



THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

SHAWWAL 12, 1438 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

Airport sees 427,000 travelers for summer holidays, Eid



Duterte proposed deal to end city siege, then backed out



'Jaws' downs 72 hotdogs in 10 minutes to win US eat-fest



Besiktas sign Pepe from Real; Messi commits to Barcelona



BLOC REGRETS 'NEGATIVE' QATAR RESPONSE, BOYCOTT TO REMAIN

GERMAN FM, UN ENVOY IN KUWAIT • TURKEY ADAMANT ON BASE



150 FILS
NO: 17272
40 PAGES



Min 32°
Max 49°
High Tide 09:35 & 23:31
Low Tide 03:31 & 17:12



Bahraini Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa (left), Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir (second left), UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (second right) and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri (right) meet in the Egyptian capital Cairo yesterday. (Inset) Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Thani speaks at the Chatham House think tank in London yesterday. — AFP

CAIRO: Four Arab nations seeking to isolate Qatar over its alleged support for extremist groups were irked yesterday by what they said was a "negative" response by the tiny Gulf nation to their demands for ending the crisis roiling the region. Doha's response, they said, was "not serious" and betrayed Qatar's "failure" to realize the gravity of the situation. They refrained from slapping further sanctions on Qatar, but said their boycott of the emirate would continue.

The announcement followed a meeting by foreign ministers from the four nations - Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - in Cairo, shortly after they said they had received Doha's reply. The four accuse Qatar of supporting terror groups and also of maintaining close relations with Shiite power Iran - Saudi Arabia's nemesis. They also say Qatar must stop meddling in their affairs.

Egypt's foreign minister, Sameh Shukri, told reporters Qatar's response to the Arab states' 13-point list of demands was "negative on the whole." It did not "lay the foundations for Qatar's abandonment of the policies it pursues. It's a position that does not realize the gravity of the situation," he added. The ministers did not say what their next steps would be - that, they explained, would be announced after further consultations. They will meet next in Bahrain, but a date has yet to be set. "We hope wisdom will prevail and Qatar will eventually make the right decisions," Shukri added.

Continued on Page 13

ARE YOU OVER 30?



By Badrya Darwish

badrya_d@kuwaittimes.net

Hi guys, it's been a long time! But it's my habit not to write during Ramadan - to leave the holy month away from criticism and conspiracy theories and instead focus on worshipping and fasting. The funniest part was that many of the most serious issues and news erupted in Ramadan, as if they were timed. Nevertheless, the holy month is over, and a belated Eid Mubarak to you all.

Let's start with local issues only - away from serious regional politics. No Qatar, no Yemen. No Hamas is a terrorist organization. No other issues, etc, etc. No Iraq. No Daesh. No Mosul battles. Let's not talk about anything else. Let's stick to our local issues. They are safer.

This week, my attention was caught by reports of a proposal before the manpower authority to limit work visas only to expat workers aged over 30. I have no idea what this means exactly. I've tried to understand it left, right and center, but find no common sense in it. What if a company holds an interview and signs a contract with a potential employee, be it a he or a she, who has the proper skills needed, and what if they are 29? In which way should that make a difference?

Thank God they are not putting this rule for domestic helpers, otherwise all of us Kuwaiti women will march to Hind Al Sabeeh's office to protest! This only concerns the private sector. I don't know if it will also apply to workers on the streets, cleaning companies and laborers in all fields - porters at the airport, cleaners at public authorities and streets, security in the malls, etc. All of these menial workers who are super essential for the country must be over 30 years old? But they are healthier and stronger if they are younger and can better adapt to the working conditions in Kuwait including low salaries, crowded living conditions and of course the unbearable heat.

I don't know about the guys who come up with these sick and funny ideas. In which way are they serving the country? If they want to develop Kuwait, there are real and very significant ways to organize labor in Kuwait. First, stop wasta (connections). Second, stop the trafficking. Third, don't bring any more unskilled laborers, regardless of their age. Fourth, get rid of the unskilled labor that has come here by wasta. This is the way to organize labor in Kuwait. Put stricter rules and enforce them when it comes to decent accommodation, salaries paid on time and working and living conditions, so that we can attract quality, skilled workers. Not quantity.

Thank you very much.

TABTABAEI WARNS AGAINST TIES WITH ISRAEL

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei yesterday warned Gulf governments against normalizing relations with Israel, saying any such measure would be opposed by the people of the Gulf. He said on his Twitter account that dealing with the Zionist entity is totally rejected and will be opposed.

The lawmaker also sent a series of questions to acting information minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah after the ministry allowed the publication of a novel he claimed contained material contravening Islamic teachings and public morals. Tabtabaei asked the minister if the ministry censorship committee reviewed the novel, called 'Soparto', before it gave its approval for its publication.

The lawmaker demanded the names of the members of the censorship committee and asked why it gave the approval despite the objectionable contents. He also asked if the novel has been allowed to be sold in Kuwait and if the ministry has taken any disciplinary actions against members of the censorship committee. Tabtabaei also asked if the novel has been withdrawn from the

market and demanded an official circular indicating this.

Meanwhile, the appeals court yesterday adjourned the trial of 70 opposition activists including current and former MPs accused of storming the National Assembly building after defendants demanded changing the judges. After making the demand, the court decided to adjourn to allow the presiding judge make a decision on sending the case to another court. The appeals court was due to deliver its verdict in the case last month, but it decided to reopen defense arguments yesterday after including a number of MPs in the case following the Assembly's summer recess.

At least two MPs are among the 70 defendants and the Assembly has refused to lift their immunity to appear in the trial. But their immunity was lost automatically when the Assembly went into recess a month ago. The court did not set a date for its decision on the change. The criminal court had acquitted all the 70 defendants who were among a large crowd that entered the Assembly in Nov 2011 following street demonstrations against former prime minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who resigned at the end of the same month.

AWO HONORS FAWZIYA AL-RIFAE



CAIRO: Director General of the Arab Women Organization Mirvat Al-Tellawi honors Fawziya Al-Rifae (left), widow of late Nasser Mohammad Al-Kharafi. (See Page 4)

News

in brief

Bombs from 'Highway of Death' unearthed

KUWAIT: Authorities yesterday said unexploded bombs from what was known as the "Highway of Death" in the 1991 Gulf War have been uncovered in Kuwait. The Public Authority of Housing Welfare said a military bomb squad would defuse the ordinance found along Highway 80, which connects Kuwait City to the Iraqi border. Construction crews working on a \$950 million housing project in the area found the bombs. KUNA said "finding explosives on the site is not surprising" and contractors had been warned they could be there. The "Highway of Death" got its name when US-led coalition aircraft bombed a convoy of fleeing Iraqi forces, killing hundreds and leaving behind hundreds of burned-out vehicles.

Midday work ban still in force: PAM

KUWAIT: The decision to ban laborers from working in outdoor areas during noon hours is still being enforced, said Deputy Director Manager of the Public Authority of Manpower Abdullah Al-Mutoutah yesterday. He noted the decision, in force since June 1, aims to prevent workers from carrying out tasks under the scorching heat of the sun. Regarding the authority's efforts to enforce the decision, Mutoutah said that some 56 sites with 132 laborers have violated the ban. He added that only 35 sites with 83 laborers have abided by the decision.

PERU REVEALS FACE OF ANCIENT RULER

LIMA: Introducing the Lady of Cao: using high-tech 3-D printing and based on the skull of an ancient mummy, scientists have reconstructed the face of a woman who governed in northern Peru 1,700 years ago. The woman's mummified remains were discovered at the Cao Viejo adobe pyramid in 2006 in the Chicama Valley, just north of the modern city of Trujillo. "Technology allows us to see the face of a political, religious and cultural leader of the past," Culture Minister Salvador del Solar said when he unveiled a life-like bust of the woman on Tuesday in Lima.



The woman, dubbed the Lady of Cao, belonged to the Moche culture that thrived in the northern coastal region between 100 and 800 AD. She had been buried with metal items and wooden scepters wrapped in copper that symbolized the power she wielded when she was alive. Archaeologists say she is the first known female governor in Peru.

Before this experts did not believe that women had any governing or religious authority in pre-Hispanic Peru. Scientists worked for 10 months to replicate the woman's face by analyzing her skull structure and comparing it with pictures of female residents of Magdalena de Cao, the town nearest to the pyramid. — AFP

IMPROVING EGYPT-HAMAS TIES UNSETTLE PALESTINIAN POLITICS

PLO SLAMS HALEY FOR LEADING 'CRUSADE'

GAZA: A series of meetings between Hamas and senior officials in Cairo in recent weeks points to improving ties between Egypt and the Islamist Palestinian movement, with implications for Gaza, Palestinian politics and the wider region. Ismail Haniya, who has recently assumed the post of Hamas's leader, said in a speech in Gaza yesterday that relations with the Gaza Strip's neighbor to the southwest were warming. "We have launched a new chapter with Egypt and the relations have witnessed a big move," he said.

For much of the last decade, Egypt has joined Israel in enforcing a land, sea and air blockade of the Gaza Strip, a move to punish Hamas and its armed wing, which seized the territory in 2007 and has controlled it since. The situation has worsened in the past month as Israel, at the request of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA), has cut electricity to Gaza, leaving it with barely four hours



GAZA: Hamas leader Ismail Haniya gives a speech in Gaza City yesterday. — AFP

of power a day. The sanctions are part of a years-long effort by the PA, led by the rival Fatah party, to force Hamas to relinquish power in Gaza and join a unified government. Power cuts have hit hospitals and water treatment plants, squeezing Gaza's two million people amid a draining heatwave. Sensing the need to act, and worried about losing popular support, Hamas has sought to mend ties with Egypt, which controls their one border crossing and has, under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, been highly wary of ties between Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, which Sisi ousted from power after mass protests.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

AMIR RECEIVES GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and the accompanying delegation. Present during the meeting were His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, in addition to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled later held a separate meeting with his German counterpart, which was attended by Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah as well. The meeting delved into their bilateral relations, strategic partnerships and the exchange of viewpoints regarding matters of mutual importance in the regional and international spectrums.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said he values Germany's support of Kuwaiti mediation efforts, led by His Highness the Amir, aimed at Gulf unity and resolving the crisis enveloping the region. On the other hand, he hailed the positive and crucial role assumed by Germany on several regional and international issues, and its commitment to the security and stability of the region.

Meanwhile, the German minister reiterated support of Kuwait's handling of the Gulf crisis, urging restraint and the need to resort to dialogue in order to reach a solution that satisfies all parties. The talks were also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister for First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Office Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister for Ceremonial Affairs Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Deputy Foreign Minister for First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Office Affairs Saleh Al-Lothani and other ministry officials.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

In other news, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received yesterday the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman. The encounter was held in the presence of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah. During the meeting, Ambassador Feltman expressed UN concern over the continuing crisis in the region, and its hope that the issue may be resolved soon. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah and other ministry officials. — KUNA



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel.



Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

EU ACTIVELY SUPPORTING KUWAITI MEDIATION EFFORTS: MOGHERINI

EUROPEAN STATES BACK KUWAITI INITIATIVE

CAPITALS: The European Union is actively supporting the Kuwaiti mediation efforts to resolve the ongoing crisis in the Gulf, EU High Representative Federica Mogherini announced Tuesday. The EU foreign policy chief in a statement said she is taking part in a number of high level engagements to de-escalate the situation with the backing of the 28 EU Member States, and she is in contact on a daily basis with all the relevant players including the foreign ministers of Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

She noted that last Friday she met in Croatia with Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and underlined the importance of the unity and stability of the Gulf region and the "urgent need for a dialogue to avoid further escalation and resolve differences." Both agreed that a solution should be found within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and that other countries should not be drawn into the dispute. Mogherini also met with the Foreign Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Thani, at the beginning of June. There she spoke of the good relations the EU has with the GCC, the interconnectedness of the region and that restoring a good level of regional cooperation in the Gulf is "key for the benefit of all citizens of the Gulf, of all people in the Gulf." In an effort to engage all parties concerned, Mogherini also spoke with the foreign ministers Adel Al-Jubeir of Saudi Arabia and Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran. She also met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Anwar Gergash, in Brussels on 20 June.

"All together, we encourage de-escalation and most of all we encourage all Gulf countries to engage in political dialogue without preconditions accepting the mediation role of Kuwait," the High Representative said.

The EU is "ready to help, assist and accompany these mediation efforts in all ways that might be requested," she added. Mogherini restated that "the European Union has the firm intention to keep strong relationships and ties



EU High Representative Federica Mogherini

with all the Gulf countries and we hope that they will manage to restore good working relations among them."

Positive role

Meanwhile, France yesterday reiterated its support for the mediation of the State of Kuwait in the current Gulf crisis around Qatar, saying the Kuwaiti initiative was positive in helping promote dialogue between the parties. "France invites the Gulf Arab States to settle the differences they evoke through consultations," the French Foreign Ministry said. "We reiterate our support for the mediation brought by Kuwait, which constitutes a positive undertaking in favor of dialogue," Paris added. Kuwait has played a crucial role in mediating between the parties and in shuttle diplomacy to encourage restraint and dialogue, and also to extend deadlines in the dispute.

Separately, Russia yesterday expressed its support for Kuwait's efforts as the main mediator in the Gulf crisis. At the end of his meeting with the Arab League's Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Moscow backs Kuwait as the country that attempts to quell the ensuing rift between the Gulf neighbors. The Russian Foreign Minister noted that his country stands ready to join efforts to solve the conflict, if asked. Lavrov also underscored the need to quell the unrest through productive dialogue. —KUNA

KUWAIT, UK HAMMER OUT JOINT GROUP'S SIX-MONTH BLUEPRINT

BRITAIN RECOGNIZES KUWAIT'S MEDIATION ON GULF CRISIS

LONDON: Kuwait and the UK yesterday signed the Joint Steering Group's plan of action for six months to come aimed at ensuring an effective and smooth implementation of previously inked agreements. The blueprint was inked by Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and UK Minister of state for Middle West Alistair Burt, with several officials from both sides attending.

The move came following the conclusion of the 10th meeting of the Kuwait-UK Joint Steering Group, which reflected on ways of promoting and beefing up bilateral cooperation in various domains. During the meeting, both sides reiterated mutual willingness to consolidate Kuwaiti-UK cooperation and to thrash out potential obstacles.

They emphasized in a joint statement that they have to continue mutual visits, and work together in political, military, security, economic, trade, investment, cultural, development, scientific, research and cybersecurity domains. Also during the meeting, the Kuwaiti side voiced the desire to make use of UK experience in the area of financial policies and budgets, along with personnel training. Furthermore, they expressed satisfaction with existing cooperation and coordination among their military and security agencies in the fight against terrorism. The State of Kuwait and the UK also vowed to exchange views on an array of regional issues and prob-



LONDON: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and UK Minister of state for Middle West Alistair Burt sign the Joint Steering Group's plan of action for six months to come. — KUNA

lem's, and on how to find peaceful settlements to ongoing conflicts in the region. In this regard, the British side highly commended Kuwait's mediatory efforts to put an end to inter-Gulf tensions. The Kuwait-UK Joint Steering Group was formed during His Highness the Amir's historic visit to Britain in November 2012. It convenes every six months alternately between Kuwait

City and London.

Meanwhile, Britain acknowledged the efforts of Kuwait as it seeks to defuse tensions in the Gulf region. This came as British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Boris Johnson met Jarallah in London. The British official said he looked forward to visiting Kuwait in the near future to discuss the issue. — KUNA



Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Boris Johnson.

TEMPERATURES ON THE RISE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

10 am and 4 pm, and people must remain hydrated.

KUWAIT: Meteorologist Essa Ramadan said temperatures are expected to rise in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq during the next few days, along with draining humidity.

Ramadan said direct sunlight must be avoided between

Crackdown

The Commerce Ministry's emergency team in Siddiq raided a warehouse containing food products unfit for human consumption whose expiry dates were tampered with, and 8.5 tons of food was confiscated.



