plead not guilty by reason of mental illness. Sentenced to 25 years, Wallace entered an Alabama Department of Corrections wracked by longstanding problems of inmate overcrowding, understaffing and funding that critics say is inadequate. Wallace talked about being suicidal and made multiple attempts on his life, the judge said, but received inconsistent, insufficient care in prison.

In December, Thompson began a non-jury trial to air claims in a class action filed by inmates who say the state's mental health care is so bad, it's unconstitutional. State attorneys didn't deny problems, but said the troubles weren't bad enough to violate the Constitution. Wallace took the stand as the first witness. Less than two months earlier, Thompson's order said, the state had ignored recommendations from prison psychiatric contractors to transfer Wallace to a hospital.

Rather than receive treatment, sometimes Wallace was punished for suicide attempts by being placed in a sparse, one-person cell, Thompson said. Wallace testified that voices in his head told him to kill himself, and he became so agitated the judge recessed temporarily and

let him continue in a quiet chambers library after Wallace was coaxed, "as if he were a fearful child," Thompson wrote. Wallace's condition remained poor after his court appearance, the judge said, yet he was allowed to languish with little care.

"His medical records for his final 10 days reflected no group activities, one cell-side treatment plan note, and two psychiatric progress notes," Thompson wrote. Five days before the suicide, a worker wrote that Wallace was using threats "to get what he wants," the judge noted. The Bullock County prison where Wallace was incarcerated has suicide prevention cells called "stabilization units," evidence showed, but Thompson said the rooms had sprinkler heads directly above sinks and toilets that make it easy for a suicidal prisoner to climb atop a fixture and hang himself. "In fact, that is how Jamie Wallace committed suicide," the judge said. Wallace died on Dec 15.

With nearly 20,000 state inmates, about 3,400 of whom are supposed to be receiving mental care, Alabama now faces a court order to provide better psychiatric care in its prisons. The state agreed to some new suicide prevention measures during the trial after Wallace's death, including additional medical staff and more observation of troubled inmates, but Thompson said sweeping reforms are required. "The case of Jamie Wallace is powerful evidence of the real, concrete and terribly permanent harms that woefully inadequate mental-health care inflicts on mentally ill prisoners in Alabama," Thompson wrote. — AP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump talks to House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, after the House pushed through a health care bill. — AP

TRUMP BACKS REPEAL-ONLY US HEALTH BILL AS 'OPTION'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is pressuring wavering senators to back a Republican bill to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law but is holding open a repeal-only option if Republicans can't reach agreement over the July 4 recess, Trump's top legislative aide says. Marc Short, the White House's legislative director, said Trump was making weekend calls and believed senators were "getting close" on passing a bill.

But Short maintained that Trump continues to believe that repeal-only legislation should also be considered. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, has dismissed the suggestion. McConnell says he intends to proceed with GOP legislation being negotiated during the week-long recess. He has previously said if Republicans don't reach agreement, he will have to turn to Democrats, who want to fix Obama's health care law without repealing it.

"Our preference is to pass the bill the Senate has right now," Short said. But he added: "If the replacement bill is too difficult for Republicans to get together, then let's go back and take care of the first step of repeal." "That's an option," Short emphasized. Trump on Friday tweeted the suggestion to repeal the Obama-era law right away and then replace it later, an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise.

The tweet came amid continuing signs of GOP disagreement among moderates and conservatives over the bill. Republicans hold a 52-48 majority in the Senate. Just three GOP defections would doom the legislation, because Democrats are united in opposition. Trump's suggestion had the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives 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 rolls, shrinking the Medicaid safety net and increasing premiums for older Americans.

"It's not easy making America great again, is it?" McConnell said late Friday. Short said the White House remained hopeful after Senate Republicans submitted two versions of the bill to the Congressional Budget Office for scoring over the recess. Texas' Sen. Ted Cruz is pushing a conservative version that aims to aggressively reduce costs by giving states greater flexibility to create separate higher-risk pools. The other seeks to bolster health care subsidies for lower-income people, perhaps by preserv-

ing a tax boost on high earners. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said negotiations over the Senate bill were focusing on ways to address the issue of Medicaid coverage so that "nobody falls through the cracks," combating the opioid crisis, as well as giving families more choice in selecting their insurance plan. "We think that Leader McConnell and his senators within the Senate are working to try to get this piece of legislation on track," Price said.

But conservative Sen Rand Paul, R-Ky, said he didn't think a repeal-and-replace bill could win 50 votes. Both he and Sen Ben Sasse, R-Neb, have been urging McConnell to consider a repeal only bill first. "I don't think we're getting anywhere with the bill we have. We're at an impasse," Paul said. He said Senate leaders were unwise seeking to win over moderates with multibillion dollar proposals to combat the opioid epidemic and boost tax subsidies to help lower-income people get coverage. "The bill is just being lit up like a Christmas tree full of billion-dollar ornaments, and it's not repeal," Paul said. "I think you can get 52 Republicans for clean repeal."

Even before Trump was inaugurated in January, Republicans had debated and ultimately discarded the idea of repealing the overhaul before replacing it, concluding that both must happen simultaneously. Doing otherwise would invite accusations that Republicans were simply tossing people off coverage and roll insurance markets by raising the question of whether, when and how Congress might replace Obama's law once it was gone. But at least nine GOP senators expressed opposition after a CBO analysis last week found 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 that Trump privately told senators was "mean."

Paul said Senate Republicans can do a repeal-only bill concurrently with a bill "they can call 'replace.'" Sasse, meanwhile, said he would like to see a bill that would repeal Obamacare "with a delay." "If we can do a combined repeal and replace over the next week, that's great," Sasse said. "If we can't, though, then there's no reason to walk away." "I would want a delay, so that we could get straight to work. And then I think the president should call on the Senate to cancel our August" recess, Sasse said. Short and Paul appeared on "Fox News Sunday," Price was on NBC's "Meet the Press," and Sasse spoke on CNN's "State of the Union." — AP

OREGON INFANT ILLNESS PROMPTS WARNING ABOUT PLACENTA PILLS

NEW YORK: Health officials are warning new moms about the potential dangers of taking pills made from their placenta, after an Oregon infant's infection was tied to the practice. Trendy among some mothers, the practice of eating the placenta after giving birth is believed by some to help with postpartum depression, breast milk production and energy levels. It's taken off in the last decade, touted by some celebrity moms and promoted on the internet. Now tens of thousands of US moms do it, according to a rough estimate by researchers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

But in an unusual report published Thursday, a group of doctors and health officials say the capsules appear to have caused an infant's illness in Portland, Oregon, last fall. The authors said moms should avoid taking them, noting that the making of placenta capsules is not regulated and there's no guarantee they are free of harmful germs. The researchers include some lab scientists at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A CDC spokeswoman said the agency hasn't taken a formal position on placenta pills, and that the warning was the authors' conclusion.

Still, it's perhaps the strongest statement to date by any medical authorities against the practice, said Sharon Young, a UNLV researcher who has studied the practice. She said there isn't good medical evidence yet that it is beneficial. One UNLV study found placenta pills were a no better source of iron than dummy pills. "I've heard physicians say there's no benefit to doing it, that it's pointless. But I can't remember a statement so strongly advising against it, from a physician or anyone," she said. Last fall, the Oregon baby fell ill twice with a strep infection. The first time, investigators believe the mom passed an infection to her child during birth.

Later, the mom started taking placenta capsules. The child got sick again weeks later, and health officials think the pills played the role. Tests found the bacteria in the placenta pills. The mother had sent her placenta to a company that offers to clean, slice and dehydrate it, then grind it and put it into gelatin capsules, according to the report. It's possible the company - which was not identified - failed to heat the placenta enough to kill germs, the authors said. — AP



GOMA: Residents of Goma are directed by members of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and of the Civil Protection during an evacuation exercise triggered by a simulated volcanic eruption endangering Goma yesterday. More than a thousand people took part yesterday in an evacuation exercise triggered by a simulated volcanic eruption endangering Goma, a major city in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. — AFP

HUNDREDS PRACTICE VOLCANO SAFETY IN DR CONGO'S EAST

GOMA: More than a thousand people took part yesterday in an evacuation exercise triggered by a simulated volcanic eruption endangering Goma, a major city in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. At 7:30 am, sirens wailed in four northern parts of the city, which lies on the Rwanda border in the path of lava flow from the Nyirangongo Volcano, 20 kilometers (12 miles) to the north. Previous eruptions have claimed hundreds of lives. Residents of districts at risk in the capital of North Kivu province were asked to leave their homes and gather three kilometers to the south in the Afa stadium, where white tents were ready for them.

For almost three hours, groups of about

10 to 20 people headed for the stadium in two columns, with possessions ranging from motorbikes to mattresses, kitchenware and prized furniture. They helped children and had domestic animals in tow. "We're conducting an exercise to simulate a volcanic eruption in order to show the 500 families who live on the potential paths of lava flow how to behave in the event of major volcanic activity," the head of North Kivu's civil protection service, Joseph Makundi said. At the end of the exercise, participants would be advised on practical measures such as how to keep order and avoid slowing others down, as well as the most practical items to take on leaving home, Makundi added. —AFP

CHASING PROFITS, POPE'S HOSPITAL PUT CHILDREN AT RISK

ROME: Doctors and nurses at the Vatican's showcase pediatric hospital were angry: Corners were being cut. Safety protocols were being ignored. And sick children were suffering. The Vatican's response was swift. A secret three-month investigation in early 2014 gathered testimony and documentation from dozens of current and former staff members and confirmed that the mission of "the pope's hospital" had been lost and was "today more aimed at profit than on caring for children."

What happened next surprised many involved: The report was never made public. While some of the recommendations were carried out, others were not. And the Vatican commissioned a second inquiry in 2015 that - after a three-day hospital visit - concluded nothing was amiss after all. An Associated Press investigation has found that Bambino Gesù (Baby Jesus) Pediatric Hospital, a cornerstone of Italy's health care system, did indeed shift its focus in ways big and small under its past administration. Under leadership that governed from 2008 to 2015, the hospital expanded services and tried to make a money-losing Vatican enterprise turn a profit - and children sometimes paid the price.

Among the AP's findings: Overcrowding and poor hygiene contributed to deadly infection, including one 21-month superbug outbreak in the cancer ward that killed eight children. To save money, disposable equipment and other materials were at times used improperly, with a one-time order of cheap needles breaking when injected into tiny veins. Doctors were so pressured to maximize operating-room turnover that patients were sometimes brought out of anesthesia too quickly.

Some of the issues - such as early awakening and the focus on profits - had been identified in 2014 by the Vatican-authorized task force of current and former hospital doctors, nurses, administrators and outsiders. The AP corroborated those findings through interviews with more than a dozen current and former Bambino Gesù employees, as well as patients, their families and health officials. The AP reviewed medical records, civil court rulings, hospital and Vatican emails, and five years of union complaints.

Bambino Gesù disputed the AP's findings and threatened legal action. It said the AP investigation was based on information that was "in some ways false, in other ways seriously unfounded and out of date by two years but above all clinically implausible and defamatory on a moral and ethical level." The hospital cited its reputation as a center of excellence. It draws top-notch surgeons to work there and celebrity visits, including one by US First Lady Melania Trump in May.

Bambino Gesù also pointed to the Vatican's second investigation, led by American Catholic health care expert Sister Carol Keehan, as evidence that the allegations were false. "While there are many things we could have missed or been misled about, we came away from this evaluation with a real sense that on the major charges and the major issues alleged, we have been able to disprove them," Keehan's report said.

Facts are hard to come by in the secretive halls of Bambino Gesù, which does not make public financial details or its mortality and infection rates. Perched on a Roman hillside just up the road from Vatican City, the private hospital sits on Holy See territory and enjoys the same extraterritorial status as a foreign embassy - making the Italian taxpayer-funded institution immune to the surprise inspections other Italian hospitals undergo. It is financed by Italy's public health system, but its main campus isn't even technically in Italy.

A myth has fallen

There is no indication that the Vatican ever shared the results of either in-house investigation with the Italian health ministry, which in 2015 reported that the hospital offered quality care "in such a way that assumes characteris-

tics of excellence." Provided with AP's findings in December, the health ministry promised to investigate. "If this is true, a myth has fallen," the ministry's then-spokesman Fabio Mazzeo said. "We have to verify." Mazzeo's successor, reached in June, said he had no further information, saying the hospital belongs to the Vatican.

All of the hospital employees who talked to the AP spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing they would lose their jobs if their names were used. Out of concern for the children, they said, they broke what the hospital's union has called the "omerta," the Italian code of silence. Staff members told AP that some of the conditions they first reported in early 2014 have improved since the surprise resignation of Bambino Gesù's president in 2015.

The new administration, they said, focuses less on volume and shows more respect for protocols. But some of the task force's most important recommendations have not been implemented, including the replacement of Bambino Gesù's medical director. And in its July 2016 newsletter, the hospital's main union said problems remain.

"Ten years ago, the ERs were jammed and they still are. Ten years ago, patients waited on stretchers and they still do. Ten years ago you entered with one illness and left with two hospital infections, and still do," it wrote. "What has changed in 10 years? The machines are better, the pharmaceuticals are better, but the level of care is not." Pope Francis himself used the occasion of a 2016 Christmas audience with thousands of hospital staff members and patients to exhort Bambino Gesù not to fall prey to corruption, which he called the "greatest cancer" that can strike a hospital.