KUWAIT: French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle visited Kuwait Times yesterday and met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. The two sides discussed issues of common interest. —Photo by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Travelers at Kuwait International Airport. — KUNA

427,000 TRAVELERS SINCE ONSET OF SUMMER VACATION, EID AL-FITR: DGCA

KUWAIT: The total number of travelers through Kuwait International Airport since the beginning of the summer vacation and Eid Al-Fitr holiday have reached 427,000 traveler, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said yesterday. DGCA said the number of departures from June 22 to first of July reached around 275,000, while number of

arrivals reached 152,000. Kuwait Airport faced a significant increase in the movement of aircraft and numbers of passengers during Eid holiday with the highest degree of responsibility and cooperation from men of the Ministry of the Interior and the General Administration of Customs. They also pointed out to the cooperation and understanding of

passengers which contributed to the success of the flow of the movement easily despite the overcrowding witnessed by the airport. The DGCA also praised efforts of young volunteers who participated for the first time in organizing the movement of the airport in cooperation with Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. —KUNA



MULTIPLE DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS MADE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

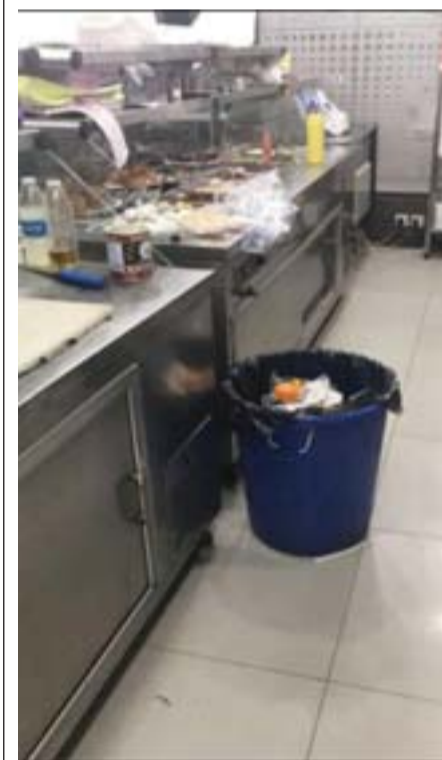
KUWAIT: Farwaniya police arrested an Arab man without a residency permit with three shabu envelopes and two envelopes of chemical, along with 37 red pills. He was also found wanted over a debt. They also arrested an Asian for entering the country illegally. Meanwhile, Hawally police arrested a citizen with 30 tablets suspected of being drugs.

Separately, Ahmadi police arrested two citizens in Mahboula. Both were in an abnormal condition. One suspect had liquor and a bag with what is suspected of being drugs. The second suspect was found wanted over a debt. Also, Capital police arrested two citizens with 44 yellow tablets.

They also arrested a citizen wanted over a debt. In another case, an expat woman was arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs to her husband who is jailed at the central prison. The woman was sent to concerned authorities. Also yesterday, Criminal security arrested an Asian with two kilograms of heroin. He was sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.

Fake office

Residency Affairs Detectives busted a gang of 11 Ethiopian maids who swindled people through a fake labor office. The arrest was made following tips about their activities. The 11 were found wanted on absconding cases.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's public relations department said that Farwaniya emergency team carried out an inspection campaign against restaurants and stores in Riggae, where 24 restaurants, four laundries and a health club were inspected, and 12 citations were issued. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



KUWAIT: The chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) center of Kuwait National Guard earned a certificate of excellence from Saab International, Sweden, in recognition for being the world's first integrated national CBRN center operational in Kuwait.



CAIRO: Director General of the Arab Women Organization Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi (center) honors Fawziya Al-Rifae (left).



Fawziya Al-Rifae receives an artwork of Al-Moez Street from the Egypt Lovers Society.

ARAB WOMEN ORGANIZATION HONORS FAWZIYA AL-RIFAE

'HONORING LINKED TO BEING COMPANION OF A MAN WHO LOVED EGYPT'

CAIRO: Director General of the Arab Women Organization Mirvat Al-Tellawi honored the widow of the late Nasser Mohammad Al-Kharafi, Fawziya Al-Rifae, along with several other pioneering women for their great contributions in serving their countries and advancing the Arab world as a whole. Among them was ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazalah, Assistant Secretary General, Director of the Information and Communications Sector at the Arab League; Nadiya Abdu, the first woman to serve as governor in Egypt; and actress Yasmeen Sabri.

President of the Egypt Lovers Society presented Fawziya Al-Rifae with an artwork of Al-Moez Street. The ceremony was held at the Egypt University for Technology's Opera House in October 6 City, and was attended by a large number of ministers, ambassadors, media persons and artists. Fawziya Al-Rifae gave a brief speech prior to receiving a plaque, during which she thanked the Arab Women Organization that witnessed a lot of advancement under the management of Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi for the honor, "which pleased me and added to my colleagues' and my motives for more work to develop Arab women's affairs."

Mutual love

She said her honoring is linked to being the companion of a man who loved Egypt very much, and the Egyptians gave him back the same love - he is the late Nasser Mohammad Al-Kharafi, who used to consider Egypt as the second home of all Arabs, and the evidence of this love is that Almighty Allah chose his death in Egypt, which was the last thing he saw before passing away in April 2011.

Fawziya Al-Rifae said the late Nasser Al-Kharafi was not just a husband or soul mate - rather he was much more than that - he was a

mentor. "He taught me that good deeds are the greatest of human duties on earth. He taught me that money means nothing unless it is transformed into real value that we present to serve the society we live in," she said.

She said that Nasser Al-Kharafi use to believe money is from Allah, so it should be used for construction and developing the earth that Allah created and asked us to inhabit. He used to say that the best moment for him was to see hands building to produce something we lack and provide dignified living for Arabs and humanity. She said he

project in any area of Egypt, which he made the main aim of Al-Kharafi Group investments, as a continuation of what his late father Mohammad Abdelmohsen Al-Kharafi started nearly 90 years ago, as it is the strongest pillar of Arab countries."

20 million refugees

The ceremony began with a speech by Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi, who spoke about the phenomenon of refugee and displaced women around the world, and how 80 percent of refugees' responsibilities are borne by women and children. She added that there are 20 million Arab women refugees among the 60 million around the world. Tellawi said the woman's organization leads the effort of supporting the refugees and displaced materially and morally. She then spoke about the women that were honored and their contributions, pointing out the important role the late Nasser Mohammad Al-Kharafi played with Kuwaiti investments in Egypt over the past 40 years.

Then a speech was delivered by Egyptian Immigration and Egyptians' Affairs Minister Ambassador Nabila Makram Obaid on behalf of Egypt's Prime Minister Shareef Ismail, in which she lauded the efforts of Tellawi through the Arab Women's Organization in supporting Arab women refugees and the displaced. She expressed hopes that other countries will deal with refugees as Egypt does, which hosts refugees and presents them support similar to Egyptian citizens with regards to education, health and labor, and refuses to establish camps like other countries. Plaques were then handed to the honorees by Tellawi, followed by a performance by singers Hani Shaker and Yasmeen Al-Elwani with conductor Saleem Sahab. The proceeds were donated to refugees.



Fawziya Al-Rifae delivers a speech.

taught her that the needs of the individual human being are very limited, while the needs of societies and countries do not stop for the sake of building and development.

She concluded her speech by saying: "He taught me a lot, but the most important lesson I learnt from my late companion Nasser Al-Kharafi was the love of Egypt and understanding the secrets of its greatness. The happiest moment in his life was the opening of a new



Chairperson of the Arab Women Organization Tahani Al-Burtuqali (left) comments on Fawziya Al-Rifae's honoring.



Fawziya Al-Rifae attends the ceremony.



Director General of the Arab Women Organization Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi honors Nadiya Abdu.



Director General of the Arab Women Organization Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi honors Haifa Abu Ghazalah.



Director General of the Arab Women Organization Ambassador Mirvat Al-Tellawi honors Yasmeen Sabri.

STUDY MBBS, MD & ENGINEERING
Georgia, Armenia & Austria (East Europe)
 Affordable fees, English curriculum, approved by MCI, WHO, EUA, WFME, ECFMG - USA
Hurry up - admission process started
 Call for Free Guidance & Seminar
 Mobile: 00965-60447773
 WhatsApp: 00995-571059823 (Dr. Ronnell Jacob)
 Email: Jacobz.consultants@gmail.com



CAIRO: The sixth session of the Second Legislative term of the Arab Parliament in progress. —KUNA

SOLUTIONS TO ARAB CRISES MUST BE POLITICAL: ARAB PARLIAMENT CHIEF

CAIRO: Arab Parliament Speaker Mishaal bin Fahm Al-Salami stressed yesterday that any solution to crises and conflicts affecting the Arab region, including Syria, should be political. Salami highlighted the need to address challenges, he described as "grave, exceptional and dangerous," through joint efforts, transparency, unearthing solutions and fighting terrorism and fundamentalism.

"Our strength is in our unity and cohesion as our language is one, our identity is one, our culture is one, our history is one and our destiny is one," he told Arab delegates gathered at the Arab League in Cairo. He expressed support of the three summits recently hosted by Riyadh, saying they did much to build a solid partnership between Arab and Islamic countries, and the United States.

This partnership is aimed at tackling fundamentalism and terrorism, along with nations and

institutions that fund it, achieving peace, stability and development in Arab and Islamic countries. Arab countries have become initiators in resolving issues of common interest, he said, particularly on terrorism and steps to ensure regional safety and security. Furthermore, he reiterated his condemnation of Israeli policies, including digging a tunnel under the Wailing Wall and its continuing construction of settlements on occupied Palestinian lands.

On the Gulf crisis between Qatar and several Arab countries, he expressed extreme anxiety over its continuation and underlined the need to resolve this matter within the Gulf Cooperation Council's framework.

Joint action

On Tuesday, Kuwait's MP Ali Al-Deqbasi stressed the importance of enhancing and updating the mechanism of joint Arab action in

order to attain the aspirations and ambitions of Arab people. It is also important to restore Arab solidarity and meet people's ambitions in accomplishing further economic, humanitarian, sports, educational, and media objectives, in addition to protecting Arab societies, and interests, Deqbasi said at the conclusion of Arab Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Political, and National Security Committee's meetings at Arab Parliament (AP).

The Kuwaiti lawmaker, who is also an AP member, also pointed out the "massive" economic challenges currently facing the Arab nation, in addition to the outbreak of diseases, poverty, and famine in several Arab countries. An effective and fast Arab action is so essential in facing current challenges, he noted, adding that Arab national security is currently "hacked" and that Arab nations are threatened by multiple dangers on all levels. —KUNA

MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS KUWAIT'S EFFORTS TO TACKLE WATER SCARCITY

ROME: Kuwait on Tuesday gave a presentation about its successful efforts in dealing with water security, affirming strong backing to UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiative to crystallize a joint regional strategy towards challenges of water scarcity.

Speaking at the 40th Session FAO Conference on tackling the water scarcity and improving food security amid climate change, Mohammad Al-Jabri, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, said Kuwait has been suffering from a sharp shortage of water resources.

The State of Kuwait has only one resource of water, groundwater, while most of the country's water needs are met by desalination, he added. He stated that population growth and a rise in standards of living led to an unprecedented rise in water consumption, despite the country's efforts made over long decades in tackling water scarcity.

As a result, the country had to depend on wastewater treatment as an additional source for agricultural purposes, and to reduce pressures on indispensable groundwater, he told the conference. This way has contributed to achieving sustainable water security in the country, he pointed out.

Responding to instructions of His Highness the Amir, Kuwait is keen on securing many water resources to meet growing needs for agriculture, he said. He referred to some plants of wastewater treatment, mainly Sulaibiya Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Plant which operates 600,000 cubic meters per day for agricultural purposes.

Kuwait is taking part in the conference to share expertise and views, and supporting the initiative launched by FAO in 2013 in collaboration with the Arab League in the Near East and North Africa region, he stressed.

Major gap

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit said the future of the Arab region in tightly linked to the prob-

lem of water scarcity, referring to a major gap between supply and demand in water and food in the Arab region. He said this gap leads to dire political, economic and security consequences. Abul Gheit told reporters that climate changes, water and agriculture dossiers are main reasons for instability of the region, and will lead to negative impacts on the future of the regional countries. He reiterated the importance of mobilizing international efforts to tackle challenges to water and food security in the Arab region.

In the meantime, FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said the Arab countries should continue to seek innovations to overcome the water scarcity crisis in the face of climate change. He lauded accomplishments made by the region's countries, mainly the Gulf ones, in desalination, water harvesting, drip irrigation and treating wastewater. "It is fundamental to promote ways for agriculture, and food production in general, to use less water, and use it more efficiently," he said. "Population growth and the impacts of climate change will put more pressure on water availability in the near future. Climate change, in particular, poses very serious risks." He pointed out that farmers and rural households should be at the center of strategies to tackle water scarcity.

He said not only to encourage them to adopt more efficient farming technologies, but also to secure access to drinking water for poor rural households. This is vital for food security and improved nutrition, he made clear. In the Near East and North Africa region, the per capita renewable water availability is around 600 cubic meters per person per year - only 10 percent of the world average - and drops to just 100 cubic meters in some countries. The FAO conference, which includes over 600 high-level government officials and representatives from 194 countries, will run until July 8. It mainly focuses on issues and policies related to global food security. —KUNA

TEEN KILLED BY ELECTRIC SHOCK

KUWAIT: A bedoon juvenile died of electrocution in a swimming pool at his family's stable in Jahra. Police and paramedics rushed to the stable and found the boy in a critical condition, so he was taken to Jahra Hospital, where doctors' attempts to revive him failed.

Doctor assaulted

A doctor and a male nurse at Sabah Hospital were beaten by three bedoons who work at the public relations department over a dispute over using a toilet. The doctor and nurse exchanged blows with the three because they insisted on using the nurses' toilet. Hospital security controlled the fighters and called police, adding that the nurse was badly injured and was taken for surgery, while the others were taken to Shuwaikh police station.

Police assault

Police received a call about a three-car accident - one driven by a citizen in his 30s, another by a man in his 60s and the third driven by a citizen in his 20s, who seemed abnormal and pushed one of the policemen who responded to the call. The man was taken to Sharq police station and charged with insulting a public employee on duty and driving under the influence.

Kidnappers arrested

Policemen freed a juvenile from two bedoons who kidnapped him after befriending him on social media, then met and threatened to kill him if he did not obey them. Police patrol in Jaber Al-Ahmad noticed a car with three persons inside, two bedoons and a 17-year-old citizen who seemed scared. They all claimed to be friends, but the nervousness of the citizen made police question him alone, and he asked for their help. The two bedoons were arrested and they had a knife they used to threaten the boy.

False reports

Egyptian authorities denied reports about detaining a Kuwaiti at Cairo airport for a long time for carrying Egyptian currency in violation of the law. Sources told Al-Rai local daily that the matter was settled quickly after he arrived at Luxor airport and declared to authorities he had 30,000 Egyptian pounds. He was told this violated Egyptian laws.

Drug abuse

A bedoon girl was taken to Salmiya police station and was charged with being under the influence of drugs and insulting policemen. A police source denied social media reports that police threw the woman from the seventh floor. The source said residents of a building complained about disturbance in a flat, so a patrol was dispatched. When they knocked at the door, a girl opened a window on the door and hurled insults at police. A warrant was obtained, the flat was raided and the girl arrested.

Arsonist arrested

Ahmedi detectives arrested an arsonist who torched his wife's car. Police responded to a call about a fire in a luxury car, and the owner said she suspected her Syrian husband who left home recently. When the husband was arrested and asked about the incident, he denied it initially, but later confessed to burning the car because she kicked him out of the house. He said his wife, who is 15 years his senior, not only kicked him out but threatened to deport him so he decided to take revenge.

Fight

A citizen was surprised by an American expat who entered his house without permission, so he confronted the intruder and they exchanged blows. Police were called and complaints were lodged.

—Translated from the Arabic press

COROLLA

2018 MODEL JUST ARRIVED

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

TOYOTA

PERSISTENCE MEETS PERFORMANCE WITH MULTIDRIVE 7S

COROLLA

2018 MODEL 04T-L

CASH KD

5,150

The Corolla, the world's most popular car, continues to live up to its reputation with a sleek, powerful design that boasts the Multidrive 7S transmission (the only car in its class with such a feature), advanced safety systems and an intelligently designed interior.

DISTINGUISHED PRICES ON ALL COROLLA MODELS

Find your drive.

- COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE PACKAGE 1 YEAR/20,000KM*
- 3RD PARTY INSURANCE
- CAR REGISTRATION

*whichever comes first - does not include taxes

1803803

toyota.com.kw

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

1803803

toyota.com.kw

In Brief

AMIR EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Xi Jinping of China yesterday over the victims of severe floods in two Chinese regions. His cable came after some 47 people were killed and another 22 went missing as floods are wreaking havoc in China's central Hunan Province and the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP BY 50 CENTS TO \$46.60 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was up by 50 cents to \$46.60 per barrel Tuesday as oppose to \$46.10 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global markets, the prices were fluctuating due signs that US oil production was on the rise. The price of the Brent crude was down by seven cents to \$49.61 per barrel while the West Texas Intermediate was up by one cent to \$47.08 pb. — KUNA



DOLLAR STABLE AT KD 0.303

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US Dollar was stable at KD 0.303 so as the euro at KD 0.344, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK noted that the Sterling Pound was down at KD 0.391, so as the Swiss Franc at KD 0.314. The Japanese yen remained at KD 0.002. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: 'Dance of the flying bird'- a picture snapped at Kuwait Bay. — KUNA



KFH KEY PARTNER TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF KU'S COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEAN PRAISED BANK'S ROLE IN REINFORCING STUDENTS' INITIATIVES

KUWAIT: College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University (KU) hosted Kuwait Finance House (KFH) that was accessible to students and Hesabi customers through a booth to reinforce commu-

nication with the students and emphasize its support to their initiatives and activities.

This initiative emanates from the bank's social responsibility and keenness to reward the youth

segment of customers, especially holders of Hesabi Account, by providing them with programs tailored especially for the youth to suit their lifestyles.

College Dean Dr Humood Alqashan praised KFH initiative, indicating the bank is a key partner to support the students' activities at the college, which contributes in boosting the efforts towards further success. He valued the bank's prestigious status as a global leading Islamic financial institution.

He said that the number of students at the college is 4000 and is daily visited by 27000 students as it delivers some subjects to other colleges' students. He added that KFH presence at the college is also aimed at raising the awareness of the importance of saving and that saving means the best use and investment of money. Faculty staff; Dr Khaled Alqahes, Dr Fawaz Alajmi and Dr Mohammad Albeloushi also applauded KFH efforts in supporting the college and the students.

It is worth noting that 'Hesabi' program has been designed to meet the needs of youth from 15 to 21 years old and to go in line with their active life style. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue KFH prepaid cards, distinguished offers and discounts.



PARIS: The 41st Session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in progress. — KUNA

KUWAITI OFFICIAL LAUDS UNESCO DECISION ON PROTECTING JERUSALEM'S SOVEREIGNTY

PARIS: A Kuwaiti official lauded yesterday the United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) approval of an Arab-backed resolution rejecting Israeli claims of sovereignty over Jerusalem. Kuwaiti delegate to the organization Dr Meshal Hayat said that the approval of the Arab draft resolution was a moment of triumph for the Palestinian cause.

The Kuwaiti official indicated that Israel was an occupying force that had no rightful claims over Jerusalem. The decision also condemned Israeli continuous violations in Jerusalem, a city consider under occupation since 1967. UNESCO's World Heritage Council passed the resolution submitted by the council's Arab states during its meeting in Poland on Sunday. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Zain announced winners of its annual competition launched during the Holy Month of Ramadan on its smartphone app. Ali Mohammad Al-Hammad and Abdulwahhab Mohammad Hassan were announced as the winners.



Tensions high in Himalayas

MAY FINDS IT LONELY AT THE TOP, BUT BATTLES ON



IZMIT: Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party, walks with thousands of supporters on the 21st day of his 425-kilometer 'march for justice' in Izmit, Turkey yesterday. Kilicdaroglu and supporters are marching from the capital Ankara to an Istanbul prison to protest the conviction of one of his party's lawmakers. — AP

TURKEY REMOVES EVOLUTION FROM CURRICULUM
 GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF 'BRAINWASHING' STUDENTS

ANKARA: A move by the Turkish education ministry to remove evolution from the national school curriculum has sparked an outcry and accusations the government is "brainwashing" students. The government says the change-part of a broad revision of the school curriculum-will modernize learning. But critics see it has a step back from scientific rigor towards creationism by the Islamic-rooted authorities under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The head of the Turkish education board, Alparslan Durmus, said in a video message evolution would no longer be taught in biology lessons in high schools from September onwards as it was "controversial." "We have left aside some controversial subjects because we know it is not possible for our students to have the necessary scientific or information background to understand them," Durmus said. The theory-formulated by Charles Darwin in the 19th century as the theory of natural selection-would be studied from university-level onwards.

The change is not the only shift in a planned curriculum

overhaul that will be implemented by 2019. Durmus also said the curriculum would move away from "a eurocentric point of view", especially in history lessons. The move comes after Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said in January the theory of evolution was "a scientifically obsolete and rotten theory". "There is no rule saying that this theory must absolutely be studied", he said. Education Minister Ismet Yilmaz said the new curriculum-approved by Erdogan-would "give children a much better education". The goal was to ensure "our children and students do not just use knowledge and technology but at the same time will create" them, Yilmaz said, quoted by Dogan news agency on June 27.

'Dangerous, backward'

Feray Aytekin Aydogan, head of the secular Egitim-Sen teachers' union, described the move to remove evolution as "backward, dangerous". Aydogan said the move would make Turkey compare unfavourably with Iran, where she

said students received 60 hours of lessons on evolution and 11 hours on Darwin. "We will not surrender to the darkness. We will continue to promote scientific education," said Aydogan whose union represents over 100,000 education and science workers. Thousands of the union's members were suspended from their jobs over alleged links to Kurdish militants under the state of emergency, though many were later reinstated. The union denies any links to terrorism, saying it supports secular education, peace and democracy.

Baris Yarkadas, a lawmaker from the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), accused the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) of "brainwashing" children and wanting to isolate Turkey. "What they want to do here is completely remove secular and scientific education to avoid a generation that thinks, questions or creates," he said. Independent lawmaker Aylin Nazliaka agreed: "They want to create an ideological apparatus with young people who think like them." Durmus explained in the video pub-

lished on June 21 that the purpose was to prepare children for "tomorrow". Contacted by AFP, an education ministry official declined to comment on the controversy.

A New Turkey?

Critics say there will also be fewer mentions in the new curriculum of the Turkish Republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who set up the modern secular Republic in 1923 out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire. Ataturk believed that in order to be a strong modern state, Turkey had to embrace values like women's rights, Western arts and also science. "This democratic, secular republic has come about thanks to scientific education," the head of the Kemalist Thought Association, which defends Ataturk's legacy, Tansel Colasan said. She said the changes were part of the government's goal to create a "New Turkey" ahead of the Republic's 100th year anniversary in 2023. "They want to remove Ataturk's name (and) those who built the Republic from schools," Nazliaka said.— AFP

INDIAN GURU'S BODY TO STAY IN A FREEZER

NEW DELHI: An Indian court yesterday allowed disciples of a spiritual guru to preserve his body in a freezer, as they believe he is in a deep state of meditation and will return to life. Ashutosh Maharaj, founder of the multi-million dollar sect, Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan (Divine Light Awakening Mission), apparently died of a cardiac arrest in January 2014. But his followers insist he is in a deep spiritual state called samadhi and have controversially kept his body in a commercial freezer at his heavily guarded 100 acre ashram in the northern state of Punjab.

Yesterday the Punjab and Haryana High Court dismissed a three year old petition by Dalip Kumar Jha, who claims to be his son, and who wanted his father's body to cremate him as per Hindu rituals. Jha's lawyer, S P Soi said that it was unclear whether or not the court approved the sect's argument that Maharaj was alive. "But they dismissed our petition which is disappointing and we will challenge it in the Supreme Court," said Soi. The court while rejecting their plea set aside a 2014 judgment that had ordered his cremation after doctors confirmed him clinically dead.

His disciples had challenged the

court's cremation order saying he had simply drifted into a deeper form of meditation, something he did often in sub-zero Himalayan temperatures. The guru, who is in his seventies, established the sect in Punjab's Jalandhar city in 1983 to promote "self-awakening and global peace", with millions of followers across the world and properties worth an estimated \$120 million in India, the United States, South America, Australia, the Middle East and Europe. Jha claims that the guru's real name was Mahesh Kumar Jha and he left his native village in eastern Bihar state in late 1970's before founding the sect.

He and Maharaj's former driver Puran Singh filed petitions in court soon after the guru's death demanding a criminal probe and alleged the sect members were deliberately holding his body to retain control of his vast financial assets. Maharaj is one of several gurus who in recent decades have built huge empires and command millions of followers, particularly in northern India. For followers, gurus play an integral role in daily life, including a path to enlightenment. Followers offer spiritual devotion and donations to ashrams, temples and charity projects. — AFP

G20 BATTLE LINES DRAWN

BERLIN: Leaders of the world's top economies will gather tomorrow in Germany for likely the stormiest G20 summit in years, with disagreements ranging from wars to climate change and global trade. Here are some of the most volatile issues and disputes, and the key personalities involved, in the July 7-8 meeting in the northern port city of Hamburg.

North Korea

North Korea's first successful test of an inter-continental ballistic missile on Tuesday is likely to overshadow all other trade and diplomatic rows. The reclusive state's relentless pursuit of its nuclear ambitions comes as a slap in the face for US President Donald Trump, who vowed Pyongyang's goal of possessing an ICBM "won't happen". The tough-talking property tycoon has so far failed to persuade China to bring its rogue neighbor to heel.

Germany has made climate protection a priority of its G20 presidency. It had hoped to get the world's biggest industrialized and emerging economies to commit to taking the lead in implementing the landmark 2015 Paris climate deal on keeping the global rise in temperatures "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial times. But Trump dashed those hopes after vowing in early June that he would pull the world's second biggest carbon emitter out of the Paris accord. Host Chancellor Angela Merkel admitted that after Trump's announcement, she "knew that we could not expect discussions to be easy". But she and European allies have vowed to defend the cli-

mate pact at the summit, setting them on a collision course with Trump.

Looming trade war

Signing up to an anti-protectionist pledge used to be routine at G20 meetings, but not this time. Trump, swept to power by popular anger over deindustrialization in vast parts of the United States, has pledged to "follow two simple rules: buy American and hire American." That has put him at odds with many US trading partners, including export giants Germany and China, whom he has criticized over their massive trade surpluses. Trump's threats may soon materialize, as Washington is reportedly preparing to impose punitive tariffs on steel imports-something that G20 exporters would be keen to ward off.

The United States in April launched a probe into whether steel imports posed a danger to national security, with the result due within days. Trump is reportedly waiting to hear from trading partners before announcing his decision on whether to limit imports of the metal. According to news website Axios, the US leader is leaning towards imposing tariffs as high as 20 percent on the metal-a move that would likely unleash retaliatory measures.

Antagonistic pairs

With accusations of Russian meddling in the US elections and contacts between Trump's senior aides and President Vladimir Putin's men, the vexed relationship between the two will be closely scrutinized when they meet face to face for the first time. The two leaders face an array of

contentious foreign policy issues, from Syria to Ukraine and North Korea. Trump has struck a tough tone on Russia's ally Syria, while Washington's decision to toughen sanctions over the conflict in Ukraine has angered Moscow. Another meeting to watch will be Trump's talks with China's President Xi Jinping, particularly after the US billionaire leader in a tweet accused Beijing of not doing enough to rein in North Korea.

Meanwhile, Trump infuriated Beijing last week when he approved a \$1.3 billion arms sale to Taiwan, while China lashed out after a US warship sailed close to an island claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam. Merkel also faces a testy meeting with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, particularly after Berlin refused him permission to address ethnic Turks on the sidelines of summit. Berlin and Ankara's relations have been fraught, deteriorating sharply over Turkey's mass crackdown after a failed coup last year and a host of other rights controversies.

Street protests

Outside the conference rooms, anti-globalization activists, including an anticipated 8,000 potentially violent extremists, are squaring up for a showdown with police. Germany has deployed 20,000 officers from across the country. Authorities have also banned rallies in a vast area of the city during the summit and stopped protesters from setting up camp. But the measures have only angered far-left activists, who complain that the city is being turned into a "fortress" and say they still plan to disrupt the summit. — AFP

YOU DESTROY, WE REBUILD: A BUILDER'S LIFE IN WAR-TORN SYRIA

BEIRUT: When builder Abu Salem repairs a shell hole in a house in rebel-held southern Syria, he knows it might not be the last job he does on the structure. "There is a chance the buildings will be hit again," he told Reuters. "But in the short term people should be able to take refuge in their homes." Abu Salem heads a group of 12 construction workers who rebuild and patch up buildings damaged by barrel bombs, air strikes and shelling in and around Syria's Deraa city.

With no access to modern tools, and materials made expensive by the war, Abu Salem's men break up buildings, mix concrete and carry loads by hand. Despite the difficulties, they have kept their sense of humor. Three months ago a video circulated widely on Syrian social media showing masked men kneeling in formation, brandishing staffs and rising to shouts of "God is Great". At first glance it looks like a typical example of the beligerent propaganda footage often posted by armed groups in the Syrian conflict. But it isn't what it seems.

"In the name of God, I am Abu Salem

Al-Muhammed and I announce the formation of a Concrete Pouring Brigade in the free areas!" Salem shouts into the camera in an unmistakable parody of fired-up rebel leaders fighting President Bashar Al-Assad. "If you destroy, by God we will rebuild!" he cries as his men wave pickaxes and shovels and then descend into laughter. After the You Destroy and We Rebuild Brigade's video appeared, people began stopping Abu Salem in the street. "They said: you are the best brigade formed since the start of the Syrian crisis," he told Reuters by phone.

War economy

Syria's war has destroyed the national economy and fractured the country into a patchwork of areas of control which bisect trading routes, raising prices and causing local shortages of vital commodities. But money can sometimes talk louder than political loyalty, and across Syria goods still find their way across front lines, with heavy bribes and taxes paid at checkpoints. Abu Salem lives in a rebel-held area but



RAQQA: People inspect the damage from airstrikes and artillery shelling in the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the IS. — AP

sources his building materials from government-controlled zones.

Cement secured from Damascus may cost about 30,000 Syrian pounds a ton at source, he said, but arrives in Deraa at a price of 50,000 to 55,000 pounds after

passing through all the checkpoints. "By the time they get to us the price has become 50, 60 or sometimes 100 percent more than their real price," said Abu Salem, a 39-year-old father of five who was a builder before the war. Abu Salem

is passionate about his mission to reverse the destruction, but laments he can't do as good a job as he'd like. There are no engineers, modern construction techniques or cement mixers. He and his colleagues reuse rubble and steel from destroyed buildings and do everything by hand.

"The quality of building has changed significantly ... If there was equipment we would be able to build faster and better. But these are war conditions," said Abu Salem, who has had to vacate and repair his own house because of air attacks.

Brigade members are paid in accordance with what customers can afford, averaging the equivalent of a mere four or five US dollars a day. "It's always just (enough for) food and water. There are no savings because of the high prices," Abu Salem said. Abu Salem said he and his men stood ready to help whichever parties eventually agree to rebuild Syria. "But if someone comes with a rocket or a weapon and says 'fight', I won't," he said. — Reuters

BRITAIN'S PM FINDS IT LONELY AT THE TOP, BUT BATTLES ON

UK FACES WORST POLITICAL INSTABILITY FOR DECADES

LONDON: It's lonely at the top for British Prime Minister Theresa May but she's holding on-for now. May faced calls to quit from inside and outside her ruling Conservative Party after losing its parliamentary majority in an ill-judged election that she did not need to call, plunging Britain into the worst political instability for decades. She has struggled since then to unite her government on policy and to assemble a new team of aides-one Conservative lawmaker described it as "career suicide" to agree to serve a leader whose days in office may be numbered.

But party sources say moves to oust May are

replace May. Even the most embittered lawmakers say a new leadership vote would simply deepen divisions in the party over Brexit and its austerity agenda, blamed by opposition politicians for a devastating fire in west London that killed at least 80 people and for straining a police service battling militant attacks.

May, 60, has said she will carry on, despite her pride being "shattered" by the election, said one veteran Conservative Party member who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I suspect her sense of duty is bigger than (predecessor David) Cameron's," the source said. "No one

may come to haunt her - having not been part of one of the Conservative cliques, she is very much alone as others in the party plot their routes to power. The veteran source said her pledge to clear up "the mess" she created by staging the June 8 election had softened many Conservatives, who have traditionally punished leaders over any sign of weakness.

They are also driven by self-preservation. The election revealed the shortcomings of Conservative Campaign Headquarters and some Conservatives say it is time to take stock and restructure before the next election after Jeremy Corbyn's opposition Labor Party leapt in opinion polls. "We need to get campaigning again properly, get the message out," the lawmaker said. "We have spent years mopping up the mess left by Labor and now we are opening the door to Corbyn. The country will go bankrupt if he gets in and it'll take us 20 years to get back."

May in retreat

May has promised to promote reform in the party, but forced to accept the resignations of her two closest aides and a steady departure of senior members of her Downing Street office team, her control is draining away. Appointed shortly after Britain voted to leave the European Union, May ran a tight ship for months - giving little away, she tried to limit leaks by keeping some of her more publicity hungry ministers in check and sticking to the party line. Now, they have been let off the leash. Differences over Brexit strategy and a pay cap on public sector workers are aired almost daily while the prime minister's projects to bring in more selective schools and give lawmakers a vote on lifting a ban on fox hunting have been dropped.