"Bambino Gesù has had a history that hasn't always been good," the pope said, jettisoning his prepared remarks to decry the temptation to "transform a good thing like a



Pope Francis is surrounded by children as he speaks with patients and caregivers from the Vatican's Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital. During the audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, Francis exhorted hospital staff not to fall prey to corruption, which he called the "greatest cancer" that can strike a hospital. — AP Photos

opening satellite branches around southern Italy while cutting costs. Vincenzo Di Ciommo Laurora, a retired Bambino Gesù epidemiologist, described the hospital's culture at the time this way: "The more you do to a patient, the more money you bring in. You have to produce, produce, produce."

As part of an unrelated study, he reviewed the charts of 11 cancer patients who had died and said he was struck by the "extreme number of medical interventions," including kidney

nationwide. The Italian health service reimburses it for most of its services and a leaked audit reported that, in 2012 alone, the hospital received reimbursements and research grants that totaled 270 million euros (\$290 million).

One of the main areas of expansion during the Profti administration was in transplant services and oncology, where thousands of children have been successfully treated. But in 2011, a 4-year-old with acute leukemia caught an infection, an extremely drug-resistant form of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, one of the leading causes of blood infections and pneumonia in hospitals. The outbreak infected 27 children and wore on for 21 months - from March 2011 to December 2012 - before the hospital brought it under control.

Eight children dead

By then, eight children were dead. "All wards of the onco-hematological department were involved," Bambino Gesù staff wrote in 2014 in the journal *BMC Infectious Diseases*. The bug's spread, they wrote, could have stemmed from the "hands of health care workers or use of non-critical medical equipment" - a clear violation of good hygiene practice.

All hospitals have problems controlling infections, many are plagued by overcrowding and even the best struggle to contain outbreaks of drug-resistant bacteria. But several experts contacted by AP called the Bambino Gesù outbreak "extreme," unusual in its duration and rare for this particular strain to be found in children. Nigel Brown, an emeritus professor of microbiology at the University of Edinburgh, said the problem should have been identified "within a matter of days" and that more aggressive management could have quickly confined the outbreak.

In a statement, the hospital said it was "absurd and specious" to cite the outbreak against the hospital, calling its infection control achievements "an example of good practice." The hospital said it had successfully brought infection rates under international and national benchmarks in recent years, though it doesn't publish the information in its annual reports. Bambino Gesù's union, a branch of Italy's largest trade association CGIL, has repeatedly complained about hygiene problems, noting that the hospital has gone through five cleaning firms in as many years with unsanitary results.

In its November 2014 monthly magazine, the union noted that the neonatal surgery ward had "sadly become famous" internally for its rates of infection and death. Part of the problem, the union said, was the route some



This illustration made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta depicts *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria.

staff would take from the changing room to the ward. "The path they have to take is equivalent to an open sewer, past garbage bins where various types of refuse are positioned," the union wrote the previous month. "And we ask why hospital infections increase? If even such a simple problem is ignored, imagine those that are more complicated."

In 2011, pharmacist Eugenio Ciacco wrote the hospital president to alert him that the pharmacy had stopped sterilizing needles and other equipment properly, a practice Ciacco said was leading to "extreme danger for the health of our young patients." In 2013, the hospital was ordered by Rome's civil tribunal to pay 2.2 million euros to a family whose child was left partially paralyzed and brain-damaged by a hospital-borne infection in 2006 that wasn't diagnosed or treated quickly enough.

Staffers in the pharmacy reported other concerns: One told AP two common antibiotics intended to be consumed within a few hours sometimes were used for up to two days to save money. Overcrowding and hygiene problems were still an issue in October 2015 when Federica Bianchi's 17-month-old son Edoardo was treated for breathing problems in an ER examination room where she said other children had been receiving intravenous rehydration drips. Two days later, Edoardo began suffering bouts of severe diarrhea and vomiting. — AP



Federica Bianchi's twin sons play in their room at home in Rome. In October 2015, Bianchi brought Edoardo to Bambino Gesù's emergency room with breathing problems. He improved, but came down with another illness two days later that caused severe diarrhea and vomiting.

children's hospital into a business, and make a business where doctors become businessmen and nurses become businessmen, everyone's a businessman!" "Look at the children," Francis said in Italian, pointing to the young patients gathered at his feet in the Vatican auditorium. "And let each one of us think: Can I make corrupt business off these children? No!"

Produce, produce, produce

The sequence of events that resulted in the two investigations began in early 2014, when the Vatican began receiving reports that the quality of care was suffering under the hospital's then-president, Giuseppe Profti. Since he was appointed in 2008, Profti's administration had been focused on boosting volume and

dialysis performed on children who were nearly dead. "When these children don't have any organs working, when nothing is working, when they're full of infection, should we continue to do dialysis and heroic therapies?" he asked. His concern reflected a long-standing ethical debate about when palliative care is more appropriate for terminally ill children - a debate that can be even more acute in a Catholic hospital.

Founded in 1869 by a Roman noble family to treat poor children, Bambino Gesù was donated to the Vatican in 1924 and has grown to become the main pediatric hospital serving southern Italy. In 2015, the 607-bed facility performed over 26,000 surgical procedures - more than a third of all children's operations

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Roast chicken and mushroom pasta bake

INGREDIENTS:

- 500g Barilla penne rigate
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 250g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 sprig rosemary, leaves picked
- 1/2 large roast chicken, skin and bones removed, shredded
- 200g baby spinach leaves
- 575g jar Barilla cheese and tomato pasta bake
- 100g Parmigiano reggiano, grated
- Flat-leaf parsley leaves, to serve
- Grated Parmigiano reggiano, extra, to serve

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 180C. Cook the pasta in a saucepan of salted boiling water for 3 mins less than the packet directions. Drain.
 Meanwhile, heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook the garlic, mushroom and rosemary, stirring, for 5 mins. Stir in the chicken and spinach.
 Place the pasta in a bowl. Stir in the pasta sauce and chicken mixture. Spoon into a 20cm x 30cm, 12-cup oven-proof baking dish. Top with the cheese. Bake for 20 mins or until golden and heated through. Top with parsley and the extra cheese.



Baked Garlic Parmesan Chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove Garlic; minced
- 1 cup Dry bread crumbs
- 2/3 cup Parmesan cheese; grated
- 1 teaspoon Dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon Black pepper; ground
- 6 breasts Chicken

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. In a bowl, blend the olive oil and garlic. In a separate bowl, mix the bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, basil, and pepper. Dip each chicken breast in the oil mixture, then in the bread crumb mixture. Arrange the coated chicken breasts in the prepared baking dish, and top with any remaining bread crumb mixture. Bake 30 minutes in the preheated oven, or until chicken is no longer pink and juices run clear.



Rosemary Ranch Chicken Kabobs

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon white sugar, or to taste
- 5 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1 inch cubes

Instructions:

In a medium bowl, stir together the olive oil, ranch dressing, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, salt, lemon juice, white vinegar, pepper, and sugar. Place chicken in the bowl, and stir to coat with the marinade. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes or longer if desired.
 Preheat the grill for medium-high heat. Thread chicken onto skewers and discard marinade.
 Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill skewers for 8 to 12 minutes, or until the chicken is no longer pink in the center, and the juices run clear.

Chicken Alfredo Spaghetti Squash Boats



Ingredients:

- 1 medium spaghetti squash
- 2 large garlic cloves
- 1 tbsp olive oil, extra virgin
- 3/4 cup chicken stock, low sodium
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup (2 oz) Parmesan cheese, grated
- 3/4 cup plain Greek yogurt, non-fat
- 2 cups (6 oz) cooked chicken breast, shredded
- 1/4 cup low fat Mozzarella cheese, shredded

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 F degrees F. Cut spaghetti squash in half lengthwise and scoop the seeds out. Place cut side down on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool until safe to the touch, about 15 minutes.
 In the meanwhile, preheat large skillet on medium heat and add olive oil. Add garlic and saute for a minute or two or until fragrant, stirring frequently. Add chicken stock, cornstarch, salt, pepper and whisk until smooth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for a few minutes until sauce has thickened a bit. Remove from heat, add Parmesan cheese and stir until smooth and cheese has melted. Add Greek yogurt and stir again until smooth. Add chicken and stir to combine. Set aside.
 Reduce oven temperature to 375 degrees F. Using a fork, separate spaghetti squash into strands leaving them inside the shells. Scoop Chicken Alfredo sauce on top of each shell and gently move around with a fork to make the sauce settle deeper into the spaghetti squash. Top each shell with 2 tbsp Mozzarella, place in a baking dish and bake for 10-12 minutes and then broil on High for 5 more minutes. Stir the squash with a sauce a bit before serving and serve hot.



Marinated cauliflower and sprout salad

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large tomato, finely diced
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 600g cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1 cup mung bean sprouts, rinsed
- 200g snow peas, trimmed, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup small fresh basil leaves

Instructions:

Whisk lemon juice and oil in a large bowl. Add tomato, onion and cauliflower. Season with salt and pepper. Stand for 1 hour to allow flavors to develop.
 Step 2
 Toss sprouts, snow peas and basil together in a serving bowl. Spoon over dressing. Serve.



By Rupert Parker

Ukraine, the country famous for banning Hollywood Steven Seagal from visiting, is opening up to tourism with visa-free travel. Add to that direct flights from the UK and the fact that it is still remarkably good value for money, this is as good a time as any to visit. We suggest you get behind the wheel or a hire car or indeed to hop on a train.

Lviv

Situated in the far west of the country, just 50 miles from the Polish border, Lviv was known as Lemburg when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1772 to WW1. That's reflected in its quaint cobbled streets, proliferation of churches and architecture reminiscent of those other Hapsburg cities like Vienna and Budapest. Of course it also has trams, trolley buses and coffee houses. Indeed they say that the first coffee shop in Vienna was opened by an Ukrainian from Lviv in 1686.

It's a pleasant place to wander round, with street musicians on every corner, and the Market Square in the old town is lined with renaissance houses. The elaborate Lviv Opera House still stages productions of opera and ballet and imposing Cathedrals beckon you inside. My visit coincides with National Embroidered Blouse Day so everyone is sporting one, men and women alike.

Outside the old town, the 18th-century Lychakiv Cemetery has ornate tombs, chapels and shrines plus a special section dedicated to those who are still being killed in the armed struggle on Ukraine's Eastern borders. Most Ukrainians I speak to believe that it's Russian mischief making and can't understand why their former ally is making trouble. Central and Western Ukraine show no signs of the war, so travelers shouldn't be alarmed.

Carpathian Mountains

The Carpathians form an arc running roughly 1000 miles across Central and Eastern Europe, making them the second-longest mountain range in Europe. They occupy the South West of Ukraine, separating the country from Romania, with the highest peak, Mount Hoverla, reaching over 2000m. Life carries on here much as it's done for centuries and during the Soviet period was left almost untouched. Even guerrillas fighting their Russian oppressors stayed holed up here for years.

Kolomyia

It's a three hour drive across the Ukrainian steppes to Kolomyia, famous for the world's only Pysanka or Easter Egg Museum. Of course it's built in the shape of a giant egg and houses an impressive collection of intricately decorated specimens from all over the world. Nearby is another museum dedicated to the Hutsuls, the largest ethnic group in the Carpathians, scattered through both Ukraine and Romania. It's an excellent introduction to their culture with an exhibition of ethnic costumes, arts and crafts.

Yaremche

The landscape begins to change as I climb up to the town of Yaremche at 580m. The wide cornfields give way to forested hills, wooden houses and quaint chapels by the side of the road. The River Prut runs through the centre of town in a series of rapids, and there's a rather tacky craft market on either side of the ravine. However if you're in the market for woolly slippers or dodgy fruit wine, this is the place for you.

Bukovel

Another 40 minutes of climbing brings me to Bukovel, the largest Ski resort in Eastern Europe at 900m. It opened in 2000 and has 16 ski lifts with roughly 30 miles of pistes, and more are promised. There's a boating lake but otherwise there's not much character here. A few of the ski lifts remain open and, at the top of one of them, there's a rather terrifying Roller Coaster Zip line which hurls you high through the trees. I prefer a spot of gentle hiking.

Khotyn

An easy day's excursion from Chernivtsi, is the fairy-tale fortress of Khotyn, on a cliff overlooking the Dniester River. It was built around 1400 by the Moldavians but fell into Turkish hands in 1713. They kept it for another 100 years, until the Russians became the final owners. These days it's been much restored but it's still an impressive, with walls 40m high and 6m thick. It's been the location for many feature films, including the Ukrainian version of Robin Hood.

Kiev

I catch the overnight train to Kiev, the carriages built in former East Germany and full of communist charm. It's slow but comfortable, although all the windows seem to have been nailed shut. Ukraine's capital city has wide leafy boulevards, onion-domed churches and relatively few of those dull Soviet architectural monstrosities. Since Ukraine's independence many of the buildings have been restored and repainted as symbols of national pride.