May, it seems, has retreated. "Before she could say you're not going on TV ... But now she can't crack the whip like a prime minister normally does," the veteran Conservative said. She has reverted to type, the source said, of the "quiet girl in class who just got on with her homework", allowing her ministers such as finance minister Phillip Hammond to take some of the limelight and a more commanding role. For now, despite differences, her team of senior ministers is at least pulling in the same broad direction, towards a clean break with the European Union that sees Britain out of the bloc's single market to prioritize controlling immigration. "It's a bit like a rowing boat, where everyone is pulling at different speeds, but not hard enough to topple it over," the veteran Conservative said. — Reuters



Britain's PM Theresa May

now on hold after senior figures agreed she should be the one to at least make a start on two years of Brexit talks that are likely to stretch her government and possibly the public's patience, giving the world's fifth biggest economy some breathing space. If she fails to make headway or satisfy some of her more eurosceptic party members, then she can answer for it, the party sources said. "She'll stay for as long as we want her to," one lawmaker told Reuters, on condition of anonymity. "Now is not that time."

Concerns over the reaction of Britons if asked to vote for the fourth time in just over two years, over losing Conservative seats and of having someone else take over the lead in talks with the European Union have calmed calls to

actually wants the job, well they do want the job but not now."

Clearing up the 'mess'

May, Britain's longest serving interior minister in over a century with a reputation as a tough and diligent politician, became the country's second female premier after Margaret Thatcher when Cameron resigned after Britons voted for Brexit. Her path then was cleared when two other hopefuls-her now foreign minister Boris Johnson and environment minister Michael Gove - all but killed off each others' bids and she appealed to members with her straight-talking can-do attitude. But her boast that she could never be found "drinking in parliament's bars"

STRICT OFFICIAL DRESS CODE SPARKS ANGER IN UGANDA

KAMPALA: Ugandan public servants yesterday hit out at a list of strict new rules forbidding them from showing cleavage, having long nails, dyed hair or wearing skirts above the knee. But for many in the conservative east African nation, the main concern seemed to be the cost of implementing the rules, rather than the rules themselves, and the fact that workers had not been consulted. "Women get less pay. This directive will make women fear going to workplaces for fear of losing their jobs because they don't have money to buy new dresses and change hairstyles," said Agnes Kunihiira, the workers representative in parliament said.

Winifred Akech, 34, a public officer in one of the government agencies told AFP, she was forced to borrow money to cut her hair as the hairstyle she had was banned under the new directive. "I didn't have money to go to a salon and cut my hair because it has a tint (colour) and was forced to borrow from a friend. This is embarrassing to me. Secondly, I feel my right to a hairstyle of my choice is being trampled upon," she said. A statement from the ministry of public service on Tuesday outlined the list of strict rules, saying that public officers had been dressing indecently.

It said women should not wear tight clothes, skirts or dresses above the knees or reveal their back or cleavage. Civil servants "are also required to keep their hair neat without color, on top of maintaining polished short nails not more than three centimeters." "Exaggerated make-up" is also a no-no. Men are required to wear trousers-but not too tight-jackets, a neck-tie and closed shoes. According to the statement those contravening the rules would be given a warning, and repeat offenders would face disciplinary action.

Outspoken Ugandan academic Stella Nyanzi, who is currently on trial for cyber harassment for calling President Yoweri Museveni a "pair of buttocks", did not hold back on her Facebook page about the new guidelines. "Who really cares what public servants in Uganda wear, when the emperor walks around naked?" she wrote, again taking aim at Museveni's buttocks with a series of colorful descriptions. She said the country should not be distracted amid efforts to scrap a presidential age limit of 75 years, widely seen as a bid by Museveni, now 72, to seek a sixth term in office. —AFP



ALEPPO: Displaced Syrians who fled with their families Islamic State controlled areas in Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Mayadeen gather at Aleppo's bus station of Ramussa. —AFP

FOR FAMILIES FLEEING IS, A WAYSTATION IN ALEPPO

ALEPPO: Syrian escapees from the Islamic State group languished for hours on the sizzling concrete pavements at Aleppo's main bus station, their faces gaunt and eyes rimmed by dark circles. Just six months ago, the Ramussa station was the main transit point for thousands of people bussed out of second city Aleppo as part of a landmark evacuation deal. Now, buses are starting to trickle through again-this time carrying traumatized families fleeing IS's dwindling territory to government-held zones in the rest of the country. "It's a miracle that we're here," said Umm Hammoud, 45, who fled IS's bastion city Raqqa with her 10 children aboard a pickup truck. She spoke to AFP while waiting for a bus to take her to Syria's third city Homs, where she will be reunited with long-lost relatives.

Before Syria's civil war started in 2011, it

took Umm Hammoud just two hours to make the 200-kilometre westward bus trip from her native Raqqa to Aleppo. This time, it took her and her family a month. "We fled Raqqa at the beginning of Ramadan (the Muslim holy month that began in late May) after each paying 150,000 Syrian pounds," or around \$300, Umm Hammoud said. She recounted a terrifying journey delayed by heavy air strikes on jihadist-held villages and difficulty negotiating with smugglers. "When we got here, we could barely believe that we survived," she said as she struggled to soothe her wailing six-month-old in the scorching heat.

Umm Hammoud and her family skirted landmines, air strikes, and an IS patrol unit tracking down anyone trying to flee the city. But when they reached Aleppo, they did not find the bustling commercial metropolis they had once known. — AFP



CALAIS: A policeman chases a youth - suspected of being a migrant in a lorry park on the outskirts of Calais yesterday, near the site of the former area known as 'The Jungle'. Authorities are on alert after the arrival of several hundred migrants in the French coastal city. — AFP

'ARE WE REALLY THE PROBLEM,?' GROUPS SAVING MIGRANTS ASK

ROME: Privately-run aid organizations rescuing migrants off Libya have slammed the idea of creating a "code of conduct" for them to follow, saying European ministers tackling the crisis are bungling their response. Italy, France and Germany held a working dinner on Sunday to prepare the ground for a six-point plan to address the biggest migrant phenomenon since World War II, to be submitted to the bloc at a meeting today in Tallinn.

Top of the list was a code to regulate operations in the sea off Libya where the Italian coast guard, European border patrol forces and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) save migrants attempting the perilous crossing. Up to a dozen private aid boats have been patrolling off the coast of Libya since 2015. They performed 26 percent of the rescues carried out in 2016, rising to 35 percent so far this year, according to the Italian coastguard.

They have been accused of acting as a magnet by sailing close to the Libyan coast. In reply, they insist that not doing so would risk lives, as smugglers are putting migrants out to sea in increasingly unseaworthy vessels with little fuel or water. The Maltese organization MOAS told AFP Tuesday it was "very perplexed" by the code-of-conduct proposal as all rescues in the Mediterranean are already automatically coordinated by a command centre in Rome.

'Code exists already'

Ruben Neugebauer, spokesman of the German NGO Sea-Watch, was equally as baffled, saying: "there is already a code of conduct in place-it is called international maritime law". SOS Mediterranean, which was recently awarded a UNESCO peace prize for its efforts to save lives, said it was "surprised that the first response by European leaders to a major humanitarian crisis is for a code of conduct for the NGOs". Italian coast guard head Vincenzo Melone gave the aid groups his backing in May during an audition with a parliamentary

committee in Rome looking into whether the NGOs were encouraging people trafficking from Libya.

"We are facing a tragedy of incredible dimensions... (but) the solution is not at sea," he said. Since 2014, the coast guard has coordinated the rescue of over 590,000 migrants, while over 14,000 have died or are feared drowned. The coast guard holds meetings in Rome with NGOs to facilitate coordination. The next one is scheduled for July 13. "There's no anarchy among the aid groups, the anarchy is in Libya, a country without any state structures worthy of the name, where large-scale human trafficking is proliferating," said vice president of SOS Mediterranean Sophie Beau.

"We need more boats" It is the "EU which really needs a code of conduct", Oscar Camps, head of Spain's Proactiva Open Arms, said on Twitter. He pointed to a campaign against the NGOs which shifted attention from crisis-hit Libya or the reasons behind the mass migratory movement-people fleeing war or hunger-by slinging mud at the rescuers. "You're a pull factor, you are in cahoots with the traffickers, you are financed by the mafias, you are the taxis of the sea, we are going to close the port," he said, quoting the critics. "Are we really the problem?" he asked.

Italian media reports said the code of conduct would forbid NGOs from sailing near the Libyan waters or communicating with smugglers-including using any form of lights that could attract traffickers. The NGOs said a regulation to stop sailing near Libya would be difficult to enforce in international waters, and pointed out they use searchlights to look for men, women and children who risk drowning in the dark. The code may also include an obligation to have a police officer on board the aid boats. The NGOs have said that would go against their humanitarian principles. "But if the police want to come on their own boats, they are very welcome. We need more boats" saving lives, he said. — AFP

INDIA CONSIDERS PRIVATE CARS FOR RIDESHARING TO CUT TRAFFIC

NEW DELHI: India is examining the use of private vehicles as shared taxis in an effort to reduce car ownership and curb growing traffic congestion in major cities, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. India's federal think-tank, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has partnered with companies including ride-sharing firm Uber Technologies to assess the economic and environmental impact of using private cars as taxis, a government official involved in the process said.

Increasing the availability of cars that can be used as cabs would be welcome news for Uber and its SoftBank backed local rival Ola, although it could heighten tensions with taxi operators that typically pay higher fees for commercial licences while facing more rigorous vehicle testing. India's government wants to reduce private car ownership, the official said, adding the three-month study will look at the safety, regulatory, tax and insurance implications. While the study is in its early days, the broad

idea is to set up a clear and reasonable regulatory framework for ride-sharing so it allows companies to operate in India without ambiguity, another source involved in the process said. Although Uber is allowed to use private cars for ride sharing in countries such as Australia and Singapore, their use has faced opposition from taxi operators in parts of North America. An Uber spokesman said sharing private vehicles can help cut congestion and ensure more efficient use of cars. "We are engaging with a range of stakeholders in India about the best way to realise this vision," he said.

Car sales impact

But such a move could dent car sales in India where the ownership ratio is already low compared with other countries. There are fewer than 20 cars for every 1,000 people in India. Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor and Tata Motors are among the top-selling carmakers in the country, which is forecast to be the world's third-largest car market by 2020. —Reuters

'NOTHING'S CHANGED': POLICE SHOOTING HANGS OVER NEIGHBORHOOD

BATON ROUGE: A year ago, Abdullah Muflahi rushed outside his convenience store, whipped out his cellphone and began recording moments before a white police officer shot and killed a black man in the parking lot. Muflahi's video fueled nightly protests that turned his friend, 37-year-old Alton Sterling, into another symbol of outrage over deadly police shootings. The July 5 shooting also transformed Muflahi's store into a hub for protesters and a canvas for their grief and anger.

Visitors routinely stop by the Triple S Food Mart to photograph an iconic mural of Sterling's smiling face on its aluminum siding. A makeshift memorial - now reduced to soggy stuffed animals and withered flowers - still stands on the table where Sterling once sold homemade CDs outside. Little has changed in this poverty-stricken neighborhood since the shooting - a frustrating fact of life for residents and business owners who had hoped a national spotlight on their problems could erode racial divisions and improve police relations in Louisiana's capital.

"It's overlooked. It's not much that the city does around here," Muflahi said. "There are things that the city could fix and help make it better, but nobody looks at it like that." Muflahi, a 29-year-old native of Yemen, mourns Sterling as the friend who introduced himself as "Big Boy" and welcomed him after he moved here from Detroit and bought his store in 2010. "He's the one who actually showed me around and looked out for me," Muflahi said.

The shooting strengthened Muflahi's bond with neighbors who protested outside the store after Sterling's death. But Muflahi said store revenue also plummeted and has been slow to rebound. "A lot of people were scared to come up here," he said. "A lot of my regulars, the older people, I haven't seen them." A federal investigation

found the confrontation with the two white officers, Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II, lasted less than 90 seconds.

The officers approached Sterling about a call that a black man selling CDs had threatened someone with a gun. They struggled with Sterling after he didn't comply with commands to put his hands on the hood of a car, then wrestled him down after Lake shocked him with a Taser, federal authorities said. Investigators found that Salamoni shot Sterling three times after saying Sterling was reaching for a gun in his pocket, and fired three more shots into Sterling's back when he began to sit up. A loaded revolver was recovered from Sterling's pocket.

In May, the Justice Department announced it will not file criminal charges against either officer. Louisiana's attorney general is reviewing whether any state charges are warranted. The officers remain on paid leave. Donna Harris, a 41-year-old nurse, lives nearby and joined the protests. A year later, she's still waiting for some reason to be optimistic. "Nothing got better. Nothing changed," she said. "They haven't even given us justice for Alton."

State Rep. Ted James, a Baton Rouge Democrat and native of the area, said he sees some progress. But he also sees enduring racial divisions and acknowledges that predominantly black north Baton Rouge - where Sterling lived and died - still suffers from a longstanding "lack of investment." "That type of long-term change is going to take time," he said. "Things are happening. I recognize it's not happening as fast as folks would like to see it." At a salon across the street from the Triple S Food Mart, hair stylist Ronnie Horton said he believes politicians have shortchanged the neighborhood for years. "You go across on the other side of town, it's beautiful," he said. "It's not up here." — AP



HAMBURG: The performance '1000 GESTALTEN' with hundreds of people painted like clay figures move slowly and silently through the streets of Hamburg to protest against the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany yesterday. The leaders of the group of 20 meet July 7 and 8. — AP

TRUMP, WORLD LEADERS HEAD INTO A STORMY G20 SUMMIT

CONFLICTS LOOM OVER CLIMATE, TRADE, GLOBAL ISSUES

BERLIN: US President Donald Trump meets other world leaders at Germany's G20 summit from tomorrow, with conflicts looming over climate, trade and other global issues both inside and outside the heavily fortified venue. Fears over nuclear-armed North Korea, which just successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), cast another long shadow over the gathering, which will bring the leaders of China, Japan and South Korea to the northern city of Hamburg.

Some 20,000 police will guard the heads of the Group of 20 big industrialised and emerging economies against anti-capitalist protesters are greeting them with the combative slogan "G20 - Welcome to Hell". But trouble is also brewing at the conference table at a time when the West and Europe are deeply divided, the post-Cold War order is fraying and China and Russia are asserting themselves on the global stage. All eyes will be on Trump, who had vowed North Korea's goal of developing a nuclear weapon that can reach the US "won't happen" and has repeatedly pressed China to rein in its truculent neighbor.

His counterparts are bracing for fresh surprises after Trump stunned the world by pulling out of the 2015 Paris climate pact, questioned long-standing NATO allegiances and dismissed free-trade principles. "There is a danger that the summit will lead to polarization between the US and other countries" on climate change and other issues, warned Oxford Analytics economist Adam Slater. Trade wars loom as Trump has demanded Germany and China reduce their huge surpluses and his administration has threatened other countries with punitive measures in battles over cars, steel and natural gas.

In the most anticipated moment of the G20, Trump will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, the ex-KGB agent accused of having aided, with hackers and fake news, the surprise ascent of the property tycoon to the White House. The moment they shake hands is sure to see "an Olympian level of macho posturing between these two leaders, who both understand the importance of symbolism and the perception of being tough," said Derek Chollet of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Global power club

The year's biggest diplomatic event outside the UN will also provide a stage for other world leaders muscling for power and regional influence. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who meets German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Wednesday, will hold talks with regional rival Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at a time when both increasingly worry about the threat posed by Pyongyang. Also looming over the summit will be the bloody conflict in Syria and the frozen one in Ukraine - both involving Russia - as well as the struggle for Mideast dominance between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Then there is Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose crackdown on alleged coup plotters after a 2016 putsch attempt has poisoned relations with Germany. Trump, before the summit, will meet leaders from ex-communist eastern European nations, including Hungary's authoritarian Viktor Orban - threatening to deepen a new east-west split in the EU, which is facing Brexit and still recovering from divisions over the debt crisis. The US president will on Thursday meet Merkel, the longest-serving leader and, aside from Britain's Theresa May, the only woman in the G20 club.

Street resistance

Merkel, hailed by some as the "new leader of the free world", advocates an internationalist approach to global issues - but her G20 motto, "Shaping an Interconnected World", contrasts sharply with Trump's go-it-alone approach. The chancellor, a green energy champion who has allowed more than a million mostly Muslim refugees into Germany since 2015, said last week that "the differences are obvious and it would be dishonest to try to cover that up. That I won't do." In Hamburg, she must walk a fine line between trying to build a 19-1 front against Trump on key issues and preventing even further damage to transatlantic ties, while seeking

common ground for at least a watered-down final G20 communique.

On the streets, up to 100,000 protesters will march in some 30 rallies, creating a security headache in Germany's second-largest city. Police expect up to 8,000 leftwing radicals ready to use violence. The protesters are a diverse group of environmentalists, peace and anti-

poverty activists, united in the belief that the world's elite guarded by riot police is failing to solve the pressing global problems. "We think that they all deserve our protest and our resistance from the streets," said one activist, Georg Ismael, 25. "We are demonstrating against the G20 because we don't think that they represent the interests of humanity." — AFP



BATON ROUGE: Ronald Smith gets on his bicycle after stopping at the Triple S Food Mart, where Alton Sterling was shot by police one year ago, in Baton Rouge, La. — AP

VENEZUELA PROSECUTOR SNUBS COURT, DEFYING GOVT IN CRISIS

CARACAS: Venezuela's chief prosecutor refused to appear in court Tuesday in a case she says was trumped up by the authorities after she defied them over the country's deadly political crisis. Luisa Ortega faced imminent suspension after her move cranked up the tension in a standoff with President Nicolas Maduro, who is resisting fierce opposition calls to quit.



Luisa Ortega Diaz

Ortega, 59, is the most senior figure to defy Maduro as he fends off efforts to remove him from power in the volatile oil-exporting nation. "I am not going to condone a circus that will stain our history with shame and pain and whose decision is foretold," Ortega told a news conference at the public prosecution department. "I have committed no crime nor errors and I am not going to submit to this unconstitutional and illegitimate court," she added. "We already know that today I will be removed from my post."

Ortega's stand has raised the prospect of a split in the government camp that could tip

the balance in a deadly power struggle. Three months of unrest have left 91 people dead, prosecutors say. The latest fatality was that of a 25-year-old man killed Tuesday during a street protest in the western city of Tariba, prosecutors said. Anti-government protesters blocked streets in Caracas and elsewhere. Opposition leaders said that in Caracas, armed pro-government groups beat and shot at demonstrators. Protesters blame Maduro, a socialist, for a desperate economic crisis. He says the chaos is the result of a US-backed conspiracy.

Ortega launched a legal challenge against the government on human rights grounds, and a case against Supreme Court judges. She accuses Maduro of violating the constitution through his reform plans. Pro-government lawmaker Pedro Carreno responded by filing charges against Ortega, alleging "serious errors in the carrying out of her functions." He also alleged she was suffering from "insanity" and should be fired. Last week, the Supreme Court ordered Ortega's assets to be frozen and banned her from leaving the country.

The court held its hearing Tuesday in her absence and said afterward it would decide within five days whether to send her to trial and suspend her from office. "She sold her soul to the devil," Carreno said in the hearing. "She had her price and became a traitor just like Judas." The court earlier named a new deputy chief prosecutor to replace Ortega if she is fired: government ally Katherine Harrington. Harrington was targeted by US sanctions in 2015 for alleged human rights breaches in jailing opposition leaders. — AFP

MISSING VENEZUELAN CHOPPER PILOT BEHIND GRENADE ATTACK REAPPEARS

CARACAS: A Venezuelan helicopter pilot who vanished after dropping grenades on the Supreme Court has reappeared in an online video, as justices yesterday considered whether to hold a trial that would remove the country's defiant chief prosecutor. Oscar Perez - who claims support from members of the military, police and public servants - urged Venezuelans in the video posted late Tuesday to "stand firm in the streets" in their protests against socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

At least 91 people have been killed in street protests that have rocked the socialist Maduro government over the past three months. On Tuesday anti-government protesters blocked streets in Caracas and elsewhere. Protesters blame Maduro for Venezuela's desperate economic crisis. He blames the chaos on a US-backed conspiracy. While Perez's dramatic actions may be a sideshow in the country's deadly political crisis, the possible destitution of chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega - the most senior figure to defy Maduro - suggests a split in the government that could tip the balance of power.

Ortega defiant

Ortega, 59, refused to appear in court Tuesday in a case she says was trumped up by the authorities after she defied Maduro. "I am not going to condone a circus that will stain our history with shame and pain and whose decision is foretold," Ortega told reporters. "I have committed no crime nor errors and I am not going to submit to this unconstitutional and illegitimate court," she said. "We already know that today I will be removed from my post." Ortega accuses Maduro of violating the constitution with his plan to hold a special assembly to rewrite the document.

Opponents say this "constituent assembly" will be packed with allies that will allow him to cling to power. She had earlier accused the pro-government Supreme Court of undermining democracy through a short-lived ruling that seized power from the opposition-led legislature. That ruling helped spark the current wave of protests.

Movie star pilot

In the video, 36-year-old Perez, who is also an elite cop and movie actor, urged the protesters not to give up. "The moment is now, not tomorrow. The moment to wake up is now," he says. "Let's stand firm in the streets." On June 27, Perez and unidentified accomplices flew over Caracas in a police helicopter and dropped four grenades on the Supreme Court before opening fire on the interior ministry. There were no casualties. Perez appeared in a video released online around the time of the attacks flanked by four masked figures in black - two of them holding rifles - calling for an uprising. He claimed support from members of the armed forces and bureaucracy opposed to the "criminal government." Maduro branded the raid a "terrorist attack" and part of an "escalation" by rightwing "coup" plotters. He also put the military on alert.

In Tuesday's video, Perez said the attacks were carried out as planned. "We only damaged structures ... there was no collateral damage because that's what was planned, because we're not murderers... like you, Mr. Maduro," Perez says, pointing at the camera. Perez said his group would join the protests. "We will go out in the streets and will be with you. You are not alone," he said. The opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) coalition has distanced itself from the attack. Many people suspect that Perez might be a frontman hired by the government to justify its crackdown on opponents. — AFP



CARACAS: Demonstrators fire a slingshot during clashes with security forces in Caracas, Venezuela. — AP

WHAT IS G20?

BERLIN: The Group of 20 leading industrialized and emerging powers hold annual summits on economic governance, with wars and crises often overtaking the official agenda. Grouping the United States and other G7 members with giants such as China, India and Russia, it represents two thirds of the world population, three quarters of world trade and about 80 percent of economic output. The other members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the European Union.

The G20, with its ministerial-level beginnings in 1999, first met for a summit in 2008 in Washington to discuss ways to achieve balanced and sustainable world economic growth. Critics charge that the "self-appointed" club undermines the role of the international bodies, such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The

grouping has often been a magnet for protesters, including at this year's meet in Hamburg, Germany. At the 2010 summit in Toronto, thousands of anti-capitalist protesters clashed with Canadian police, leaving dozens injured on both sides and sparking mass arrests.

The list of G20 members does not strictly reflect the world's 20 biggest economies. Some non-members such as Switzerland have bigger economies than, for example, member Argentina. The leaders mostly meet behind closed doors and lack the power to enforce binding decisions or rules. The heads of global and regional bodies are invited to the summits - among them the chiefs of the UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO, African Union, APEC and Southeast Asia's ASEAN. Rotating G20 summits also invite guest nations, including "permanent guest" Spain and, this year, partner countries the Netherlands, Norway and Singapore. Next year's G20 host will be Argentina. — AFP

'RUSSIAN ORGANIZED CRIME' POSES A THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

PROBE DRAWS ATTENTION TO RUSSIAN SKULLDUGGERY

WASHINGTON: The US government has long warned that Russian organized crime posed a threat to democratic institutions, including "criminally linked oligarchs" who might collude with the Russian government to undermine business competition. Those concerns, ever-present if not necessarily always top priorities, are front and center once more.

An ongoing special counsel investigation is drawing attention to Russian efforts to meddle in democratic processes, the type of skullduggery that in the past has relied on hired hackers and outside criminals. It's not clear how much the investigation by former FBI Director Robert Mueller will center on the criminal underbelly of Moscow, but he's already picked some lawyers with experience fighting organized crime. And as the team looks for any

along with two officers of Russia's Federal Security Service in a cyberattack on Yahoo Inc. in 2013. It's too early to know how Russian criminal networks might fit into the election meddling investigation, but central to the probe are devastating breaches of Democratic email accounts, including those of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.

US authorities have blamed those hacks on Russian intelligence services working to discredit Clinton and help Trump - but have said the overall effort involved third-party intermediaries and paid internet trolls. Former law enforcement officials say Russian organized crime has been a concern for at least a couple of decades, though not necessarily the most pressing demand given finite resources and budget constraints. The threat is diffuse and complex,

you're looking for." Federal prosecutors continue to bring traditional organized crime cases, such as one last month in New York charging 33 members and associates of a Russian crime syndicate in a racketeering and extortion scheme that officials say involved cargo shipment thefts and efforts to defraud casinos. But there's a heightened awareness about more sophisticated cyber threats that commingle the interests of the government and of criminals.

"An organized criminal group matures in what they do," said retired FBI assistant director Ron Hosko. "What they once did here through extortion, some of these groups are now doing through cyberattack vectors." Within the Justice Department, it's been apparent since the collapse of the Soviet Union that crime from that territory could affect national security in Europe and the US. Acting FBI director Andrew McCabe was years ago a supervisory special agent of a task force created to deal with Eurasian organized crime.

A 2001 report from the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice, a research arm, called America "the land of opportunity for unloading criminal goods and laundering dirty money." It said crime groups in the region were establishing ties to drug trafficking networks, and that "criminally linked oligarchs" might work with the government to undermine competition in gas, oil and other strategic markets. Three months later came the Sept. 11 attacks, and the FBI, then under Mueller's leadership, and other agencies left no doubt that terrorism was the most important priority. "I recall talking to the racketeering guys after that and them saying, 'Forget any focus now on organized crime,'" said James Finckenaer, an author of the report.

Besides cyber threats, Justice Department officials in recent years have worried about the effect of unchecked international corruption, creating a kleptocracy initiative to recover money plundered by government leaders for their own purposes. In 2014, then-Attorney General Eric Holder pledged the Justice Department's commitment to recouping large sums believed to have been stolen during the regime of Viktor Yanukovich, the Ukrainian president chased from power that year.

That effort led to an FBI focus on Paul Manafort, the Trump campaign chairman who did political consulting work on behalf of Yanukovich's pro-Russia political party and who remains under scrutiny now. But those same foreign links have also made cases hard to prove in court. In many instances, foreign criminal hackers or those sponsored by foreign governments - including China, Iran and Russia - have remained out of reach of American authorities. In some cases, judges have chastised US authorities for prosecutorial overreach in going after international targets. A San Francisco federal judge, for instance, in 2015 dismissed an indictment involving two Ukrainian businessmen who'd been accused of bribing an official at a United Nations agency responsible for creating standards for machine-readable international passports. The judge said he couldn't understand how the government could apply a foreign bribery law to conduct that had no direct connection to the US. — AP



WASHINGTON: Former FBI Director Robert Mueller, the special counsel probing Russian interference in the 2016 election, departs Capitol Hill following a closed door meeting in Washington. — AP

financial entanglements of Trump associates and relationships with Russian officials, its focus could land again on the intertwining of Russia's criminal operatives and its intelligence services.

Russian organized crime has manifested itself over the decades in more conventional forms of money laundering, credit card fraud and black market sales. Justice Department prosecutors have repeatedly racked up convictions for those offenses. In recent years, though, the bond between Russian intelligence agencies and criminal networks has been especially alarming to American law enforcement officials, blending motives of espionage with more old-fashioned greed.

In March, for instance, two hired hackers were charged

and Russia's historic lack of cooperation has complicated efforts to apprehend suspects.

And the responsibility for combating the problem often falls across different divisions of the FBI and the Justice Department, depending on whether it's a criminal or national security offense - a sometimes-blurry boundary. "It's not an easy thing to kind of grasp or understand, but it's very dangerous to our country because they have so many different aspects, unlike a traditional cartel," said Robert Anderson, a retired FBI executive assistant director who worked counterintelligence cases and oversaw the criminal and cyber branch.

"You have to know where to look, which makes it more complicated," he added. "And you have to understand what

RIGHTS ICON SIMONE VEIL SECURES COVETED PLACE IN THE PANTHEON

PARIS: French Holocaust survivor and rights icon Simone Veil, who died last week aged 89, will receive the rare honor of being inducted into the Pantheon, President Emmanuel Macron announced at her funeral yesterday. Veil will become only the fifth woman to be laid to rest in the Paris monument, which houses the remains of great national figures, and only the fourth to be allocated a spot on her own merits. She will join Polish-born French scientist Marie Curie; two French Resistance members who were deported to Germany, Genevieve de Gaulle-Anthonioz and Germaine Tillion; and Sophie Berthelot, who was buried alongside her chemist husband Marcellin Berthelot.

Among the other luminaries buried in the secular mausoleum are writers Voltaire, Victor Hugo and Emile Zola. Veil was deported to Auschwitz in 1944 while still a teenager. She survived the concentration camps that claimed the lives of her mother, father and brother, and went on to become an indefatigable crusader for women's rights and European reconciliation. Her biggest political achievement was pushing through a law to legalise abortion in France in 1974 in the face of fierce opposition. Several hundred dignitaries, relatives and friends attended her funeral yesterday at the Invalides military hospital and museum in Paris.

Draped in the French tricolor, her coffin was borne into the museum's courtyard by members of the Republican Guard and set down on the cobbles on a wooden bier. Macron told the mourners he would bestow the Pantheon honor on her and her husband Antoine, who died in 2013, to show "the immense gratitude of the French people to one of its most loved children." "You brought into our lives that light that burned within you and which nobody could ever take away," he said. Born Simone Jacob in the Mediterranean city of Nice on July 13,

1927, Veil was arrested by the Gestapo in March 1944 and deported to Auschwitz with one of her sisters and her mother Yvonne.

The two girls, who were put to work in a concentration camp, survived as did another sister who was deported for her part in the French Resistance. Her mother succumbed to typhoid in Belsen just before that camp was liberated in 1945, and her father and brother were last seen on a train of deportees bound for Lithuania. "Sixty years later I am still haunted by the images, the odors, the cries, the humiliation, the blows and the sky filled with the smoke of the crematoriums," she said in a TV interview broadcast in 2005. Reflecting on her famously resolute character in a eulogy yesterday, her son Jean Veil said: "That determination was the backbone the armor that helped you survive hell."

Landmark abortion law

After the war Veil studied law and met her husband Antoine Veil, with whom she had three children. A member of the centre-right Union for French Democracy, she was named health minister in 1974 and led a battle that marked her generation: the legalisation of abortion. Veil led the charge in the National Assembly, where she braved a volley of insults, some of them likening pregnancy terminations to the Nazis' treatment of Jews.

The legislation, named the "Loi Veil" (Veil Law), is today considered a cornerstone of women's rights and secularism in France. In 1979, she became the first elected president of the European Parliament. Instantly recognizable by her hair, which she always wore in a sleek bun, and her Chanel suits, she was consistently voted one of France's most trusted public figures. In later life, she headed up the French Foundation for preserving the memory of the Shoah, or Holocaust. — AFP



BARCELONA: Tourists pull their suitcases as they pass by a butcher shop of El Gotic neighborhood, in Barcelona. — AFP

BYE-BYE LOCALS: EUROPEAN CITY CENTERS SOUND ALARM

BARCELONA: Memories of the past come flooding back as Manuel Morello strolls through Barcelona's picturesque Gothic Quarter: children playing, fun with the neighbors, traditional bars... But now, "all of that has disappeared." Hordes of tourists fill the narrow, winding alleys on guided tours, bike and Segway rides, while residents have deserted buildings full of history to make way for quaint hotels and tourist rentals - an issue that affects popular spots Europe-wide.

Last year, Morello himself joined the exodus out of a district he had lived in since 1962 when he came to the Spanish seaside city from Galicia in the northwest. The flat he had been renting for 25 years was sold to an investor and he was evicted. Having paid 500 euros (\$560) a month in rent, he was unable to find anything else affordable in the area. "They were asking for 1,000, 1,200, 1,500 euros," says the 76-year-old, his face framed by thick glasses and a bushy moustache. "This was my village. I had it all here, my friends, my shops, I got married here, my children were born here, and I thought I would die here." "I feel displaced," he adds, his eyes welling up.

'Emptying out'

According to the city hall, the fixed population in the Gothic district so loved by tourists has dropped from 27,470 residents in 2006 to just 15,624 at the end of 2015. Now, 63 percent are "floating" residents - tourists or people in short-term lets. At the same time, according to real-estate website Idealista, rental prices in Ciutat Vella, where the Gothic Quarter is located, have gone from 14.4 to 19 euros per square meter in just two years.

Rising rental prices, noise and crowds jostling for space in the streets and the disappearance of traditional, everyday stores

have all contributed to forcing people out for economic reasons... or due to sheer frustration. The arrival of Airbnb and other such home-renting platforms has only aggravated the problem, locals say. "We're not talking about gentrification, about substituting the original population by another more wealthy one," says Gala Pin, a councillor in Ciutat Vella. "We're talking about the historic centre emptying out." For sociologist Daniel Sorando, co-author of "First We Take Manhattan," an essay that analyses the phenomenon in various cities, the trend is towards "urban centers conceived as machines to make money while the working classes are displaced outside."