Don't miss the 1980's reconstruction of the Golden Gates of Kiev or the 11th-century Orthodox cathedral of St. Sophia. I like the 19th century St. Volodymyr's cathedral which was a museum of atheism during Soviet times. The big attraction is the Lavra Cave Monastery which is a complex of religious buildings with catacombs below contained mummified bodies of former monks. Nearby is the huge Motherland Monument, known locally as "Brezhnev's Daughter", 62m high, dominating the skyline. It's part of the WW2 museum and you can climb up to the mother's hand in an interior elevator.



Kiev



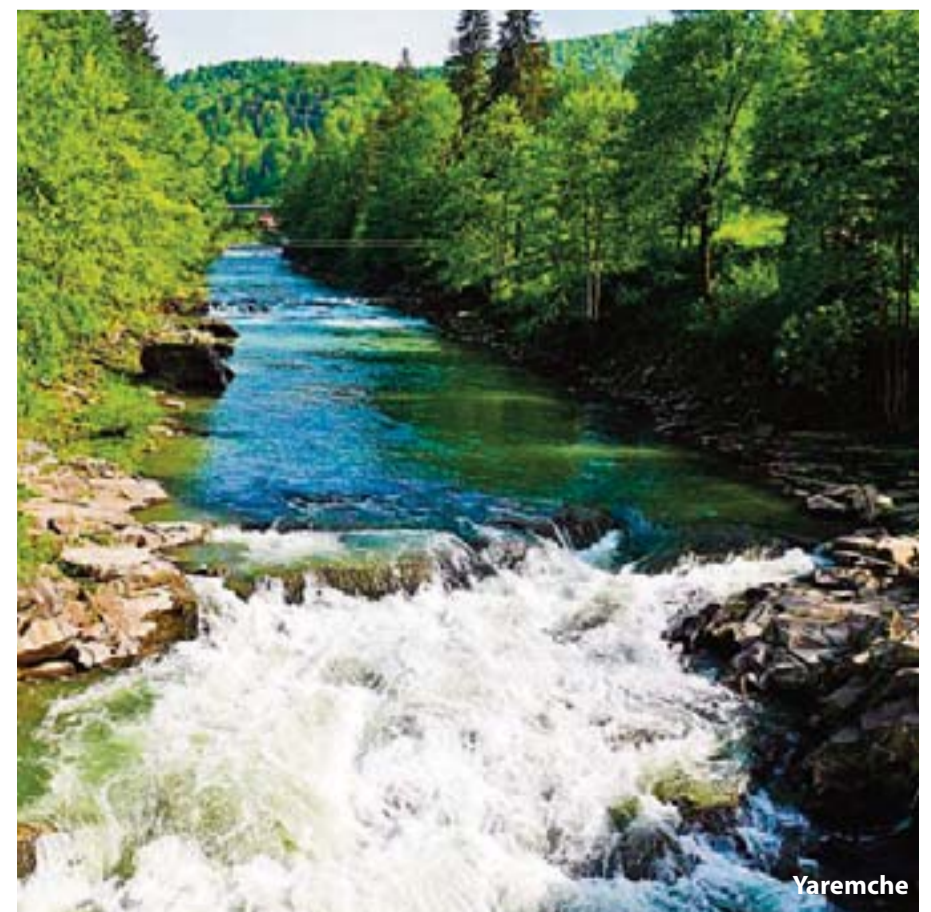
Khotyn



Kolomyia



Carpathian-Mountain



Yaremche

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:20 Universal Soldier: The Return
01:50 Age Of Ice
03:30 The Transporter: Refueled
05:15 Larceny
07:10 Ladder 49
09:10 Survivor
10:55 Road Wars
12:30 Larceny
14:10 Ladder 49
16:10 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
18:10 Dr. No
20:05 The 5th Wave
22:00 Wild Card
23:35 The Dead Lands

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Shamwari: A Wild Life
01:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
01:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life
05:02 Shamwari: A Wild Life
05:27 Shamwari: A Wild Life
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
08:15 Wildest Africa
09:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
09:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
11:55 Cats 101
12:50 Wildest Africa
13:45 River Monsters
14:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life
15:05 Shamwari: A Wild Life
15:35 Tanked
16:30 River Monsters
17:25 Animal Cops Houston
18:20 Lone Star Law
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
21:05 Animal Cops Houston
22:00 Lone Star Law
22:55 Wildest Indochina
23:50 River Monsters

BBC FIRST

00:15 EastEnders
00:45 Unforgotten
01:35 Ashes To Ashes
02:30 Ripper Street

08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Man v Expert
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Do You Know?
13:35 Do You Know?
14:15 Do You Know?
14:30 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Must Love Cats
16:10 Man v Expert
17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Don't Blink
19:05 Don't Blink
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival

ID

00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:20 Alaska Haunting
02:10 Who Killed Jane Doe?
03:00 Casey Anthony: An American Murder Mystery
03:48 Grave Secrets
04:36 Murder Chose Me
05:24 Murder Book
06:12 Blood Relatives
07:00 The Locator
07:25 The Locator
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 California Investigator
09:05 California Investigator
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 Shadow Of Doubt
11:10 I Am Homicide
12:00 The Locator
12:25 The Locator
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 California Investigator
14:30 Blood Relatives
15:20 Shadow Of Doubt
16:10 Nightmare Next Door
17:00 I Am Homicide
19:30 I Am Homicide
20:20 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
20:45 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
21:10 Betrayed

20:35 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
20:40 Bizaardvark
21:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Bunk'd
22:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
23:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
23:35 Lolirock

Disney JUNIOR

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:20 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 PJ Masks
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:35 The Lion Guard
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 Goldie & Bear
11:50 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 The Lion Guard
13:10 Doc McStuffins
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalievable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First

08:00 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Walk The Prank
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Gravity Falls
10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
10:20 K.C. Undercover
10:45 Right Now Kapow
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Hatching Pete
13:30 Milo Murphy's Law
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Future-Worm!
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Supa Strikas
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

00:00 Second Wives Club
00:55 Botched
01:20 Botched
01:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched By Nature
06:55 El News
07:25 Botched By Nature
08:20 Botched By Nature
09:15 Botched By Nature
10:10 El News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 WAGs Miami
12:05 WAGs Miami
13:05 WAGs Miami
14:00 WAGs Miami
15:00 El News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Second Wives Club
17:00 Second Wives Club
18:00 Second Wives Club
19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Botched
23:00 El News
23:15 Rob & Chyna

food

00:00 The Great Food Truck Race
01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
02:00 Private Chef
02:30 Private Chef
03:00 Chopped
04:00 The Great Food Truck Race
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Bake With Anna Olson
10:30 Bake With Anna Olson
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
21:00 Mystery Diners
21:30 Mystery Diners

Discovery CHANNEL HD

00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Heavy Rescue
01:50 Racing Extinction
03:20 Misfit Garage
04:05 Abandoned Engineering
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
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 Fast N' Loud
10:55 How It's Made: Dream Cars
11:17 How It's Made: Dream Cars
11:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Baggage Battles
13:10 Gold Rush
13:55 Abandoned Engineering
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 Gold Divers
21:50 Sonic Sea
23:05 Outback Truckers
23:55 How Do They Do It?

XD

06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Supa Strikas
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Access All Areas: Spider-Man: Homecoming

22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped

itv CHOICE

00:10 Pick Me!
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Catchphrase
02:30 Chopping Block
03:25 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
03:50 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
04:20 Royal Stories
04:45 Royal Stories
05:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
06:10 Pick Me!
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
08:30 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me
09:00 Royal Stories
09:30 Royal Stories
10:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
10:55 Pick Me!
11:50 Chopping Block
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Pick Me!
15:10 Chopping Block
16:00 Jekyll And Hyde
16:55 Cameraman To The Queen
17:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Chopping Block
21:00 Jekyll And Hyde
21:55 Cameraman To The Queen
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street

HISTORY

00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Pawn Stars
02:00 Storage Wars Texas
02:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
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 Billion Dollar Wreck
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
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 Pawn Stars
18:05 Pawn Stars
18:30 Storage Wars Texas
18:55 Storage Wars Texas
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 101 People Who Made The 20th Century
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

00:15 Poh & Co
00:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
01:10 Places We Go
01:40 A Is For Apple
02:05 Food School
02:35 The Food Files
03:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
03:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:25 Street Food Around The World
04:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
05:45 Glamour Puds
06:15 Korean Soul Food
07:10 A Is For Apple
07:35 Food School
08:05 The Food Files
08:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
09:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

THE LADYKILLERS



THE LADYKILLERS ON OSN MOVIES HD

09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:55 Street Food Around The World
10:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
11:15 Glamour Puds
11:45 Korean Soul Food
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 Route Awakening
13:35 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:25 Street Food Around The World
15:50 Glamour Puds
16:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
17:15 Island Hunter
18:10 Bad Trip
19:05 Street Food Around The World
19:30 Glamour Puds
20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
21:00 Island Hunter
22:00 Bad Trip
22:55 A Is For Apple
23:20 Route Awakening
23:50 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti

04:55 Crazy On The Outside
06:35 Parenthood Junior
08:40 Crazy On The Outside
10:10 Parenthood
14:15 Indian Summer
15:55 The Butcher's Wife
17:40 Lovesick
19:05 Trust Me
20:35 Absolutely Anything
22:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
23:45 Cops And Robbersons

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
01:00 From The Ashes
02:35 Innovation Nation
03:00 King Fishers
04:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
05:00 My Dog Ate What?
06:00 Science Of Stupid
06:30 Science Of Stupid
07:00 Border Wars
08:00 Breakthrough
09:00 My Dog Ate What?
10:00 Scam City
11:00 Primal Survivor
12:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Science Of Stupid
14:00 Breakthrough
15:00 Border Wars
16:00 Scam City
17:00 Primal Survivor
18:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
19:00 Border Wars
20:00 Scam City
20:50 Primal Survivor
21:40 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
22:30 Border Wars
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
01:10 Australia's Deadly Monsters
02:00 Vanishing Kings: Desert Lions Of Namib
02:50 Hunter Hunted
03:45 Extreme Animals
04:40 Namibia, Sanctuary Of Giants
05:35 Vanishing Kings: Desert Lions Of Namib
06:30 Hunter Hunted
07:25 Extreme Animals
08:20 Namibia, Sanctuary Of Giants
09:15 World's Weirdest (2015)
10:10 Dead Or Alive
11:05 Dangerous Encounters
12:00 Shark Alley
12:55 Viper Queens
13:50 Hunter Hunted
14:45 Jobs That Bite!
15:40 Gorilla Murders
16:35 Incredible Gulpers
17:30 Rescue Ink
18:25 Wild 24
19:20 Jobs That Bite!
20:10 Gorilla Murders
21:00 Incredible Gulpers
21:50 Rescue Ink
22:40 Wild 24
23:30 Shark Alley

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:40 Kim Possible: So The Drama
01:55 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
03:35 Charlotte's Web
05:15 Kim Possible: So The Drama
06:30 A Sunday Horse
08:15 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
09:55 Underdog
11:40 Charlotte's Web
13:30 Lilo & Stitch
15:00 Zootropolis
16:50 Nancy Drew
18:30 Bark Ranger
19:55 A Little Game
21:30 Lilo & Stitch
22:55 Zootropolis

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:30 A Short History Of Decay
03:05 Junior

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

00:55 Boyhood
03:45 The Better Angels
05:25 4 Minute Mile
07:05 Marry
08:40 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
09:40 The Better Angels
11:20 4 Minute Mile
13:00 The Yellow Handkerchief
14:40 Every Thing Will Be Fine
16:40 Eyes Of An Angel
18:15 Waking Life
20:00 The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou
22:00 The Danish Girl

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

00:25 Last Wizard
01:35 Memory Loss
02:55 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
07:00 Border Wars
08:00 Breakthrough
09:00 My Dog Ate What?
10:00 Scam City
11:00 Primal Survivor
12:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
13:00 Science Of Stupid
13:30 Science Of Stupid
14:00 Breakthrough
15:00 Border Wars
16:00 Scam City
17:00 Primal Survivor
18:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
19:00 Border Wars
20:00 Scam City
20:50 Primal Survivor
21:40 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
22:30 Border Wars
23:20 Science Of Stupid
23:45 Science Of Stupid