Paris, Amsterdam, London

The problem also affects cities further afield. In Paris, concerned residents of the 4th district, where Notre-Dame Cathedral is located, organized a symposium on the "invisible desertification" of city centers in March. The city hall in the French capital said earlier this year that it had lost 20,000 housing units in five years, partly to tourist rentals. This contributes to a "rise in prices" and a "drop in the population," Ian Brossat, in charge of housing for Paris' city hall said.

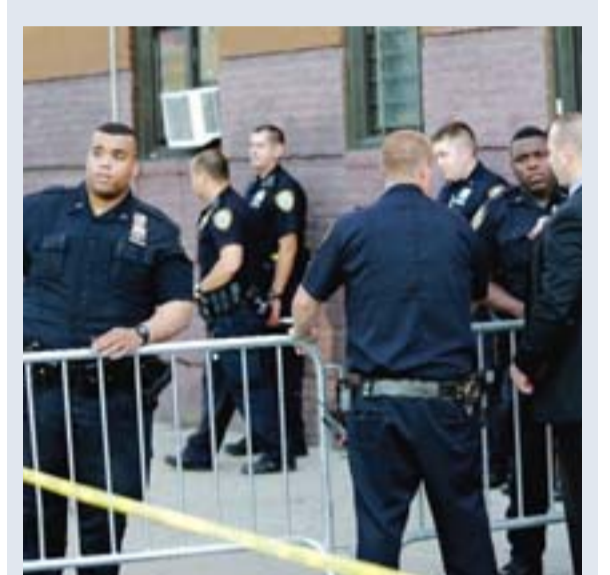
In Amsterdam, meanwhile, the ING bank found that owners could earn 350 euros more per month with seasonal rentals, pushing the prices up, Senne Janssen, author of the study, told AFP. To try and remedy the situation, Paris, London and Amsterdam want to regulate the duration of rentals and register all flats and houses being used for short-term lets in order to better control them. In Berlin, people are only allowed to rent out one room in their home since last year, and the whole flat or house if it is a secondary or occasional use pied-a-terre. — AFP

News

in brief

Brussels terror raids

BRUSSELS: Four people have been arrested, and arms cache found after overnight terror raids in Brussels linked to a bikers' club called the Kamikaze Riders, federal prosecutors said yesterday. "During one of the house searches, various weapons were found. In all, four persons were arrested and taken in for questioning," prosecutors said in a statement. A spokesman said the raids were linked to the Kamikaze Riders, which has been implicated in terror offences. A source close to the investigation said the raids in the gritty Anderlecht district found at least two Kalashnikov assault rifles while reports spoke of explosives also being discovered. The statement from prosecutors said the raids were "completely independent" from the probe into the deadly November 2015 Paris and March 2016 Brussels attacks, which were claimed by Islamic State and carried out by jihadi cells based in the Belgian capital. Meanwhile in northern France, a joint Franco-Belgian anti-terrorist operation picked up a man on suspicion of having links to the Kamikaze Riders.



NEW YORK: Emergency personnel stand near the scene where a police officer was shot in the Bronx section of New York yesterday. Police said Officer Miosotis Familia died at a hospital yesterday. — AP

NY cop fatally shot

NEW YORK: A New York City police officer was shot to death yesterday morning, ambushed in a marked patrol car by a man with a revolver who was later killed by officers. Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year member of the department, was assigned with a partner to a mobile command post when the man fired one round through the window and struck her in the head as she was wrapping up her shift. She was rushed to a hospital but did not survive. "This was an unprovoked direct attack on police officers who were assigned to keep the people of this city safe," Police Commissioner James O'Neill said. Her partner radioed for help, and officers responded fast, encountering the suspect, 34-year old Alexander Bonds, about a block away, he said. As they confronted him, he pulled a revolver, and police fired, striking and killing him. A silver revolver was found at the scene. A bystander was hit in the stomach by a bullet during the standoff, and is in stable condition, police said. Bonds had been on parole for a robbery case in Syracuse, New York, police said.

Murderer's death sentence

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's High Court handed the death sentence yesterday to a laborer who was found guilty of murdering former Agence France-Presse journalist Mel Gunasekera in a break-in at her home. Anthony George, who stabbed Gunasekera to death in February 2014, will have his sentence automatically commuted to life in prison as Sri Lanka has an unofficial moratorium on capital punishment. High Court judge Piyasena Ranasinghe also found George guilty of breaking and entering and of stealing Gunasekera's mobile phone. During a lengthy trial, the court heard that he had murdered Gunasekera after she recognized him as a laborer who had been hired over a month earlier to paint her parent's house. Gunasekera, 40, was an assistant vice president at Fitch's Sri Lankan operation, a position she took up in 2012 after a five-year stint as Colombo correspondent for AFP.

Plane stowaway survivor

LAGOS: Nigerian authorities have launched an investigation into claims that a teenager survived 12 hours hidden in the wheel compartment of a plane between Lagos and London, an aviation official said yesterday. The boy, said to be aged 15 or under, was apparently discovered in the wheel compartment of a Med-View Airline Boeing 747 which made the round trip last Saturday. "We are looking into the incident to find how it happened and to prevent a recurrence," Sam Adurogboye, of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) said. Adurogboye said the authorities were "disturbed by the incident because of its implications for air safety". Nigerian media quoted Med-View's spokesman Oyibotha Obuke as saying the airline was cooperating with the relevant authorities. How the teenager survived at an altitude of 32,000 feet was a mystery, said Adurogboye. Hypoxia or oxygen deficiency normally sets in from about 10,000 feet and would quickly render a person unconscious. Temperatures at that altitude plunge to -48 degrees Celsius (-55 degrees Fahrenheit), causing hypothermia.

Armenian shelling kills 2

BAKU: Armenian forces have killed a two-year-old Azerbaijani girl and her grandmother in a fresh border clash near the breakaway Nagorno Karabakh region, Baku said yesterday. Ex-Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia are locked in a decades-long conflict over the disputed region, and frequent exchanges of fire nearly spiraled back into all-out war a year ago. The toddler and her grandmother were killed Tuesday "as a result of a targeted and deliberate attack on civilians" in the village of Alkhanli "by the armed forces of Armenia" using mortars and heavy grenade launchers, Azerbaijan's foreign ministry said in a statement. Karabakh's rebel authorities said they opened fire in response to Azerbaijan shelling their positions. "Azerbaijanis deploy their positions in populated areas, using civilians as a human shield," a Karabakh defense ministry statement said. Baku and Yerevan have feuded over the Nagorno Karabakh region since Armenian separatists seized the territory in a war that claimed some 30,000 lives in the early 1990s and ended in a fragile 1994 truce.



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (right) stands in front of the flag-draped coffin of Simone Veil during a solemn funeral ceremony, in the courtyard of the Invalides in Paris yesterday. — AP

CHINESE DEITIES FLY BUSINESS CLASS FOR SE ASIA TOUR

SINGAPORE: A statue of a Chinese goddess adorned in brightly colored clothes and an extravagant headdress has become an online sensation after it was pictured flying business class to Malaysia. The six-foot (1.8-metre) model of Chinese sea goddess Mazu was pictured strapped into the luxury seat on a flight from Xiamen, southern China, to Kuala Lumpur at the start of a tour of Malaysia and Singapore. Mazu and two heavenly guardians were escorted by a group of 130 devotees from a temple on an island in Fujian province, believed to be the birthplace of the goddess, who is revered as a patron of sailors and fishermen.

The deities travelled at the weekend with Xiamen Airlines each business class seat costing 2,091 yuan (about \$300). Some seats had to be removed to make space for towering Mazu on the flight. But after superior treatment on the outward leg, the goddesses had to come down to Earth for the rest of the trip. They travelled by bus on to the Malaysian city of Malacca, and then down to neighboring Singapore in the back of a lorry with the devo-

tees following in coaches. The pictures of Mazu in business class sparked a mixture of mirth and amazement online. "Does the deity have to go thru the screening and pat down procedure?" asked Facebook user Shukuchi Fox. Another post said that she was "taking up role of air goddess blessing travelers on board". The deities' heavenly powers could not save them from the very human headache of a lengthy traffic jam yesterday however-they got caught in a snarl-up as they headed over the causeway separating Singapore and Malaysia.

They were then delayed for four hours by Singapore immigration officials who made them undergo extra security checks. The organizers of the tour decided to bring Mazu to Malaysia and Singapore for tours of Chinese temples because the countries' large ethnic Chinese communities revere the goddess. "We want to share the blessing of Mazu with as many people as possible," said Lin Jinbang, chairman of the Mazu Ancestor Temple on Meizhou Island in Fujian, a shrine to the goddess. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Devotees make an offering with joss sticks to the idol of Chinese sea goddess Mazu during its second stop-over at a temple in Singapore yesterday. The Meizhou Mazu idol is currently on a tour of Malaysia and Singapore, a region traditionally referred to as 'Nanyang' by early Chinese migrants, as part of a cultural exchange tour for devotees to pay tribute to the deity. —AFP



RAKHINE STATE: Rosmaida Bibi (second from left) who suffers from severe malnutrition walks with the help of her mother Hamida Begum at the Dar Paing camp, north of Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar. Rosmaida Bibi looks a lot like any of the underfed 1-year-olds in a squalid camp for Myanmar's displaced ethnic Rohingya minority - but she's 4. —AP

IN MYANMAR, ONE GIRL'S PLIGHT EPITOMIZES ROHINGYA STRUGGLE

DAR PAING: Ever since she was born in a squalid displaced camp for Myanmar's ethnic Rohingya minority that authorities won't let anyone leave, Rosmaida Bibi has struggled to do something most of the world's children do effortlessly: grow. Frail and severely malnourished, she looks a lot like every other underfed child here - until you realize she's not really like any of them at all.

A tiny girl with big brown eyes, Rosmaida is 4 - but barely the size of a 1-year-old. She wobbles unsteadily when she walks. Bones protrude through the flimsy skin of her chest. And while other kids her age chatter incessantly, Rosmaida is listless, only able to speak a handful of first words: "Papa." "Mama." "Rice." Half a decade after a brutal wave of anti-Muslim violence exploded in this predominantly Buddhist nation in June 2012, forcing more than 120,000 Rohingya Muslims into a series of camps in western Myanmar, this is what the government's policy of persecution, segregation and neglect looks like up close.

The troubling thing

It's a policy born of decades of military dictatorship and fear that Muslims are encroaching on what should be Buddhist land. The troubling thing today, rights groups say, is that this stance has been adopted by the administration of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace laureate and long-time opposition leader who rose to power after her party swept national elections last year. And any hope that Suu Kyi - once lauded worldwide as a human rights icon - might turn things around has been shattered by her silence and the reality that life for the Rohingya has deteriorated by the day.

"This is worse than a prison," Rosmaida's 20-year-old mother, Hamida Begum, said of the makeshift hut they call home - the place where her daughter was born that floods with every heavy rain. Poor, unemployed, and prohibited from crossing checkpoints into more affluent Buddhist-only areas, Begum has been unable to find anyone who can help. "I want to give her an education. I want to send her to school like all the other kids," she said as Rosmaida burrowed into her lap in Dar Paing, near the state capital, Sittwe. But "she is sick... she cannot grow."

The Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic group, have long been denied citizenship, freedom of movement and basic rights in Myanmar, a country that largely sees them as foreigners from neighboring Bangladesh even though most were born here. Although tensions in Rakhine state go back decades, the neighborhood Begum grew up in in Sittwe was mixed, and she said people there used to get along.

That changed dramatically on June 5, 2012, when Buddhist mobs began attacking Muslims and setting homes ablaze. Begum fled, running barefoot so hard and so fast she realized only later that her feet were covered in blood. Today her neighborhood - where denuded trees and the destroyed remains of homes are still visible - is occupied by Buddhist squatters. Although Begum said her grandparents owned their family's house there, they have neither been allowed to return nor compensated for its destruction. Aside from a single district,

Sittwe is now entirely Buddhist, and Muslims are prohibited from walking its streets.

Situation is much worse

Suu Kyi has denied such policies equate to ethnic cleansing, but international rights groups insist that's exactly what they are. Suu Kyi's office did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Matthew Smith, who runs the advocacy group Fortify Rights, said, "It's scandalous that these internment camps still exist five years on... The reality is that there's a lot she (Suu Kyi) could be doing, but isn't." The Rohingya are no closer now to getting their rights... and in some respects the situation is much worse," he said. Over the last year, "there's been mass killing, mass rape, widespread forced labor and other violations, all committed with complete impunity."

After a Rohingya insurgent group killed nine officers in northern Rakhine state in October - the first reported attack of its kind - security forces responded by burning entire villages, raping women and killing an unknown number of people in a rampage that sent 75,000 people fleeing into neighboring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations and international rights groups. The government puts the death toll at 52 dead or missing and blames extremists for the killings. Although southern Rakhine state, where Rosmaida lives, was not directly affected, the region has experienced a spike in tensions.

On Tuesday, a 100-strong Buddhist mob in Sittwe killed one Rohingya man and injured six others who ventured into the city under police escort to buy boats. Suu Kyi says her administration is dealing with the issue by implementing the recommendations of a commission led by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which called on the government to close the displaced camps and allow their inhabitants to return home. Most of the camps remain open, though, and Suu Kyi's administration restricts access to the region, blocking journalists from independent access to the north altogether.

Last week, her government said it would also bar members of a UN-approved fact-finding mission from entering the country to investigate alleged rights violations by security forces against the Rohingya. Vanna Sara, a Buddhist abbot at Sittwe's Seik Ke Daw Min monastery, said harsh policies were necessary to protect Buddhists. Western Myanmar is on the frontline of a population explosion, and Muslims, he said, are trying to "swallow the whole region." "They can't be trusted. No Muslim can be trusted. They're all scary," Sara said. "That's why, to tell you the truth, it's better that we don't live with the Muslims. That's how we feel."

When Begum settled in Dar Paing after the 2012 violence, she tried to start her life anew. But her tragic story has mirrored that of many Rohingya. The man she married died shortly after he was detained in Malaysia, where he was trying to bring their family for a better life. Their son died a few hours after birth. Begum has since remarried, but her fisherman husband sometimes comes home from a day of work with less than a dollar, or nothing. That makes it hard to care for her biggest concern - her daughter - who is lucky just to be alive. —AP

DENIED US VISAS, ALL-GIRL AFGHAN ROBOTICS TEAM TO WATCH VIA SKYPE

THEIR ROBOT WAS GRANTED ENTRY TO US FOR COMPETITION

HERAT: Two Afghan girls refused visas to the United States for a robot-building competition said yesterday they were mystified by the decision, as the contest's organizers said teams from Iran and Sudan as well as a de facto Syrian team had gained visas. The unusual story of the Afghan all-girl team of robotics students emerged as the United States grapples with the legality of President Donald Trump's order to temporarily ban travel from six Muslim-majority countries.

Afghanistan itself is not on the list and Team Afghanistan's robot, unlike its creators, has been allowed entry to the United States. Asked by Reuters on Tuesday why the girls were banned, a U.S. State Department spokesperson cited regulations prohibiting the agency from discussing individual visa cases. So the six team members will watch the ball-sorting machine compete in Washington D.C. via video link during the July 16-18 event from their hometown of Herat, in western Afghanistan, according to the FIRST Global contest organizers.

"We still don't know the reason why we were not granted visas, because other countries participating in the competition have been given visas," said 14-year-old Fatemah Qaderyan, part of the team that made two journeys to the US Embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul to apply for their papers. "No one knows about the future but... we did our best and we hope that our robot could get a position along other robots from other countries," Qaderyan said.

Most of the female team members were either infants or not yet born at the time of the US-backed military intervention in Afghanistan in 2001 that toppled the Taliban regime - whose ultra-hardline interpretation of sharia (Islamic law)

banned girls from school, women from working outside the home and all females from leaving home without a male relative. More than 15 years later, around 10,000 US and allied international troops remain in Afghanistan to support an elected government in Kabul that constitutionally guarantees women's rights but is increasingly

people of Afghanistan," Azizi said. FIRST Global's president, Joe Sestak, said in a post on the organization's Facebook page that he was "saddened" by the US decision but the Afghan team would be able to connect with the competition via a live Skype video link. "That is how we must now honor our fellow teammates, those brave girls from

team, from Gambia, had been also denied visas.

Also approved for visas was "Team Hope," a group of Syrian refugees, he said. Syria is among the Muslim-majority countries named in Trump's executive order prohibiting all citizens from entry for 90 days. The other countries, apart from Iran, Syria and Sudan,



BALKH PROVINCE: An Afghan woman collects water from a hand pump in Mazar-i-Sharif in Ghazni province. —AFP

losing ground to a Taliban insurgency that now controls or contests some 40 percent of territory.

Clear insult

Qaderyan's teammate from Herat, 17-year-old Lida Azizi, was less forgiving of the US visa decision. "All of the countries can participate in the competitions, but we can't. So it's a clear insult for the

Afghanistan," he said. He added that the teams of 156 countries - including from Iran and Sudan, which are on Trump's list of countries whose citizens are banned from entry - had received their visas. "The support of the U.S. State Department (including its embassies) has been simply nothing short of amazing," Sestak said in the post, adding that one other

are Libya, Somalia and Yemen. In a June 26 ruling, the US Supreme Court revived parts of Trump's March 6 executive order that had been blocked by lower courts. The highest court let the ban go forward with a limited scope, saying that it cannot apply to anyone with credible "bona fide relationship" with a US person or entity. —Reuters

LANKA VOWS TAMIL AUTONOMY DESPITE BUDDHIST RESISTANCE

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka vowed yesterday to grant greater autonomy to its Tamil minority in a new constitution after an influential Buddhist monk said the clergy opposed the plan. President Maithripala Sirisena has said the new constitution will grant extensive autonomy to Tamils con-

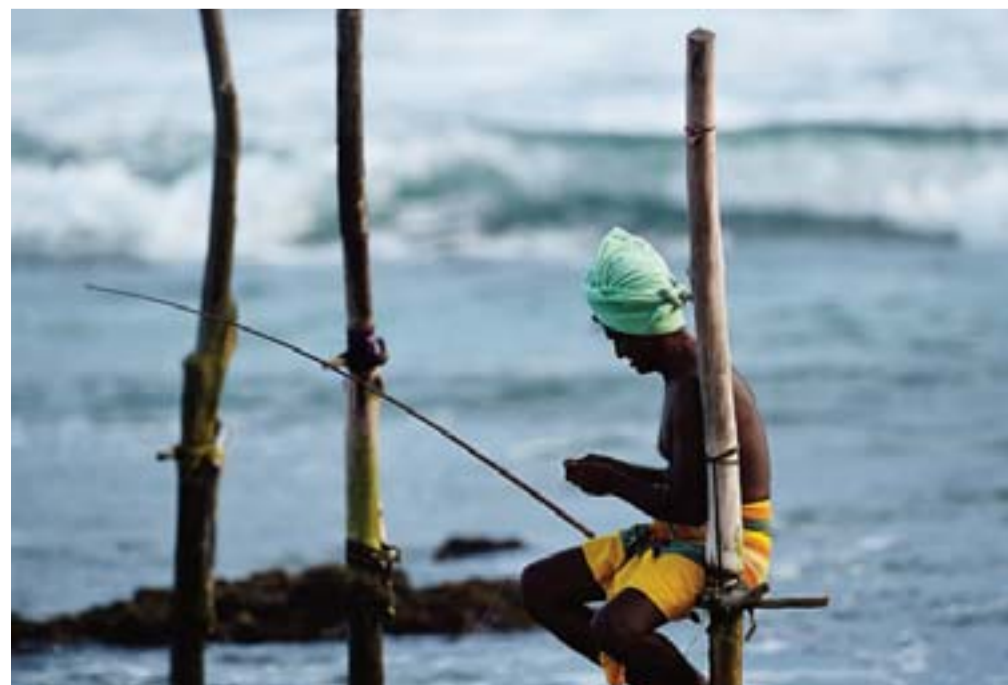
centrated in the island's northern and eastern regions. He has said he wants to prevent a repeat of a bloody separatist conflict that claimed 100,000 lives between 1972 and 2009.

On Tuesday the senior monk Anamaduwe Dhammadassi said the clergy opposed the plan,

which would "create unnecessary problems". But government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne said the national parliament would not roll back the process which began in April last year to draft a new statute that will be put to a referendum. "The monks can have their views, but the people's mandate at two elections in 2015 was to change the constitution," Senarathne said. "We will not work against the people's will just because Buddhist monks want us to do so."

Nearly 70 percent of the island's population is Buddhist and the monks, who hold huge sway, have generally opposed any political concessions to the mostly Hindu Tamils community. Dhammadassi said senior monks were united in their opposition to constitutional reforms. The latest move by the Buddhist leadership is seen as a new challenge to Sirisena, also a Buddhist from the Sinhalese majority, who is committed to ethnic unity. Hardline Sinhalese oppose a federal system that would ensure more political power for minority Tamils.

The island's Tamils took up arms in 1972 claiming they faced discrimination in education and employment. While many of the grievances were addressed over the years, the militancy grew into a full-fledged guerrilla war with Tamil Tiger rebels controlling a third of the country's territory before they were eventually crushed in May 2009. The offensive that defeated the rebels prompted allegations of widespread war crimes, including accusations that at least 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed by government forces. Sirisena came to power partly on the back of support from Tamils after pledging reconciliation and promising investigations into war-time atrocities. —AFP



A Sri Lankan stilt fisherman works on his poles in the southern town of Galle. The number of foreign tourists visiting Sri Lanka has swelled since the island ended a 37-year separatist conflict with Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009. —AFP

A BIG N KOREAN MOMENT, AMPLIFIED WITH BIGGER PROPAGANDA

SEOUL: A "brilliant victory" and "thrilling" success, North Korea's grinning leader crowed of his country's first test of a long-range ballistic missile. The "final phase" in a confrontation with America, Kim Jong Un called it. Part of a coming stream of "gift packages" to the Yankees in the form of more weapons tests. You can feel the self-satisfied, self-aggrandizing bliss as North Korean state media revels in what it

clearly sees as a historic moment - and a golden chance to boost the dictator and his military.

In some respects, the accomplishment this week is as big a deal as the breathless descriptions. But, as ever with North Korea, there are some important reasons to be skeptical. People in the North Korean countryside still go without food. It's still a third-world economy, with mas-

sive corruption and rampant human rights abuses. It is hated, feared, mocked and sanctioned by its neighbors. And several years of development and tests still lie ahead before its intercontinental ballistic missile - the North calls the nascent version it test-fired on Tuesday the Hwasong-14 - will actually work.

Yet despite all of this, after decades of single-minded determination, a tiny, impoverished country stands on the threshold of completing a long-coveted goal that only the United States, Russia and a handful of others have accomplished: building nuclear-armed ICBMs. A look at North Korea's delighted propagandists, and what it might mean:

The propaganda

"Respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un," with a "broad smile on his face," urged his scientists to continue to "frequently send big and small 'gift packages' to the Yankees as ever so that they would not feel weary."

What it might mean

Pyongyang, with this part boast, part threat, is likely promising more missile and nuclear tests. It's a show of defiance, sure - such tests are banned by the UN - but it also reveals something important, and less flattering, about the North: More tests signal weakness. Before it can actually back up its bluster, it needs repeated tests to build a single ICBM that can reach North

America, let alone an arsenal of them. Same goes for nuclear bombs. Some analysts believe North Korea can arm its short-range missiles with nuclear warheads already. But there's more doubt about whether Pyongyang can build a warhead that can fit on a long-range missile. Each new test puts the North closer to its goal. But it also signals that it is not there yet.

Brilliant victory

The propaganda: North Korea said that it had scored a "brilliant victory" and "great success" by launching an ICBM that can carry a "large-sized" nuclear warhead. Kim praised his scientists for "thrillingly succeeding at one try in even the test-launch of Hwasong-14 capable of striking the US mainland this time." The weapon's guidance, stability, structural and "active-flight stages" systems were all "confirmed."

What it might mean

The North did succeed, in a way, by getting the missile to fly in a highly lofted arc and splash down in the Sea of Japan. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo all confirmed this as the North's best effort to date. It's also true that if not stopped, North Korea appears only a matter of years away from building a working ICBM. But there are big reasons to doubt North Korea's claim of complete success "at one try." These include whether the North has mastered the technology for a re-entry vehicle crucial for returning a warhead to

the atmosphere from space so it can hit its intended target. And whether North Korea can build a warhead small enough to fit on a long-range missile.

Final phase- Propaganda

Kim "stressed that the protracted showdown with the US imperialists has reached its final phase, and it is the time for the (North) to demonstrate its mettle to the US."

What it might mean

This sounds like a threat, and North Korea has, without doubt, been demonstrating its mettle for years, ignoring repeated US warnings not to test nukes and missiles and threatening to strike targets in the United States. Such propaganda helps domestically by boosting Kim Jong Un as a titan bestirring the world stage. It also causes fear in America, South Korea and Japan. "Final phase" may also be a way of trying to keep North Korea's elites from getting complacent as the nuclear standoff nears 30 years. There's a glimmer of truth in the phrase, too. If the goal has always been a nuclear-armed ICBM, then the first smooth test of a nascent version of that weapon could indeed mark a "final phase" of sorts. What's less certain is whether this phase will end with violence, some sort of negotiated nuclear freeze of simply more years of frustration and North Korean weapons progress. —AP



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center) celebrates the successful test-fire of the intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14 at an undisclosed location. —AFP

TENSIONS HIGH IN THE DISPUTED HIMALAYAS

CHINA DEMANDS INDIA WITHDRAWAL

BEIJING: China yesterday insisted India withdraw its troops from a disputed plateau in the Himalayan mountains before talks can take place to settle the most protracted standoff in recent years between the nuclear-armed neighbors who fought a brief but bloody frontier war in the area 55 years ago. India must pull back its troops "as soon as possible" as a precondition to demonstrate "sincerity,"

Jinping and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi are expected to meet at a gathering of leaders from five emerging economies on the sidelines of the main event in Hamburg. The month-long standoff - and unconfirmed reports of troop buildups on both sides of the border - has also underscored the swiftly deteriorating relations between the two Asian rivals. China claims about 90,000 square

India refused to sign on this year to its continent-wide "One Belt, One Road" infrastructure initiative, which includes a component in Pakistan and a part of Kashmir that is contested by India.

China also complained bitterly when Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India, visited Arunachal Pradesh in April, something India said amounted to interference in its internal affairs. Yet India

time from its longtime ally, India, which sent troops onto the plateau to obstruct Chinese workers.

China then retaliated by closing a mountain pass that Indian pilgrims use to reach Mount Kailash, a sacred Hindu and Buddhist site in Tibet. Since then, videos have emerged of Indian and Chinese soldiers blocking each other with their arms and physically jostling without coming to blows. After Chinese officials said India should learn "historic lessons" from its humiliating defeat in the 1962 war, Indian Defense Minister Arun Jaitley shot back by saying that "India in 2017 is different from India in 1962," in a reference to its improved military strength.

In an editorial headlined "India would bear brunt of new border clash," China's outspoken nationalist tabloid Global Times ramped up the rhetoric yesterday by saying that China was in no mood to make concessions. "The Indian military can choose to return to its territory with dignity, or be kicked out of the area by Chinese soldiers," said the paper, which is published by the ruling Communist Party flagship People's Daily. Meanwhile, the more mainstream China Daily suggested that some in the Indian military were seeking payback for the 1962 war. "Perhaps its defeat in that war was too humiliating for some in the Indian military and that is why they are talking belligerently this time," it said.

Although the Doklam Plateau is not part of Indian territory, India's Ministry of External Affairs has called Chinese actions in the area a move with "serious security implications for India." Former Indian ambassador to Beijing CV Ranganathan said that Doklam is a strategically important area that can provide access to the vital Siliguri corridor - also known as the "Chicken Neck" - that connects India's northeast with the rest of the country. But he said he was "baffled" as to why the dispute flared up now. "The fact that this has lasted so long is not a good sign," he said. "India and China's relationship has been on a downward trend recently and this in fact is yet another example." —AP



DANDONG: Chinese woman clean their clothes near the Friendship bridge (back top) on the Yalu River connecting the North Korean town of Sinuiju and Dandong in Chinese border city of Dandong yesterday. —AFP

BEIJING WALKS A TIGHTROPE WITH TRUMP OVER N KOREA

BEIJING: The US and Chinese presidents face an awkward encounter at the G20 summit this week as rising tensions over how to deal with North Korea threaten to shatter the already-crumbling facade of their friendly rhetoric. North Korea's landmark test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of reaching Alaska has intensified friction between the superpowers ahead of US President Donald Trump's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the summit in Germany, which starts tomorrow.

In the weeks leading up to Tuesday's missile test, Trump had used a series of Twitter outbursts to criticize China over its failure to rein in the nuclear-armed North, vexing Chinese leaders who prefer closed-door diplomacy to public tongue-lashings. In a marked change of tune, Trump has gone from calling Xi a "good man" after their first face-to-face meeting at the US billionaire's Florida resort in April to accusing him last month of failing to resolve the North Korea issue. In his latest salvo on Monday, Trump called on China to "put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!"

China's foreign ministry responded that Beijing had made "relentless efforts" to resolve the issue. For his part, Xi complained in a call with Trump on Monday about a "negative" patch in relations after the US administration slapped sanctions on a Chinese bank linked to North Korea and authorized a \$1.3 billion arms sales to Taiwan. While China, the North's sole major ally and economic lifeline, could do much more to starve Pyongyang of the foreign currency it needs to fund its weapons programs, analysts say the US actions make that less likely to happen.

'Delicate balance'

China is also carefully calibrating its moves to avoid destabilizing its unpredictable neighbor for fear of triggering the regime's collapse and a flood of refugees across its border - or giving the US a reason to launch a strike in its backyard. "They are trying to find the point to keep the Americans happy and keep Trump from veering off and looking at military options," said Andrew Gilholm, director of analysis of Greater China and North Asia at Control Risks.

Gilholm added, however, that China's economic leverage over the North did not necessarily mean it could persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear ambitions. But the North's possession of a working ICBM could signal time is running out for China to act. Trump, who has made halting the nuclear threat his top foreign policy priority, has vowed to act unilaterally against Pyongyang if Beijing fails to rein in North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's regime.

"It's a delicate balance," said Willy Lam, a politics expert at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "If they (China) don't take action fast enough it's possible that the US might contemplate some action, either a surgical strike or other action." China appeared to cave to US pressure in February when it announced the suspension of coal imports from North Korea for the rest of the year. The total value of all imports from North Korea fell to \$721.5 million between January and May from \$773.6 million over the same period last year, according to Chinese official figures. —AFP



Photo shows a Chinese soldier (left) next to an Indian soldier at the Nathu La border crossing between India and China in India's northeastern Sikkim state. China's ambassador said yesterday that the withdrawal of Indian troops from a disputed territory is a "precondition" for peace, in an apparent escalation of a border row between the two Asian powers that has drawn in tiny Bhutan. —AFP

foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a daily news briefing. His comments came after weeks of saber-rattling in New Delhi and Beijing, as officials from both sides talk up a potential clash even bloodier than their 1962 war that left thousands dead.

The confrontation could spill over into the G-20 summit in Germany later this week where Chinese President Xi

kilometers in the Indian province of Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet." India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau. More than a dozen rounds of talks have failed to make substantial progress in the dispute, although there have been relatively few confrontations in recent years. China appeared frustrated that

also formally joined the Russian and Chinese-dominated Shanghai Cooperation Organization this year alongside Pakistan. The latest dispute flared up in June after Chinese teams began building a road on territory also claimed by Bhutan. Although China and Bhutan have spent decades negotiating the precise border without serious incident, the tiny Himalayan kingdom sought help this

US AND SOUTH KOREA SEND NORTH A MISSILE WARNING

SEOUL: South Korea and the United States fired off missiles yesterday simulating a precision strike against North Korea's leadership, in response to a landmark ICBM test described by Kim Jong-Un as a gift to "American bastards." Tuesday's launch-acknowledged as an ICBM by Washington-marked a milestone in Pyongyang's decades-long drive for the capability to threaten the US mainland with a nuclear strike, and poses a stark foreign policy challenge for Donald Trump.

The US president had vowed that "won't happen," but independent experts said it could reach Alaska or even further towards the continental US. It will require a reassessment of the threat posed by the nuclear-armed North, which has carried out five atomic tests and said the multi-stage rocket's warhead could survive atmospheric re-entry to strike a target. Amid international condemnation of the test, South Korean and US military forces launched short-range ballistic missiles of their own less than 24 hours afterwards from the peninsula into the Sea of Japan.

Both weapons homed in on their target, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "displaying the capability of a precision strike against the enemy headquarters in times of emergency." The South's new President Moon Jae-In, who backs engagement with Pyongyang to bring it to the negotiating table, said the North's "serious provocation required us to react with more than just a statement." US

general Vincent Brooks, the Combined Forces commander in South Korea, said: "Self restraint, which is a choice, is all that separates armistice and war. As this Alliance missile live fire shows, we are able to change our choice when so ordered by our Alliance national leaders."

The two countries are in a security alliance, with 28,500 US troops stationed in the South to protect it. Their language is likely to infuriate Pyongyang, which says it needs nuclear weapons to defend itself against the threat of invasion and has been subjected to multiple sets of UN sanctions over its atomic and missile programs. The launches came hours after a joint appeal by the presidents of China and Russia for all sides to exercise restraint and ease tensions. Disagreement on how best to respond will complicate discussions at the UN, where the Security Council was due to meet in emergency session later Wednesday after Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the North's launch as a "dangerous escalation."