OSN MOVIES HD

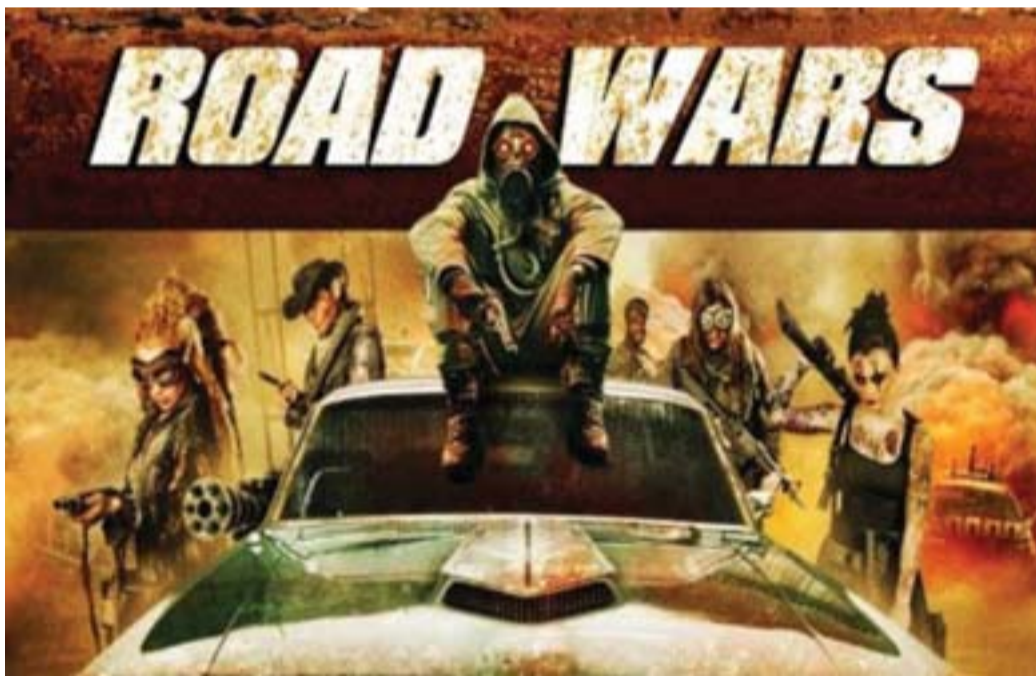
01:15 beaches
03:15 The Invention Of Lying
05:00 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
07:35 Beaches
09:35 The Ladykillers
11:25 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:10 War Horse
15:40 Air Force One
17:50 Big Fish
20:00 The Hurricane
22:25 He Got Game

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:30 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
01:20 Man v The Universe
02:10 How The Earth Works
03:00 Cosmic Collisions
03:48 Mythbusters
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 How The Universe Works
09:50 Mission Asteroid
10:38 Home Factory
11:02 Home Factory
11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
12:14 The Man Who Tweeted Earth
13:02 Mission Asteroid
13:50 How To Survive An Asteroid Strike: An Asteroid...
14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
15:26 How Do They Do It?
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Home Factory
17:26 Home Factory
17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Weird Or What?
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Engineering
22:00 Weird Or What?
22:50 Da Vinci's Machines
23:40 Mythbusters

TLC HD

00:20 Cake Boss
01:05 She's In Charge
01:50 Coach Charming
02:35 Kate Plus 8
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Cake Boss



ROAD WARS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

03:25 Ripper Street
04:25 Doctors
05:00 Doctors
05:30 EastEnders
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Casualty
07:55 New Tricks
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:40 Father Brown
10:30 Doctors
11:05 EastEnders
11:35 New Tricks
12:30 Call The Midwife
13:25 Father Brown
14:20 Doctors
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 New Tricks
16:15 Call The Midwife
17:10 Father Brown
18:05 Casualty
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 Orphan Black
21:00 Orphan Black
21:50 Spooks
22:45 Spooks
23:35 Casualty

22:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
22:50 Casey Anthony: An American Murder Mystery
23:40 Murder Chose Me

Disney CHANNEL HD

00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
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
06:25 Jessie
06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
07:15 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 The Zhuzhus S1
08:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
08:27 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
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 Disney's Descendants
12:40 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
12:45 Jessie
13:10 Girl Meets World
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Austin & Ally
14:25 Rolling With The Ronks
14:50 The Zhuzhus S1
15:15 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
15:20 Bizaardvark
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Descendants Wicked World
16:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
17:05 Stuck In The Middle
17:30 Stuck In The Middle
17:55 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
18:00 Girl Meets World
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Star Darlings
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies

crime & investigation network

00:00 Cursed
01:00 Paranormal State
01:30 Paranormal State
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
03:00 Killers
04:00 Cursed
05:00 Paranormal State
05:30 Paranormal State
06:00 The First 48
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
11:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
13:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
14:00 The First 48
15:00 When Life Means Life
16:00 Evil Up Close
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Homicide Hunter
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 When Life Means Life
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos

COMEDY CENTRAL

00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
00:30 Nextworld
01:20 Man v Expert
02:10 Dirty Jobs
03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Ultimate Survival
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 Kids vs Film
07:50 Must Love Cats

CLASSIFIEDS



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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



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 | | FANAR-3 | 11:30 AM | AVENUES-2 | |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 12:00 PM | Mr. FROG | 1:30 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX | 11:30 AM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 2:00 PM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 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 | 7:30 PM |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 12:45 AM | | | THE MUMMY | 10:15 PM |
| SHARQIA-3 | | FANAR-4 | 12:00 PM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 12:30 AM |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 12:30 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 2:00 PM | | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 3:00 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 4:00 PM | | |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 5:00 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 6:00 PM | | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 7:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 8:00 PM | | |
| KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 9:45 PM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 10:00 PM | | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 12:30 AM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 12:45 AM | | |
| MUHALAB-1 | | FANAR-5 | 12:30 PM | AVENUES-3 | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 11:45 AM | THE MUMMY | 2:45 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 12:00 PM |
| TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 1:45 PM | THE MUMMY | 5:00 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 2:00 PM |
| THE MUMMY | 4:30 PM | Mr. FROG | 7:00 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 4:00 PM |
| TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 6:45 PM | KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 9:45 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 6:00 PM |
| THE MUMMY | 9:30 PM | KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 12:30 AM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 8:00 PM |
| TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 11:45 PM | | | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 10:00 PM |
| MUHALAB-2 | | MARINA-1 | 2:15 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 12:05 AM |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 12:30 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 2:15 PM | | |
| KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 2:30 PM | KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 5:00 PM | | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 5:15 PM | KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 7:00 PM | | |
| KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 7:15 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 9:45 PM | | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 10:00 PM | TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 11:45 PM | | |
| KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 12:05 AM | | | | |
| MUHALAB-3 | | MARINA-2 | 11:30 AM | AVENUES-4 | |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:30 AM | THE MUMMY | 1:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 2:45 PM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 1:30 PM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 4:15 PM | KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary) | 2:45 PM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 3:30 PM | THE MUMMY | 6:30 PM | TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 5:30 PM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 5:30 PM | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 9:15 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 7:30 PM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 7:30 PM | TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 12:15 AM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 9:30 PM |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 9:30 PM | | | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:30 PM |
| PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 12:15 AM | MARINA-3 | 12:45 PM | 360°-1 | |
| FANAR-1 | | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 2:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:30 AM |
| DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:30 AM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 4:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D) | 1:30 PM |
| TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 1:30 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 6:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D) | 3:30 PM |
| THE MUMMY | 4:30 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 8:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 5:30 PM |
| TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 6:45 PM | THE MUMMY | 10:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 7:30 PM |
| THE MUMMY | 9:45 PM | THE MUMMY | 1:00 AM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 9:30 PM |
| TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight | 12:05 AM | | | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:30 PM |
| FANAR-2 | | AVENUES-1 | 1:00 PM | AL-KOUT.1 | |
| TISBAH ALA KHAIR | 11:45 AM | TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 3:45 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 11:45 AM |
| TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 1:45 PM | TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 6:30 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 1:45 PM |
| | | TUBELIGHT (Hindi) | 9:15 PM | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 3:45 PM |
| | | | | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 5:45 PM |
| | | | | DESPICABLE ME 3 | 7:45 PM |
| | | | | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 9:45 PM |
| | | | | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales | 12:30 AM |

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, NR Rockie Rodgers S/O Noel Rodgers, holder of Indian Passport No. K4263817 & Civil ID No. 274112305085 has changed my name to Jahangir hereinafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Jahangir. (C 5323) 2-7-2017

SITUATION WANTED
 Accountant holding qualification of ACCA, MBA Finance and B.Com, with 8 years of experience in Kuwait, looking for suitable job in reputed Audit Firms, Investment companies or Islamic banks. Contact: 55829223, email: acconline@gmail.com (C 5324) 2-7-2017

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:18
 Shorook: 04:53
 Duh: 11:52
 Asr: 15:26
 Maghrib: 18:51
 Isha: 20:23

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

EMERGENCY 112

Kuwait Times

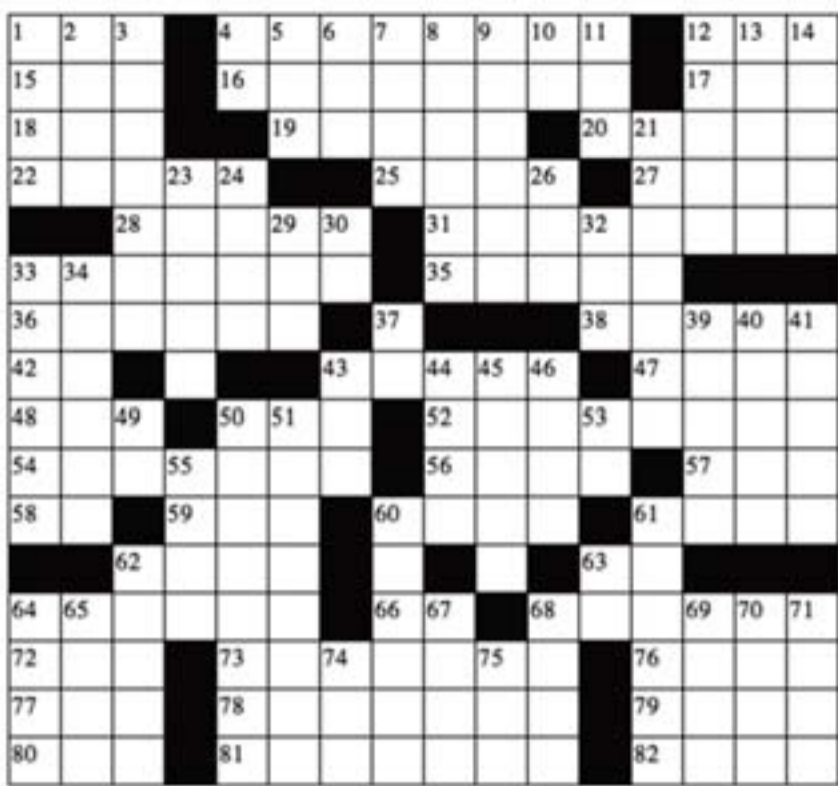
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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Tuesday 4/7/2017 | | | | Departure Flights on Tuesday 4/7/2017 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|------------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
| JAI | 574 | Mumbai | 00:05 | SAW | 702 | Damascus | 13:30 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 | THY | 767 | Istanbul | 13:45 |
| JZR | 553 | Alexandria | 00:15 | FEG | 938 | Sohag | 13:55 |
| SVA | 502 | Jeddah | 00:20 | MSR | 611 | Cairo | 14:00 |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 00:30 | AXB | 394 | Kozhikode | 14:10 |
| IAW | 157 | Baghdad | 00:30 | KNE | 536 | Jeddah | 14:55 |
| MSC | 411 | Asyut | 00:30 | GFA | 222 | Bahrain | 15:00 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:35 | KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:00 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 00:45 | KAC | 615 | Bahrain | 15:10 |
| KAC | 102 | London | 00:55 | QTR | 8512 | Doha | 15:15 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 | QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:15 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:20 | KAC | 775 | Riyadh | 15:30 |
| AXB | 395 | Kozhikode | 02:00 | JAD | 302 | Amman | 15:40 |
| KLM | 446 | Bahrain | 02:05 | KAC | 563 | Amman | 5:40 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 02:05 | SVA | 501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| PGT | 830 | Istanbul | 02:10 | KNE | 530 | Jeddah | 15:55 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:15 | JZR | 701 | Taif | 16:00 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 02:15 | OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:10 |
| KAC | 418 | Manila | 02:50 | ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:15 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 03:05 | ETD | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| MSR | 606 | Luxor | 03:05 | KAC | 513 | Tehran | 16:30 |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:10 | RJA | 641 | Amman | 16:55 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 03:15 | FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:05 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 | QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:25 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:40 | JZR | 552 | Alexandria | 17:25 |
| KAC | 544 | Cairo | 03:50 | JZR | 240 | Amman | 17:30 |
| KAC | 346 | Ahmedabad | 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 |
| FEG | 937 | Sohag | 05:00 | NIA | 362 | Alexandria | 17:50 |
| THY | 6376 | Istanbul | 05:05 | KAC | 381 | Delhi | 17:50 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:05 | KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 17:55 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 | KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 18:00 |
| JZR | 529 | Asyut | 05:35 | KAC | 343 | Chennai | 18:00 |
| KAC | 332 | Trivandrum | 05:40 | SVA | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:05 | GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:35 | JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:30 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:40 | JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 18:35 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:55 | KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 18:45 |
| JZR | 503 | Luxor | 07:25 | KAC | 345 | Ahmedabad | 19:20 |
| KAC | 354 | Bangalore | 07:50 | MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 | GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 19:50 |
| AAG | 142 | Sharjah | 08:00 | ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 20:00 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 | FDB | 058 | Dubai | 20:30 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 08:55 | KAC | 543 | Cairo | 21:00 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 | DLH | 634 | Doha | 21:00 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:20 | OMA | 648 | Muscat | 21:05 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | MEA | 403 | Beirut | 21:15 |
| IRA | 675 | Lar | 09:40 | KAC | 301 | Mumbai | 21:40 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | QTR | 1089 | Doha | 21:45 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 10:55 | DHX | 171 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| PAL | 668 | Manila | 11:00 | KAC | 205 | Islamabad | 21:55 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:10 | ETD | 308 | Abu Dhabi | 22:00 |
| MSC | 403 | Asyut | 11:25 | ALK | 230 | Colombo | 22:20 |
| SYR | 341 | Damascus | 11:25 | KLM | 445 | Bahrain | 22:25 |
| RBG | 553 | Alexandria | 11:30 | KAC | 383 | Delhi | 22:35 |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 11:45 | UAE | 860 | Dubai | 22:35 |
| SAW | 701 | Damascus | 12:30 | ETD | 310 | Abu Dhabi | 23:00 |
| THY | 766 | Istanbul | 12:50 | NIA | 0162 | Cairo | 23:10 |
| FEG | 933 | Sohag | 12:55 | KAC | 795 | Madinah | 23:10 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 | KAC | 783 | Jeddah | 23:10 |
| AXB | 393 | Kozhikode | 13:10 | QTR | 083 | Doha | 23:20 |
| KNE | 529 | Jeddah | 13:40 | PIA | 240 | Sialkot | 23:35 |
| QTR | 8511 | Doha | 13:45 | KAC | 411 | Bangkok | 23:35 |

CROSSWORD 1650



ACROSS

1. A tight-fitting headdress.
 4. (anatomy) Of or relating to a chiasm.
 12. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
 15. An awkward stupid person.
 16. Burrowing diurnal meerkat of southern Africa.
 17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
 18. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
 19. Any of various thermoplastic resins used to make things.
 20. Occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion.
 22. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
 25. (British) Traditional jazz as revived in the 1950s.
 27. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
 28. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
 31. The animal order including amoebas.
 33. Mail sent by a sender at one time.
 35. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
 36. The Latin name for England.
 38. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
 42. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
 47. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
 48. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
 52. Goat grass.
 54. A country on the Comoro Islands.
 56. In bed.
 57. Not reflecting light.
 58. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
 59. (in golf) The standard number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course, or for the entire course.
 64. (Jewish cookery) A loaf of white bread containing eggs and leavened with yeast.
 66. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
 72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
 73. Preaching the gospel of Christ in the manner of the early church.
 76. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
 77. The compass point that is one point north of due east.
 78. Related to or characteristic of or written in Amharic.
 79. Acute lung injury characterized by coughing and rales.
 80. A master's degree in education.
 81. A baby from birth to four weeks.
 82. South African term for 'boss'.
- DOWN**
1. Fossil fuel consisting of carbonized vegetable matter deposited in the Carboniferous period.
 2. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
 3. 100 pfennigs equal 1 Deutsche Mark.
 4. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
 5. Czechoslovakian religious reformer who anti-cipated the Reformation.
 6. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
 7. Channel into a new direction.
 8. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
 9. The capital of Bahrain.
 10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
 11. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
 12. Spanish architect who was a leading exponent of art nouveau in Europe (1852-1926).
 13. Covered or protected with or as if with a case.
 14. A particular environment or walk of life.
 21. A long-acting crystalline barbiturate (trade name Mebaral) used as a sedative and as an anticonvulsant in the treatment of epilepsy.
 23. Behave carelessly or indifferently.
 24. Being three more than fifty.
 26. A licensed medical practitioner.
 29. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
 30. 1/10 gram.
 32. Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
 34. (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
 37. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
 39. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
 40. A small Asian country high in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.
 41. Social status or position conferred by a system based on class.
 43. (computer science) The rate at which data is transferred (as by a modem).
 44. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
 45. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 46. Advanced in years.
 49. Before noon.
 50. Of or relating to the peoples who speak the language of the Arawak.
 51. Minimal meaningful language unit.
 53. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
 55. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
 60. Inhabitant of the island of Cebu.
 61. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
 62. Any of various organs that synthesize substances needed by the body and release it through ducts or directly into the bloodstream.
 63. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
 65. A French abbot.
 67. A city in northern India.
 68. The rate of moving (especially walking or running).
 69. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
 70. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
 71. (comparative of 'little' usually used with mass nouns) Quantifier meaning not as great in amount or degree.
 74. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet.
 75. An engineering university in Cambridge.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A need to be respected is an emotionally charged issue in your life at this time. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you now. Taking care of business is a major theme where your orientation is concerned. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. You manage to become a mentor to a young person today. The less said to this person, the better; he or she just want a listening ear. You have a natural sense for communicating with others and you will have your turn to talk soon enough. Remembering past experiences helps you in the making of future plans.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

If you are not on vacation now, you should be. This is the most amicable time to travel. In the working world someone may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking. Events could conspire to make it difficult for you to perform your work but you will find a positive outcome. You are most persuasive but you may discover this a better time to sit back and let others discover what they need to know. You will be able to proceed as you work with work matters later this afternoon. You have great confidence with the challenges before you. You enjoy working hard and being organized and you exercise discipline in anything that affects your career. Tonight there is time for wonderful conversations with a loved one.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Traveling to and out of a familiar, but less traveled area, could be just what the mind, body and spirit needs this week. This could be a familiar path or side road instead of traveling the busy highways. There are opportunities to relax and perhaps tarry awhile today. If your life has been particularly stressful recently, perhaps it is time to feed the ducks, swing in a swing or write a poem. You will receive recognition for your hard work and be encouraged to move forward in some future business projects. By the time the evening comes around you will have some new, clear-minded insight into some of your own plans. This is a very good time to communicate your goals and put them into words. Expect some adjustments.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Work today may seem almost easy to work out but be aware of any unusual details. This is a great time to take your time and review your work... You will be pleased with the outcome. Insights and solutions are available. Continued change, search, discovery and transformation keep you on the move and growing. You are able to penetrate and get to the very heart of what really matters-research could be an option for your working future. This afternoon you may find yourself examining your ideals and goals-try not to stay too long in this phase. You could take an interest in a creative activity within a group of interesting people. Being more creative will help to open new possibilities for solving difficult problems, at home or work.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are in love with what is practical, right down to the last detail. Spiritual matters, not necessarily religious, bring you insights you would not normally have. You appreciate tradition and ceremony and are conservative in all things. The beauty and meaning of symbolism may find you visiting different religious groups from time to time, including today. The order of things, rituals, patterns and symbols give you the grounding you need to function in reality. The two must balance for you to feel complete. You are loyal, seldom overly emotional and always proper. Cool as a cucumber, you may be surprised when others tell you that you help to create in them a calm attitude. Contact with a faraway relative is successful this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Even the most hardosed of us have moments of real understanding, when things are seen as linked together and one piece. These moments and this state of mind are, in fact, the source for all our imagination. There are many ways of seeing through the separateness in the world to the unity behind it. Obviously, your imagination is on fire. You might enjoy presenting some of your ideas or work, if you are an artist or in advertising. You will know just the right thing to do in order to get what you desire. This is a good time to approach the ideas you have had regarding investments. Choices in purchasing items for yourself or your house will be excellent. If you have no birds or fish around your living area, this may be something you consider.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your sense of direction and guidance are the key to understanding you at any in-depth level. You are a natural at solving problems or clearing away confusing situations. You manage to come up with the correct approach to most difficulties. There is a natural ability to negotiate with authorities, plus an ability to find your way when it comes to inner and spiritual matters. There could be situations that call upon your expertise to inform or guide others within the bounds of legal matters today. Others will accept your guidance and counsel. Your drive to get at the heart and truth of things is constantly invoked and serves as a common theme in your life. This evening, all sorts of opportunities are available in which you can relax and enjoy your loved ones.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

These next few years will find circumstances working to help you raise yourself up and move yourself forward. In summary, this marks a more outward and enjoyable series of years, during which things will come to you easily. Develop your talents and invest your money. Investments can start small and grow beyond your imagination. You are learning that you have to give something in order to get something and this is a message you need to take to heart now. Be on the lookout for financial opportunities. Sacrifice leads to gain in more ways than one, some of them not so obvious at the outset. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth become important issues in your life. A friend may request some attention this evening-trust your intuition.



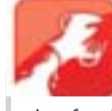
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. This is a great time to be around others in work or play. You will probably stay on the request list when a difficult project comes up. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Gut-level is the way you think, speak and perceive. You are not interested in the superficial and you are intent to get right to the truth of a matter. You do not care about the universal, only about how things impact you and yours. Intellect and emotion mix to the point of inseparability. Being more in touch with your roots is a keynote of the cycle that now takes hold in your life. This has to do with feelings, but it's more than that: it's about making the things you care about a reality.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are a natural architect and builder-able to use your mind to make decisions in matters of form and function. For you, the goal and the way to get to it are the same thing. You like to build each step and have each decision be an end in itself. Things must be done right. You also have great skill with the law, whether man-made or those of nature, and you can put all of this into words. You could teach others. In fact, today seems to be centered in discussions, lessons or teachings with regard to law and philosophy, religion and amnesty. All of this has a lot of potential to impact your lifestyle. A sociable, congenial, slightly frivolous orientation sets in this evening. A friend returns a favor or debt to you tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are a very feeling person and can sense the drift of a situation without a lot of analysis. This immediate hands-on approach might be contrasted with one that is more deliberate and cerebral. You radiate energy and information and you may have to just accept the fact that people like to feel your warmth. Let others help you when you need help-be flexible. Today is good for using your imagination for problem-solving. A convention may be where you can show your best expertise and the remainder of this week will be in getting ready for this convention show. You have a green thumb in many areas, able to cultivate and nurture almost any subject. Tonight you may prepare or clean out an herb garden-you have the lights and you will know what is needed.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You will probably pass through this workday quite easily just now. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. Because of your management or directional abilities, you may find an opportunity to advance in the workplace-a step up the ladder, so to speak. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Real insight into your own inner workings or psychology could surface in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations or thoughts with friends this afternoon. Honest and level headed is the way you think, speak and perceive. You are willing to get right to the root of things. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. Romance is very possible later this evening. Horoscopes July 2017

WORD SEARCH

Halloween

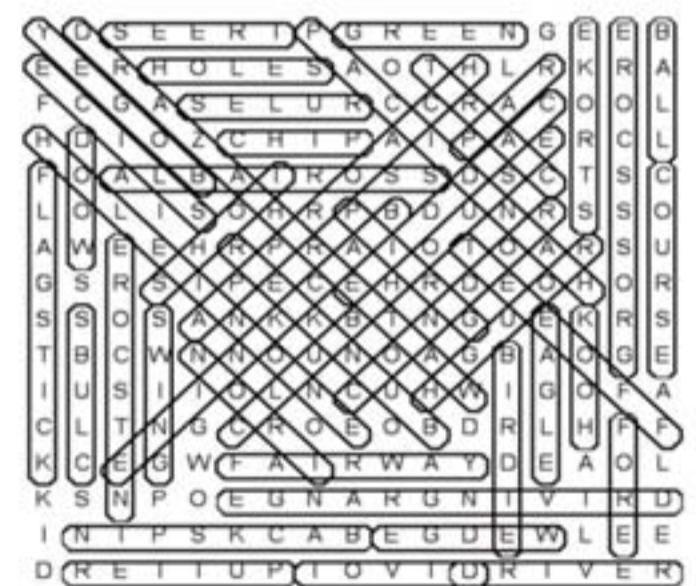
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an activity played on Halloween.



- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| APPLES | COSTUME | JACK O LANTERN | SKELETON |
| BATS | DRACULA | MASK | SKULL |
| BLACK CAT | FRIGHTENING | MUMMY | SPIDERS |
| BROOMSTICK | FULL MOON | NIGHT | TOMBSTONE |
| CANDLE | GHOSTS | PUMPKIN | VAMPIRE |
| CANDY | GHOULS | SCARECROW | WEREWOLF |
| CEMETERY | GOBLINS | SCARY | WITCHES |
| COFFIN | GRAVEYARD | SCREAM | ZOMBIE |

Yesterday's Solution

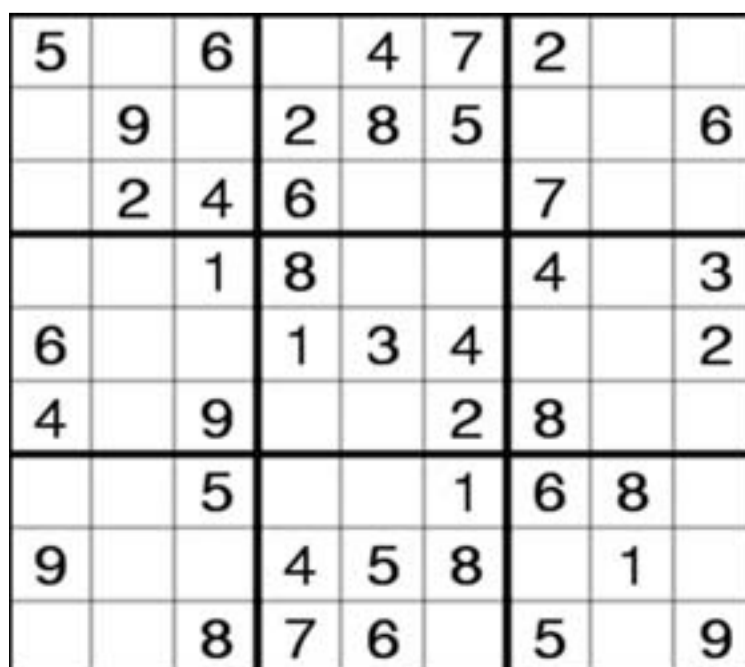
Golf



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ALBATROSS | CLUBHOUSE | GREEN | ROUGH |
| APPROACH | CLUBS | GRIP | RULES |
| BACK NINE | CONDOR | GROSS SCORE | SHOT |
| BACKSPIN | COURSE | HANDICAP | SLICE |
| BALL | DIVOT | HOLE IN ONE | STROKE |
| BIRDIE | DRIVER | HOLE | SWING |
| BOGEY | DRIVING RANGE | HOOK | TEE OFF |
| BUNKER | EAGLE | IRON | TREES |
| CADDIE | FAIRWAY | NET SCORE | WATER HAZARD |
| CART | FLAGSTICK | PAR | WEDGE |
| CHIP | FORE | PUTTER | WOOD |

The hidden message is: GOLF IS A GOOD WALK SPOILED

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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



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

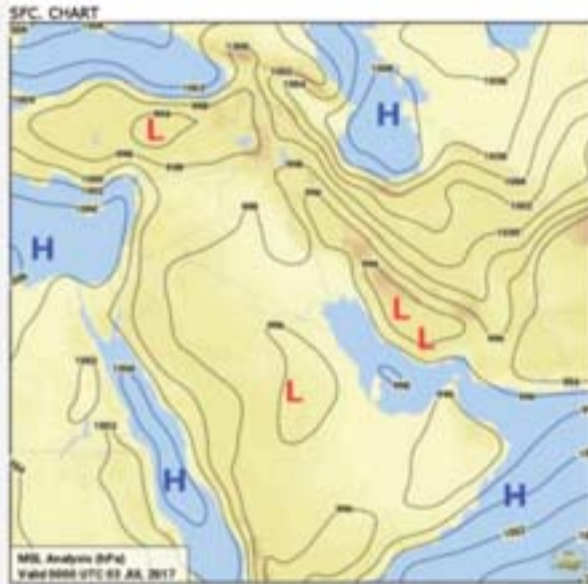


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 03/07/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr
Max Temperature 48 °C

By Day: Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.
By Night: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

| | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| Expected Weather | Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas | Very hot | Very hot | Very hot and + causing rising dust over open areas |
| Min Temp °C | 29 | 29 | 31 | 32 |
| Max Temp °C | 48 | 49 | 49 | 50 |
| Wind Direction | south westerly changing to south easterly | variable changing to northerly westerly | variable to south easterly | northerly westerly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 12 - 35 | 06 - 26 | 08 - 32 | 15 - 42 |

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | REC | Max °C |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|
| KUWAIT CITY | 34 | | 45 |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 28 | | 48 |
| ABDAILY | 30 | | 48 |
| BUBYAN | 29 | | 41 |
| JAHRA | 32 | | 48 |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 30 | | 44 |
| SALMIYAH | 32 | | 43 |
| AHMADI | 35 | | 40 |
| JAL ALIYAH | 31 | | 49 |
| QAROH ISLAND | 31 | | 36 |
| UMH AL-MARADEM | 31 | | 36 |
| HUWAISIB | 29 | | 48 |
| WAFRA | 27 | | 49 |
| SALMIY | 31 | | 47 |
| MUTRIBA | 29 | | 50 |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 47 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 27 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 34 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 07 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 39 SE |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 04:53 |
| Sunset | 18:51 |

Prayer Times

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 03:18 |
| Sunrise | 04:53 |
| Zuhr | 11:52 |
| Aar | 15:26 |
| Sunset | 18:51 |
| Isha | 20:23 |



PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologists | Plastic Surgeons |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 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-Mikhaizeem | 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 |

| Paediatricians | Endocrinologist |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi | 25665898 |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed | 25340300 |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard | 25710444 |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar | 22621099 |
| Dr. Snaa Maarouf | 25713514 |
| Dr. Pradip Gujare | 23713100 |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew | 24334282 |
| Dermatology | |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University | 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. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali | 22633135 |

| Family Doctor | Psychiatrists | Gynaecologists & Obstetricians | Internists, Chest & Heart |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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 | | |

| Physiotherapists & VD | Rheumatologists: | Internist, Chest & Heart | Consultant Cardiologist |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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. Mohammed 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 | | |
| Consultant Cardiologist | | | |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC | 2611555-2622555 | | |
| Inaya German Medical Center | | | |
| Te: 2575077 | | | |
| Fax: 25723123 | | | |

GOSSIP

BLONDIE'S DEBBIE HARRY STILL FEELS 27



Blondie's Debbie Harry still feels as though she is in her 20s because her band's music keeps her young at heart. The pop icon turned 72 on July 1 and even though she is a proud septuagenarian in her mind she's still a rocking 20-something because she and her bandmates are still making great new songs and playing to thousands of fans. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, Debbie said: "I still think I'm 27, that's the problem. My mother always said to me, 'You're always going to feel 25 inside.' I thought, 'Oh that sounds OK.'" As well as keeping her feeling young, the 'Heart of Glass' hitmaker says music never fails to lift her mood or give her "a boost" when she needs it. She added: "Music has got me through a lot of different situations. In my daily life, suddenly a song will pop into my head and give me a reality check, or a boost. I think that happens to everyone. It does take pain away." Blondie played an incredible set featuring many of the band's greatest hits when they supported headliner Phil Collins at Barclaycard presents British Summertime Hyde Park last Friday. And Debbie and her bandmates are showing no signs of slowing

down as they have just announced a new UK tour in support of their new and 11th studio album 'Pollinator'. They will be playing the Manchester O2 Apollo on November 11, the Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on November 13, the Glasgow SSE Hydro on November 14 and London's O2 Brixton Academy on November 16. Tickets for the gigs go on sale this Friday. Before those dates Blondie have also announced they will be performing at BBC Radio 2 Live in Hyde Park on Sunday September 10. With their LP 'Pollinator' the group want to raise awareness about the plight of the bee population and fans can help make a difference by purchasing special limited edition 'Pollinator/Save The Bees' T-shirts - the net proceeds of which will go directly to the conservation of the insects through education, consumer empowerment and political activation along. Blondie have been working with the Pollinator Partnership, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace on the campaign.

ABBA announce new exhibition

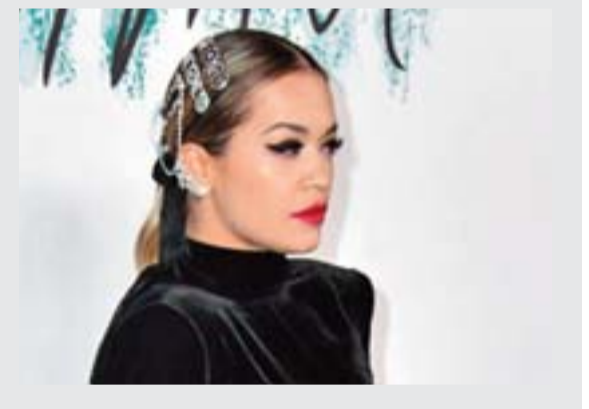
ABBA have announced a new immersive exhibition in London. The Swedish pop superstars split up in 1982 after 10 years together, but are still dedicated to keeping the spirit and memory of the band alive for their fans. 'ABBA: Super Trouper' will hit London's Southbank Centre in December and will give their admirers the chance to delve into their archives. There will also be different rooms which have been setup to replicate the biggest moments in the bands' history. They include a reproduction of the Brighton Grand Hotel room the group - which was comprised of Björn Ulvæus, Benny Andersson, Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad and Agnetha Fältskog - made their home during their 1974 'Eurovision' win. Singer Björn, 72, said: "Since our songs, which were written in the 70s, are still being played today it's particularly interesting that the Southbank Centre exhibition is placing them in the temporal context in which they were created. 'We recorded 'Mamma Mia' in 1975. What happened that year in the UK and in the world? One thing is for certain - it seems unbelievably long ago!" Frida said: "We are so excited that the exhibition is taking place at

the Southbank Centre, which is just a few short steps away from Waterloo." Last year, it was confirmed they were getting back together for a new virtual reality experience. The 'Dancing Queen' hitmakers teamed up with the Spice Girls' former manager Simon Fuller and Universal for the unique project, which allows fans to see and hear the group in a whole new way. Simon, 57, said at the time: "The creativity and ideas flowing from the members of ABBA over the past few months have filled me with great excitement. We are exploring a new technological world, with Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence at the forefront, that will allow us to create new forms of entertainment and content we couldn't have previously imagined." The project was said to involve all four members of ABBA who first came together in Stockholm in 1972. However, rumors that they were to use the digital experience on tour in 2018 have been denied. 'ABBA: Super Trouper' opens at the Southbank Centre from December 14 to April 29, 2018.



Rita Ora wants Gwen Stefani collaboration

Rita Ora's dream collaboration would be with Gwen Stefani. The 'RIP' hitmaker has done tracks with the likes of Charli XCX, Calvin Harris, Tinie Tempah and Iggy Azalea, but she is desperate to team up with the No Doubt singer and has confessed she is her "stalker". Speaking to Becca Dudley for an episode of MTV ASKS Rita Ora, which airs tonight at 10pm, she said: "I think I'd love to collaborate, I've been saying this from the start is Gwen Stefani because she's like my idol. I've actually met her a few times and she knows that I say her name in every interview and she thinks I'm a crazy person. Like a crazy stalker, which I am and I fully admit." Meanwhile, Rita revealed that her new single 'Your Song' was sent to her by her pal Ed Sheeran and producer Steve Mac via email. She said: "Yes, so this was written by Ed Sheeran and Steve Mac and it got sent to me through an email because I've been mates with Ed for a really long time and I've always wanted to work with him, but we've never really found the right time." The 26-year-old pop star also worked with rapper 2-Chainz on her long-awaited second album, and admitted she relishes spending time with the hip-hop star. She spilled recently: "I love him. 'It's the best friendship ever. He's the coolest in the world. People are so surprised but me and him are actually friends. He's like my homey." The buxom blonde said she's a fan of his music and is glad they finally got to work together on her new album. She continued: "He knows so much and I guess he has lived through a lot. He's one of my favorite rappers in the world so I'm happy we finally got to do something."



Nas hails Jay-Z's 4:44 album

Nas has congratulated Jay-Z on "pushing the culture forward" with his new album. The New York-born rap star has praised his one-time rival on Instagram, following Jay's recent release of his much-discussed '4:44' record, which features guest appearances from the likes of Frank Ocean, Damian Marley and Beyoncé. Nas - whose real name is Nasir Jones - wrote on the photo-sharing website: "Say what u want, but music is what's helping people unite and stay cool in these times, American music about the last thing keeping USA in good standing. Congratulations to Jayz for pushing the Culture forward with his new album 4:44! (sic)" Jay's latest album was released at the end of June and it was recently revealed his wife Beyoncé listened to every song on the record before it made the final cut. Producer No I.D. shared: "I always call Bey our de facto A&R. Pillow talk is the strongest conversation on the planet. Every song has to get past her ears, in my eyes." "She came by a lot and played a good part in helping us get over

hurdles on certain records. Of course she's genius-level with that." Jay-Z's title track from '4:44' features an apology from the star - who has kids Blue Ivy, five, and newborn twins with his singer spouse - to his wife, and is believed to be a direct reference to claims she made that he was unfaithful with "Becky with the good hair" on her visual LP 'Lemonade'. Jay rapped: "If my children knew, I don't even know what I would do. If they ain't look at me the same, I would probably die with all the shame." "You did what with who? What good is a ménage a trois when you have a soulmate, you risked that for Blue?" "I apologize, often womanize, took my child to be born, see through a woman's eyes." "Took for these natural twins to believe in miracles. Took me too long for this song. I don't deserve you. (sic)"



Lorde's third album to 'explore new worlds'

Lorde's third album will "explore new worlds". The 'Green Light' hitmaker only released her second studio venture 'Melodrama' last month, but it seems she's already thinking about material for the next record as she took to Twitter on Sunday to tease the content of her future release. Quoting a tweet from a fan account which highlighted the 10 times throughout 'Melodrama' that the 20-year-old singer mentions dancing, Lorde said: "wow lol i didn't realize it was at this level... needless to say next record will move firmly away from dancing & explore new worlds :)" "but right now i literally live to dance & i'm so proud to have written my thesis on it this time - it's religion/therapy/purgatory/heaven (sic)" It comes after the 'Perfect Places' singer took to the micro-blogging site the day previous on Saturday to tell her fans she is "proud" of her work as she performed in seven countries in seven days for the first time. She wrote: "just did seven countries in seven days for the first time. popstar achievement unlocked "god i'm proud of my work if u knew half the battles female artists gotta fight to keep it only magnificent for u..." "i care for and respect you all so much. And love u with my whole heart. I'll always do it for u. "just happy to be back playing shows for you and levitating i'm thriving cut my hair been drinking lots of water and eating fruits (sic)" Despite being pleased to be back on the road playing shows, Lorde has been having a hard time of it recently, as she was struck with a cold whilst in Oslo, Norway. She tweeted last week: "In oslo with a cold. popped a strepsil out of the packet + two nyquil - took a sip of water and then accidentally SWALLOWED THE STREPSIL (sic)".



West working with Bieber on comeback?

Kanye West is reportedly teaming up with Justin Bieber for his big comeback album. The 'Sorry' hitmaker revealed last September that the pair had written songs together and that he wasn't sure if they would see light of day. However, they are likely to book in further studio time later this year, when the 23-year-old pop superstar finishes his 'Purpose World Tour' in September, the Daily Star newspaper reports. When Justin was asked whether he will ever release any of the other songs he wrote with the rapper, he previously teased: "I don't know...maybe...hope so." Kanye shared his appreciation for Justin when he said his hit 'What Do You Mean?' was his "favorite song of 2015". It would be only fitting that the 40-year-old hip-hop icon should work with Justin as he's always given him advice throughout his career. Speaking previously, Justin said: "Out of anyone in the industry who is creative, he really gets me. "His advice is always just, 'Make music that's so good

people can't hate on it." Justin was only too pleased that the 'All Day' hitmaker wanted to listen to the songs he'd written. He said: "I didn't wanna bore him or waste his time. So I was like, 'Can I play you these songs?' and he was like, 'I wanna hear everything!' To hear him say that, it just showed that he cared." Kanye previously worked with Justin and legendary producer Rick Rubin on his record 'Purpose'. The father-of-two - who has four-year-old daughter North and 18-month-old son Saint with wife Kim Kardashian West - cancelled the remaining dates for his 'Saint Pablo Tour' last year, and was swiftly hospitalised for sleep deprivation and mental exhaustion. However, he is eager to reschedule his dates and put on a show everyone will be desperate to see. A source said recently: "Kanye wants to finish the tour. He loves his show. He wants everyone in the world to see it."



Green Day's fan show

Green Day invited a number of lucky fans to perform with them as they headlined Barclaycard's British Summer Time on Saturday. The US rockers kicked off a blistering set in London's Hyde Park with 'Know Your Enemy' and frontman Billie Joe Armstrong invited a guy from the audience to come and join him on stage and take over lead vocals, with the thrilled fan rushing around the stage and taking the opportunity to embrace the singer and his bandmates Tre Cool and Mike Dirnt before departing dramatically with a stage dive. A female fan was later brought out to take on vocals on 'Longview', and also hugged the trio before stage diving at the request of the singer. During a cover of Operation Ivy's 'Knowledge', Billie asked a fan to come and play guitar, but was unimpressed by the female he brought up on stage who quickly proved she was unable to play, asking her to go back into the crowd and bringing another girl up instead. After successfully showing off the simple chord sequence, the delighted fan was told she could keep the frontman's guitar when she left the stage. Elsewhere during the show, the group made no attempts to hide their disdain for US President Donald Trump. Singer Billie thanked fans for their support and said: "I [don't] need any politicians telling me what to

think. "We all come from different backgrounds ... everyone's got something they don't want to talk about. "You can call me naive all you want but I firmly believe rock and roll music can change the world. "No sexism. No racism. No homophobia. And no Donald Trump!" After two-and-a-half hours and a string of hits - including 'Basket Case', 'Holiday', 'Warning', and 'When I Come Around' - and two encores, the first of which featured 'American Idiot' and 'Jesus of Suburbia', while the second was a solo acoustic slot from the frontman, the trio left the stage to a string of applause from the 60,000-strong crowd. BST Hyde Park continues with headlining performances still to come from the likes of Kings of Leon, The Killers and Tom Petty and fans can go to bst-hydepark.com to purchase tickets. Amazon Prime customers will have access to the Amazon Prime Terrace at Barclaycard presents British Summer Time Hyde Park. Ticket holders to the Amazon Prime Terrace will get a great view of the stage, a glass of champagne and access to the The Barclaycard VIP Summer Garden to relax throughout the festival. Prime members can visit Amazon Tickets at tickets.amazon.co.uk/prime to find out more about available shows, and sign up to Amazon Tickets weekly emails.

GOSSIP

Robert Downey Jr doesn't want to drop the ball as Iron Man

Robert Downey Jr wants to stop playing 'Iron Man' before it gets "embarrassing" and he can't do the role justice. The 52-year-old actor has starred as the metal-suited superhero in seven movies, kicking off the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2008's 'Iron Man', and will be returning as Tony Stark in the next two 'Avengers' films. Downey still enjoys suiting up for the blockbusters but doesn't want to overstay his welcome if he can't perform to the best of his ability on screen. Speaking to News Corp Australia, he said: "It's this cyclical thing. I could have said when the first 'Avengers' came out, 'It's never

going to get any better than that. Everybody stop.' But to me it's always about people and opportunities, like the 'Avengers' directors Anthony and Joe Russo, who I adore. Everyone says to me it's like a glove that fits so well. I have to start over every time but I am starting over with a pretty solid base. "I just never want to blow it for the last six or seven MCU movies, I have done by dropping the ball because I decided to go do it one more time. "I just want to hang up my jersey before it's embarrassing." Downey can currently be seen as the character in the Marvel Studios and Sony Pictures co-production

'Spider-Man: Homecoming' and he admits he was drawn to the film because of 'Cop Car' director Jon Watts who has helmed Spidey's first full MCU adventure. He said: "I felt like we were literally back in the writer's room on the first 'Iron Man'. So there was a real sense of a homecoming toward this - not experimental, because there is so much more data now and the process is so much more streamlined - but I didn't feel like I was being asked to just fit in somewhere. They wanted us to bring our own little thing."



Edgar Wright explains directing quirk

Edgar Wright loves shooting complicated scenes on the first day on a movie set. The acclaimed director filmed a very long tracking shot on the opening day of 'Baby Driver' and Edgar believes it helped his cast and crew to better understand his aspirations for the crime thriller. Speaking to Collider, he explained: "I did a similar thing on 'Shaun of the Dead'. The steady cam shot on 'Shawn on the Dead' was done on the first day of the shoot. And I think it's always a good thing to do a one like that on the first day, because it really involves the entire cast and crew. And it's also something whereby everybody at the end of the day can see the shot. "You know, when everybody watches it back you've got a crew that can see what you're working on. Sometimes on movies, anybody outside the inner circle is not really included. "I'm sure there are crew members standing around on other movies going, 'I don't know what the hell they're doing.'" Meanwhile, Edgar recently revealed he first had the idea for 'Baby Driver' 22 years ago. But because he was still an up-and-coming director living in North London at the time, Edgar didn't have the opportunity to realize his ambition. He explained: "It's funny, when I've mentioned that kind of timeline - having the idea 22 years ago - it's true in a sense that I heard a song and visualized a car chase, which is John Spencer Blues Explosion's 'Bellbottoms', and that's in the movie. "But when people say 'So why did it take 22 years to get to the screen?' I'm like, 'woah, back up! 22 years ago I was living in Wood Green, I was 21, I'd made my first feature but it hadn't come out yet."

Rachel Zoe puts family first

Rachel Zoe's puts her family before her work. The 45-year-old stylist - who has counted the likes of Jennifer Garner, Kate Hudson, Cameron Diaz and Salma Hayek among her clients - always switches off from "distracting" technology when she's with sons Skyler, six, and Kai, three, because she wants to be a present parent. Rachel - who is married to Rodger Berman - told Us Weekly: "I'm 100 percent present with my children. When you're with your children, don't be on your phone, don't be on your computer, don't be so distracted. Make sure you're there, when you're there." While she has a thriving career, Rachel, studied psychology and sociology at university and when she graduated, she didn't expect to work in fashion, but through a vague acquaintance landed a job as an assistant at a teen magazine. And the style guru credits her work ethic and dedication for helping her progress through the ranks, eventually leaving the publication when she was senior fashion editor. She said: "I was hired to work three days a week, but I worked five or six days a week. "I was the first one there and the last one to leave and the first one to offer myself to do anything." Rachel previously admitted she thinks having a nursery at her office is one of the best business decisions she's ever made. She said: "I opened a nursery in the office when we had a handful of employees all have babies at the same time - we had four new mothers at once. Making space for a nursery just made sense. It allowed for mothers to work with a certain piece of mind knowing that their little ones were nearby and feel focused while in the office. "The goal was to create an environment where new mothers would not have to make a choice between career and motherhood."



Fantastic Beasts 2 to pay homage to Harry Potter

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them 2' will have some "surprising nods" to 'Harry Potter'. The magical franchise takes place years before the boy wizard is born or embarks on his adventures at Hogwarts and even before the rise of Lord Voldemort and follows Magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), who travels the world protecting endangered magical creatures and documenting them. The adventures are set in the same universe that J. K. Rowling has created and will have numerous direct links to the world the author first created in her books and which was shown on screen in the movies starring Daniel Radcliffe as the bespectacled magical lad. An official statement revealed: "The film expands the wizarding world, moving from New York to London and on to Paris. "There are also some surprising nods to the 'Harry Potter' stories that will delight fans of the books and film series." Shooting on the project has begun with Redmayne, 35, reprising his role as Newt and Katherine Waterston, 37, as Auror Tina Goldstein, Alison Sudol, 32, as Queenie and Dan Fogler, 40, as Jacob Fowalski. Johnny Depp, 54, is back as Gellert Grindelwald and Jude Law, 44, is set to play a young Albus Dumbledore. Ezra Miller, 24, is back as Credence, Zoe Kravitz, 28, will take on the role of Leta Lestrange and Callum Turner, 27, will play Newt's brother Theseus Scamander. David Yates, who helmed four Harry Potter films and the first 'Fantastic Beasts', is set to return to the director's seat for the next installment with Rowling penning the script for the story which is set in 1927. The statement added: "J.K. Rowling wrote the screenplay for the film which opens in 1927, a few months after Newt helped to unveil and capture the infamous Dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald. "However, as he promised he would, Grindelwald has made a dramatic escape and has been gathering more followers to his cause - elevating wizards above all non-magical beings. The only one who might be able to stop him is the wizard he once called his dearest friend Albus Dumbledore. But Dumbledore will need help from the wizard who had thwarted Grindelwald once before, his former student Newt Scamander. The adventure reunites Newt with Tina, Queenie and Jacob but also test their loyalties as they face new perils in an increasingly dangerous and divided wizarding world." It is the first of four planned sequels by Warner Bros and 51-year-old Rowling, and it is scheduled to open in cinemas in November 2018.

Perry pictured at airport during 'live' performance

Katy Perry was spotted walking through Sydney Airport when she was performing 'live' on 'The Voice Australia' on Sunday. The 32-year-old pop star's performances of 'Chained To The Rhythm' and 'Swish Swish' were trumpeted as being live by the Nine Network, but the

broadcaster has since been forced to admit Katy's efforts were pre-recorded. A spokesperson told News Corp: "There are instances where we have to pre-record a performance just prior to the broadcast because of the demands of staging. "The production complexities of performances like Katy's means sets can't always be struck and re-set during the time allowed by a commercial break." Similarly, Katy's appearance on 'Sunrise' yesterday morning has been promoted as being live. But a spokesperson for the Seven network has confirmed Katy's segments on the show was pre-recorded last week. The spokesperson explained: "Katy Perry has recorded her portions of the show. We let fans know that last week, by inviting them to come down and see her during her appearance." Meanwhile, Katy recently admitted she was "scared" of being herself when she first entered the music industry. The chart-topping pop star revealed she created her on-stage persona "out of protection". She said: "A lot of people are living in fear from something that happened in their childhood, or some form of PTSD they picked up along the way, and I created this wonderful character called Katy Perry that I very much am, and can step into all the time, but I created that character out of protection. "I was scared that if you saw me, Katheryn Hudson, the girl wearing the going, 'OK, I've been upset my whole childhood so I'm going to show the world I am something, that I am going to do something and that I am enough! "I didn't want to be Katheryn Hudson. I hated that, it was too scary for me, so I decided to be someone else."



Priscilla Presley and Sir Tom Jones are long-time 'friends'

The celebrity duo set tongues wagging in February when they were spotted together backstage at a Jerry Lee Lewis concert - but Priscilla has clarified the situation, revealing they've been good pals since 1968. Priscilla explained: "Tom and I have been friends since '68. It is true. That's not the first time we've been out obviously, but probably the first outing in public. "But always friendship, always friends. He's a great guy. Part of that was because he lost his wife, that was the love of his life. It was kind of friends getting together to support him." Priscilla, the former wife of music icon Elvis Presley, addressed the rumors ahead of the 40th anniversary of Elvis's death, which is being marked by the Elvis and the Symphony Orchestra tour later in 2017. And the 72-year-old actress has revealed she still listens to the hits of Elvis

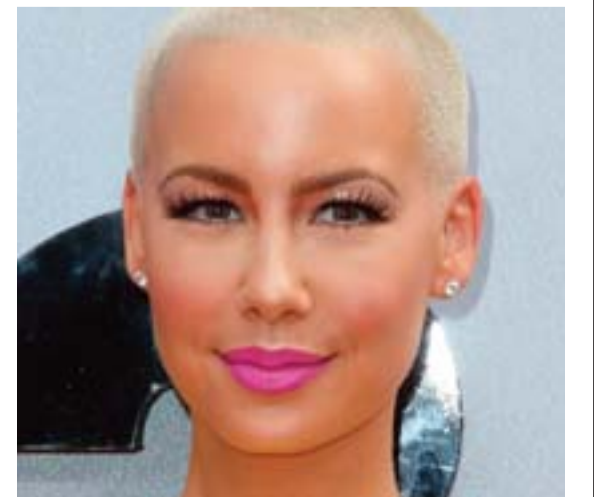
- who died in August 1977, aged 42 - whilst she is doing the school run with her grandchildren. Speaking to ITV's 'Good Morning Britain', Priscilla shared: "When I drive (the grandkids) to school we play his (Elvis) music or we'll play other music as well as I want them to be on top of who's out there pop wise. They have their own taste. "One of the twins loves opera. He (Elvis) used to love opera, hence of course the show with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of classical music." Meanwhile, Sir Tom's wife Linda passed away in April 2016, shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Sir Tom subsequently admitted Linda still appeared in his dreams. He said: "When I dream that she's still here and then I wake up and she's not, that's the hardest."



AMBER ROSE WEIGHS IN ON SKIN COLOR ROW

Amber Rose has fought "racism and feminism" throughout her adult life. The 33-year-old model has responded to rap star Kodak Black's confession that he prefers light-skinned black women to darker women in a lengthy post on Instagram, in which she has detailed her own experiences of dealing with prejudice. The Philadelphia-born star - who comes from a mixed race family - wrote: "Modeling jobs, boys and opportunities came to me easier but did not realize that until I got older. Growing up in Philly I went to an all black school. I was the "white girl" The one that the boys DIDN'T like. The girl that wasn't as cool as the brown skinned girls. Black was the thing to be! "But for me my mom was my only black parent, my dad was as white as snow and I came out just as light as him. I would lay out in the sun and try to get as dark as I could. I would look at all of the beautiful dark skinned girls in my class and wish that I could wear bright color shirts like they did but it never quite looked as good on my complexion..... but the Brown skinned girls would pick on me, pull my hair and want to fight me for no reason? Why tho?! I loved them! I wanted to be them! Little did I know at such a young age society was teaching them to hate me. Society was telling these girls that they weren't as beautiful as me because of their complexion. (sic)" Amber subsequently stressed the need for women, regardless of their appearance, to stick together. Alongside a video of Kodak's comments, she continued: "Getting older I found myself always battling racism and feminism, asking directors why isn't there any dark skinned girls in the music videos I was featured in? Even when I was Stripper maybe

there were 1 or 2 brown skinned girls that would get hired because they didn't want the club to be too "Black". "I can't help that I was born with light skin but I am a woman before anything else! We need to stick together as women and educate society, educate men like this with black mothers! Not let men/people dictate what type of woman is in style or more beautiful. We are all smart and capable of being great! No matter where we come from or what complexion we are! If no one tells you you're beautiful I'm here to tell you that you are! (sic)"



FASHION



Models present creations by Iris Van Herpen during the 2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection in Paris yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

Art mixes with the aquatic for Paris Couture Week



Art, color and aquatic musing defined yesterday's energetic installment of Paris Couture week - with fashion insiders dashing from fall-winter collections to celebrity-filled soirees. Here are some of the highlights. Schiaparelli's love of art turns diaphanous Elsa Schiaparelli has famously blurred the lines between fashion and art. Designer Bertrand Guyon took the iconic Parisian couturier's passion for painting yesterday to produce a diaphanous collection of couture gowns that fluttered by guests at Paris' Place Vendome. With hints of the 1930s draping styles and high necks that defined the late Schiaparelli's heyday, Guyon placed allusions to Cubism and Surrealism at the heart of the show.

A flame red heart made of silk ruffles adored the waist of a voluminous, layered black tulle bustier gown. A white tuxedo jacket sported an embroidery of a sparkling eye and motifs of moons at different stages of shadow sparkled on a bodice. A dragonfly belt clasp gave a silk bustier dress in ochre a magical quality. It wasn't just nostalgia, though in the 36-gown collection. Guyon added some stylish contemporary twists. The front lapel of a square monochrome jacket was cut to evoke Cubism - the side of a guitar, alongside a panel featuring a musical score. The look then frothed out thanks to a sheer tulle skirt, and knee-high leather boots gave it a street-wise kick.

Iris Van Herpen hits 10 years, goes aquatic

Celebrating ten years at the helm of her fashion house, lauded conceptual couture designer Iris Van Herpen took a watery trip down memory lane for her mesmerizing, aquatic couture spectacle. The near-illusionist backdrop had guests reaching for their cameras. Van Herpen has a penchant for the dramatic and yesterday's show did not disappoint: Musicians were encased inside a water-filled tank with instruments to accompany the collection.

The water theme dripped out into the surreal, brooding couture creations that revisited the Dutch wunderkind's signature fusion of organic forms with technology and mechanics. White gowns, constructed of tendrils or fibers, provoked myriad interpretations - evoking simultaneously the lines of a sound wave, the rippling sea or the gills of a fish. The silhouettes were varied but infused with large Asian-style sleeves and exaggerated proportions. Motifs on a floor-length Asian-style gown resembled fossils buried at the bottom of the sea, while a curved front panel of a skirt jutted out three-dimensionally like the silvery, metallic fins of a fish.

Carla Bruni signs at Amfar dinner

Popstar and former French First Lady Carla Bruni serenaded VIP guests at Amfar's fundraising dinner and auction at Paris' Petit Palais to raise money for the global fight against HIV and AIDS. Bruni sang her new song "Enjoy the Silence," as well as a soulful rendition of The Rolling Stones' "Miss You," before the energetic auction began Sunday night.

Among the objects was a rare print of a publicity shot of late singer David Bowie for his LP "Diamond Dogs" - taken by photographer Terry O'Neill - that was snapped up for 20,000 euros (\$22,700). And a week on a 44-meter (144-foot) yacht went under the hammer for 115,000 euros (\$130,800). The evening also marked the Paris launch of amfar's new fragrance, Gala, which was conceived as a tribute to the Foundation's founding international chair-

man, Elizabeth Taylor, the first celebrity to have her own line of fragrances.

Chaumet's secret circus party

"The Artist" star Berenice Bejo, Spanish actress Rosy de Palma and "Harry Potter" star Clemence Poesy were among guests at jeweler Chaumet's circus-themed gala Sunday night that aims to promote its upcoming high jewelry line. VIPs guests were picked up outside Chaumet's Place Vendome headquarters by a vintage 1936 bus and jerkily driven to a secret location, slurping champagne.

There were gasps of wonder as the bus pulled up to the "Musée des Arts Forains," a little-known private museum near the Seine River that houses a collection of funfair objects. Inside, guests saw merry-go-rounds, performers and a hall of mirrors and were served candy floss in a surreal recreated funfair. Chaumet is showcasing its sparkling designs at the end of Paris Couture Week. — AP



FASHION



Models present creations by Schiaparelli during the 2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection in Paris yesterday.



Deirdre Larkin (85), holder of the half marathon world record in the 85+ category, poses in her home in Johannesburg.



Deirdre Larkin cross the finish line at the end of a 10km race in Johannesburg. —AFP photos

South Africa's record-breaking running 'Grande Dame'

Deirdre Larkin breezes through Johannesburg's suburbs most mornings, her white hair buffeted by the wind as she runs her well-trodden eight-kilometer training course. At 85-years-old, this retired concert pianist who only began running in later life can complete a half marathon in just over two hours and holds the world record time for her age. "Before I turned 78, the last time I ran was in college, and I was really bad," she said, standing in her home in front of a wall of some 500 medals recognizing her athletic feats. Stopping for selfies with children and to offer her fellow runners encouragement, Larkin has become a major draw at the races she runs.

"As people pass me, because most people pass me, they greet me and say 'hello-I saw you on TV!' Otherwise we don't really talk for any length of time because you need your breath," she said following a recent 10-km race in Pretoria. Her late fame as a runner has come as a surprise for the pianist who arrived in South Africa from Britain in 1970. Shortly after 2000, Larkin's doctor diagnosed her with osteoporosis which she was unable to treat with medication or injections.

Then in 2010, one of her four children briefly moved into her home in Johannesburg's middle-

class Randburg suburb-where she has been dubbed by local media the "Grande Dame of Randburg". "My son ran three times a week. I said I would join him. When I started, I was walking three steps, running three steps, walking three steps..." she recalled.

Just seven years later, her running had been transformed. In May she was invited to compete in Switzerland where she completed a half-marathon in two hours five minutes, setting a world record for her age group. "Running in Geneva was absolute magic, the race itself was lovely. It was flat, you started in the gardens, you came to the fields and you ran alongside the lake," she said.

'An element of disbelief'

To stay in shape, Larkin adheres to a strict regimen-no sugar, salt or coffee and a 5:00 am start every day for training. Last year alone she ran in 65 races, including several 21 kilometer (13 mile) half-marathons. "There's always an element of disbelief. I can't believe I've done it. But my body tells me the next day I certainly did it," she said. "My blood goes around my body much quicker, I don't feel cold, I can feel all the muscles in my body-I never knew I've got so many muscles! I feel much more alive."

Once her grueling morning routine is complete, Larkin doesn't take time to rest. Jumping into her small yellow car she heads to a private college in the north of the city to give piano lessons. Still stressed in her pink and blue Nike running shoes, but having swapped her shorts for trousers, Larkin put a teenage girl through her paces while wielding a conductor's baton. The former concert pianist does not allow a single error to go unmentioned but still congratulates the pupil on her progress.

'Defying all the odds'

"After lessons I'm usually very exhausted... (but) it reminds me that I can do whatever I want to do because she's defying all odds," said the 17-year-old student Vuyo Tshwele as she paused between scales. Every week some 30 students gather to learn from Larkin's experience, formed over many years of playing in Vienna and Britain, as well as South Africa. And despite preparing to turn 86 in September, Larkin has no intention of slowing down. "I can imagine a life without running but it's a kind of slow death," she said. "I'm going to run as long as I can-even if I only have one leg, I'll manage." — AFP



Deirdre Larkin presents her medals in her home.



Deirdre Larkin prepares to run a 10km race.



Deirdre Larkin trains in Johannesburg.



Deirdre Larkin looks on as she teaches piano to Vuyo Tshwele (16) at St Peter's College in Johannesburg.



Event workers wearing Spider-Man costumes pose for a selfie for a fan during a promotional event for the film "Spider-Man: Homecoming" in Seoul, South Korea. The film will be released in South Korea tomorrow. — AP



Charlotte the rat leans against Garth Honhart's face during a popup Rat Cafe at the San Francisco Dungeon in San Francisco, California.



Sprout the rat cleans herself while standing on the shoulders of a Rattie Ratz volunteer during a popup Rat Cafe.



Emory the rat stands on the shoulders of Molly Darling Roque.



Charlotte the rat is held by a Rattie Ratz volunteer.



Winter the rat stands on the shoulders of a Rattie Ratz volunteer during a popup Rat Cafe.— AFP photos

I'll have a rat with that: San Francisco's new rodent cafe

The rodent-borne bubonic plague may seem unappetizing, but for a few San Francisco visionaries, it proved just the inspiration needed to launch one of the city's latest eateries: The Rat Cafe. The pop-up cafe, which opened Saturday, offers visitors a chance to munch on a breakfast of pastries, coffee and tea, and enjoy a bit of play time with a small handful of rats. Hosted inside The San Francisco Dungeon, an immersive tourist attraction that takes visitors on a journey through the city's dark past from Alcatraz to the violence and greed of the Gold Rush, the \$50 breakfast was conceived after some employees began pondering the venue's section on a black death plague that struck in the early 20th century.

"We tell the story of the (bubonic) plague here in San Francisco and we really thought we wanted to do something special for the summer," said the Dungeon's Matthew Gunter. "Let's bring the rats to life, let guests actually get a chance to get up close and personal with rats, of course plague-free rats," he said. Several dozen people have shelled out the money to attend one of two breakfast sessions in which they get to interact with approximately six to eight rats and have breakfast. The venue says more breakfasts may be planned at a future date.

Krissi Reeves, a spokeswoman for the Dungeon, said tickets for the July 1 and 8 events sold out in less than an hour. "The rats are pretty darn cute and the people who

purchased tickets, I think they have already decided that they're gonna like the rats and not be too scared," she said. The rats are provided by Rattie Ratz, a California non-profit that helps place pet rats in homes. "They love to be petted, they're very affectionate. They're way more affectionate than any small animal I know," said the organization's Jennifer Girgar. The Rat Cafe opens amid a booming cat cafe trend in parts of Asia and even the United States and Europe, in which visitors sip beverages surrounded by felines which are often available for adoption. — AFP



People pet Emory the rat during a popup Rat Cafe.



Zoe Parsigian pets Charlotte the rat during a popup Rat Cafe.



Emory the rat is held by Molly Darling Roque during a popup Rat Cafe.