'New escalation'

After personally overseeing the test, the North's leader Kim Jong-Un "said American bastards would be not very happy with this gift sent on the July 4 anniversary," the official Korean Central News Agency reported. Breaking into peals of laughter, KCNA said, he "added that we should send them gifts once in a while to help break their boredom." Kim had inspected the Hwasong-14 missile

and "expressed satisfaction, saying it looked as handsome as a good-looking boy and was well made". Questions remain over the precise capabilities of the weapon, but KCNA said it was a multi-stage rocket with a carbon composite nose cone that could carry a "large, heavy nuclear warhead".

The test had shown it could survive the harsh conditions of re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, including "heat reaching thousands of degrees centigrade," to "accurately hit the target," it said. The missile only travelled little more than 900 kilometers to come down in the Sea of Japan, but the altitude it reached - more than 2,800 kilometers according to Pyongyang-demonstrated it can travel far further. South Korea's defense minister Han Min-koo put its range at 7,000 to 8,000 kilometers - far enough to put US Pacific Command in Hawaii within reach.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson strongly condemned the launch, saying: "Testing an ICBM represents a new escalation of the threat to the United States, our allies and partners, the region, and the world. As we, along with others, have made clear, we will never accept a nuclear-armed North Korea." But experts said that particular red line had already been crossed. "The window for negotiating denuclearisation is closed," Jeffrey Lewis, an expert in nuclear non-proliferation said. "The big point is that we have to accept North Korea with a nuclear-armed ICBM." —AFP

PHILIPPINE MILITANTS BEHEAD TWO VIETNAMESE HOSTAGES

MANILA: Islamist militants have beheaded two Vietnamese sailors held hostage for eight months in the southern Philippines, the military said yesterday. Philippine troops found the remains of the two hostages early yesterday morning on the island of Basilan, a stronghold of the notorious Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group, military spokeswoman Captain Jo-Ann Petinglay said. "This is a desperate measure of the Abu Sayyaf Group because they see they have no gains from their kidnap-for-ransom activity," Petinglay said.

Abu Sayyaf, originally a loose network of militants formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, has splintered into factions, with some continuing to engage in banditry and kidnappings. One faction has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, with members among those holding parts of Marawi, the largely Catholic nation's most important Islamic city.

Militants continue to occupy parts of Marawi despite a US-backed military offensive there that has claimed more than 460 lives and displaced nearly 400,000 people since it began in May. The two Vietnamese were seized last November along with four other Vietnamese crew members of a vessel that was boarded by the militants off the southern region of Mindanao, the military said.

One of the six crewmen was rescued last month and three remain in captivity, Petinglay said. Abu Sayyaf militants are holding a total of 22 hostages, including 16 foreigners, according to Petinglay. The Abu Sayyaf is known to behead its hostages unless ransom payments are made. German national Jurgen Kantner, 70, was beheaded in February after the kidnapers' demand for 30 million pesos (\$600,000) was not met. Last year, the group beheaded two Canadian hostages. —AFP

BLOC REGRETS 'NEGATIVE' QATAR RESPONSE...

Continued from Page 1

The Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan said Qatar was only interested in "destruction, incitement, extremism and terrorism", rather than in good neighborly relations. Shukri said Qatar's policies could not be allowed to continue and vowed that Egyptian blood would not be shed in vain, a reference to deadly attacks by militants on Egyptian army and security forces. Cairo has long accused Qatar of supporting extremists in Egypt.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, on a tour of Gulf countries, said he was cautiously optimistic the feuding states would reach a solution once they met for talks. "But it is also possible that it will continue to be difficult for some days," he told reporters in Kuwait where he met HH the Amir, who is mediating in the crisis.

The UN's political chief, Jeffrey Feltman, is also in Kuwait for talks on ending the diplomatic crisis. Feltman, who is UN under-secretary-general for political affairs, "is there currently to discuss with a broad range of interlocutors the ongoing crisis in the region and other conflicts," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres dispatched Feltman to the Gulf after meeting with Qatar's foreign minister last week. Feltman arrived in Kuwait from the United Arab Emirates and will travel to Doha later this week. The United Nations has backed efforts by Kuwait to mediate an end to the crisis and has also offered to help broker a solution.

Earlier yesterday, US President Donald Trump called on all parties in the dispute to "negotiate constructively" and to "stop terrorist financing and discredit extremist ideology". A White House statement said Trump's call for a negotiated settlement came in a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi. The dispute erupted early last month when the four Arab countries cut ties to the FIFA 2022 World Cup host. Qatar denies supporting extremists and has defended its warm relations with Iran; the two countries share a massive undersea natural gas field.

The four nations issued a 13-point list of demands on June 22, giving Qatar 10 days to comply. They later extended the deadline by another 48 hours at the request of Kuwait, which is trying to mediate the crisis. That second deadline expired early yesterday morning. On Tuesday, intelligence chiefs from the four Arab countries met in Cairo, likely to discuss the crisis, according to Egypt's state MENA news agency.

Qatar's response was not made public but it had previously called the demands - which include shutting down its Al-Jazeera satellite news network, closing a Turkish military base in the country and paying restitution - an affront to its sovereignty. The crisis has become a global concern as neither side appears to be backing down.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah, the UAE's foreign

minister, has kept up the pressure on Qatar. "To defeat terrorism, we must confront extremism, we must confront hate speech, we must confront the harboring and sheltering of extremists and terrorists, and funding them," he said. "Unfortunately, we in this region see that our sister nation of Qatar has allowed and harbored and encouraged all of this."

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, criticized the four Arab nations for trying to isolate Qatar "under the banner of fighting terrorism", adding the accusations cited when they severed ties a month ago "were clearly designed to create anti-Qatar sentiment in the West". He told a session of London's Chatham House think-tank that Doha was continuing to call for dialogue to settle the row. "(This is) despite the separation of 12,000 families, despite the siege that is a clear aggression and an insult to all international treaties, bodies and jurisdictions," he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was quoted as saying in an interview with German weekly Die Zeit published yesterday that "what is being done with Qatar runs counter to international law." He said the Arab states' demand for the Turkish base to be closed shows "a lack of respect toward us and Qatar" and added that "the Americans are also there, with 9,000 soldiers, and so are the French". "Why are the Saudis disturbed by us and not by that? This is unacceptable," Erdogan said. He also criticized a demand for the closure of broadcaster Al-Jazeera, saying Ankara "will support Qatar in every way, because we share the same values, have good relations and we cannot be silent about the injustice."

A senior Turkish official later said only Ankara and Doha will decide on the fate of the Turkish military base. Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak told AP that the Arab states' pressure for Qatar to shutter the Turkish base amounts to a violation of Qatar's sovereign rights and urged the Arab countries to overcome their differences "in a brotherly" manner. Kaynak said "those who will make the decision (about the base) are the two countries that made the agreement, the pact: Qatar and the Republic of Turkey". He reiterated Ankara's position that the Turkish base is for the benefit of the region's security and that it "is not an occupation, an annexation force".

The credit ratings agency Moody's warned early yesterday that it had set Qatar's economic outlook to negative over the crisis. "Public exchanges between the various parties in recent weeks and previous periods of heightened tensions between Qatar and other GCC countries suggest that a quick resolution is unlikely and that the stalemate may continue for some time," Moody's said. "Depending on the duration and potential further escalation of tensions, the dispute could negatively affect Qatar's economic and fiscal strength. Absent a swift resolution, economic activity will likely be hampered by the measures imposed so far." — Agencies

IMPROVING EGYPT-HAMAS TIES UNSETTLE...

Continued from Page 1

Hamas's newly appointed leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, whose background is with the group's militant wing, met Egyptian officials, including the intelligence chief, last month. The meetings in Cairo were believed to have been facilitated by Mohammad Dahlan, 55, a former senior Fatah official who is originally from Gaza and is now a staunch opponent of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah's leader.

Haniya said that Egypt has been helping improve Gazans' living conditions and the talks have already led to alleviating some hardships caused by the blockade. "We have found complete readiness by Egypt and their authorities have issued orders to implement a package of measures that has begun with allowing fuel into Gaza." In his speech, Haniya also thanked Qatar and Saudi Arabia for financial support.

Dahlan, who spends much of his time in the United Arab Emirates and is close to Egypt, has emerged as a powerbroker in the region, determined to bridge differences between Hamas and Cairo and potentially challenge Abbas for leadership. In that respect, closer ties between Hamas and Cairo are a serious threat to Abbas, regional analysts said. Not only because they help to bolster Hamas' credibility in the region, but because they empower Dahlan and undermine the ability of the Palestinian Authority to cast itself as the dominant political body for Palestinians, they said.

Israel, which signed a 1979 peace treaty with Egypt and coordinates closely with it on security, is maintaining a wary eye on discussions between Egypt and Hamas. Like the United States and the European Union, it regards Hamas as a terrorist group and wants to keep its influence contained. After the last round of meetings in Cairo, Hamas cleared land on its side of the border, creating a buffer zone with watchtowers, cameras and barbed-wire fences in a concession to security-conscious Egypt.

"These measures serve as a message of assurance to the Egyptian side," Tawfiq Abu Naeem, the Hamas-appointed head of security services in Gaza, told reporters. Since then, Hamas officials have returned to Cairo for more talks. Sources say Hamas wants Egypt to open its Rafah crossing for longer and to increase energy supplies and imports. Egypt wants information on "radical elements" entering and leaving Gaza and help with tracking Islamic State-affiliated militants attacking Egyptian forces in northern Sinai.

In a sign that the talks are rattling Palestinian politics, Abbas, 82, will visit Egyptian President Sisi this week. "I believe relations between Egypt and Hamas have taken a big move," said Akram Attallah, an independent analyst in Gaza. "For the first time we can say there is joint action between the two sides, a joint cooperation. That has never been official since the Hamas movement was founded 30 years ago."

Attallah sees Dahlan's mediation as critical. As Abbas has grown more frustrated with Hamas and tried to increase pressure on the group, it has strengthened Dahlan's role as a broker. Abbas expelled Dahlan from Fatah in 2012 and Dahlan has been in self-imposed exile since. The last thing Abbas wants is for him to return to Gaza, with Egypt's approval, as a hero. "Dahlan employed

this moment to present himself as the most efficient party in the Palestinian arena and a savior for Hamas," said Attallah, suggesting each side had gained: Dahlan in terms of leverage and Hamas as a political partner.

Regional analysts are closely watching what closer ties with Egypt may mean for Hamas' relations with Qatar, which in recent years has spent more than \$500 million improving infrastructure and building clinics in Gaza. Egypt and Saudi Arabia are now leading a Sunni-Arab drive against Qatar over its ties with Iran, accusing it of fomenting terrorism, a charge Doha denies. The analysts say if Egypt is forging better relations with Hamas, it may well insist on Hamas giving up its friendship with the emirate.

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official yesterday blasted US President Donald Trump's United Nations envoy, accusing her of carrying out a "crusade" against the Palestinian people. Hanan Ashrawi, a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said Nikki Haley was leading a "one-woman crusade... against Palestine and the Palestinian people individually and collectively." "Through an obsessive and targeted campaign of intimidation and threats, Miss Haley's crusade does not miss an opportunity to put pressure on anyone that seeks to challenge Israeli impunity," she added.

Ashrawi said Haley was echoing remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon defended Haley's work. "Small wonder Hanan Ashrawi is unhappy - @nikki-haley fights for a fair treatment of #Israel, exactly what the #Palestinians don't want..." he wrote on Twitter. Palestinian officials have privately expressed increasing alarm at the Trump administration's pro-Israel stance as the US president seeks to restart peace negotiations. However until yesterday, they had publicly refrained from criticizing senior US officials. Haley visited Israel and the Palestinian territories in June.

Ashrawi said Haley was "compounding the victimization of the Palestinian people and browbeating the institutions that are meant to defend their rights". The statement was distributed by the PLO. Since being nominated by Trump after his November victory, Haley has consistently accused the United Nations of systematic bias against Israel. The US vetoed the appointment of a former Palestinian prime minister as UN envoy to Libya, while Haley has called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to intervene to block a forthcoming vote on the city of Hebron which declares the West Bank city under threat.

Trump came to office seeking to pursue what he has called the "ultimate deal" and has pledged to restart negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. But Arab media reports claim talks between the Palestinian leadership and Trump and his team - including his adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner - have been fractious, allegations denied by the Palestinians. Ashrawi said Haley was undermining the chances of peace by "pursuing her own agenda consistent with her anti-Palestinian obsession and as an apologist for Israel".

Israel occupied the Palestinian territories in 1967 in a move never recognized by the international community. In December the United Nations Security Council adopted a landmark resolution condemning Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories. — Agencies

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

best OFFERS

<p>NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p>12 KD .900</p>	<p>NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p>14 KD .900</p>	<p>NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p>19 KD .900</p>	<p>NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p>19 KD .900</p>
--	--	--	--

بست AL-YOUSIFI

• Kuwait 1 (The New str) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str) • Showikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op) • Airport (Departure Hall)

1809 809

FREE Mobil 1

Oil Change when you Buy 4 Michelin Tyres

TYREPLUS is a "one-stop-shop" offering you a wide choice of all major tyre brands, lubricants and batteries. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will offer you professional service and advice, giving you peace of mind that your vehicle is in good hands.

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م.
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

KAICO
Available on

For more information:
6902 1367 / 6901 1259

Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
Website : www.kuwaittimes.net

Focus

INDIAN FARMERS
FACE FEWER JOBS,
LOWER INCOMES

Indian farmers forced into giving up their land for industry face dwindling earnings and fewer job options, increasing the likelihood of more bloody conflicts as demand for scarce land rises, experts say. Increased mechanization is taking away some manual labor, while a lack of training of farmers and farm workers for alternate jobs is leaving them with few livelihood options. The Indian government's rural employment program and construction work to build ever-growing cities are inadequate to bridge the income gap, analysts say.

"These are people who have known only this one job all their lives," said Bina Agarwal, a professor of development economics in the University of Manchester. "These resource-poor, little educated people have few options outside agriculture except casual work, which would leave them poorer. Moving to the cities to work does not reduce poverty - it may even increase it," she said. Employment in Indian agriculture shrank by 26 million jobs in the period 2011 to 2015, according to the McKinsey Global Institute. Jobs in skilled sectors such as education, health and hospitality rose by 33 million in the same period.

Meanwhile, conflicts over land have risen as demand for industrial use increases, affecting millions of people and jeopardising billions of dollars of investment. A 2013 land acquisition law aimed at protecting the rights of Indian farmers requires support for those displaced from their land - with jobs or homes - and compensation of up to four times the market value of their plot.

But while it was customary in the past for large industries to offer jobs to displaced farmers, it is less common now. Of the jobs being generated, most are contract with fewer benefits and greater insecurity. "Earlier, especially with state-owned enterprises, hundreds and even thousands of jobs were created, which somewhat made up for the loss of land," said Sudha Bharadwaj, a lawyer in Chhattisgarh state who represents villagers fighting land acquisitions. "But now, there are very few permanent jobs created, so those giving up their land have fewer means of supporting themselves," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Deadly Protests

More than 60 percent of India's population of 1.3 billion depends on agriculture for its livelihood. But more than three quarters of farmers own less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land each, with falling incomes leading to rising debt and growing discontent. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised to double farmers' incomes over the next five years, but recent deadly protests show farmers are frustrated with the slow pace of reform. Protesters included even the wealthy land-owning Jats of Haryana state and the Marathas of Maharashtra, who are demanding job quotas in addition to better prices for farm output. Agarwal cites a recent survey that showed about 40 percent of farmers, when asked if they liked farming, said they did not; they included both poor and wealthy farmers. "Most farmers themselves want their children to leave farming - but a desire to quit does not match the ability to quit," Agarwal said.

At the same time, a broader "jobless growth" trend means not enough jobs are being created even as the Indian economy expands at a fast clip. Only about 200,000 jobs were created in eight of India's most labour-intensive sectors in the last two years, compared with nearly 1 million jobs a year created in the previous two-year period, official data showed.

New Skills

The government last month diluted its goal of training 500 million people in new skills by 2022, a setback to the goal of boosting employment. The ambitious 'Make in India' plan to boost manufacturing - and thus create jobs - and the 'Skill India' mission to improve workers' skills are also falling short, analysts say. The rush to convert agricultural land into industrial land and industrial land into service land is partly responsible for the employment crisis, a trade union said in June.

While larger land owners may receive enough compensation for their land with which to buy land elsewhere or set up a business, smaller farmers can do little with the money they get and lose their ability to grow their own food. Farm workers and tenant farmers who do not own the land they till are worse off, as they receive no compensation. "We are trying to work out a way in which farmers do not lose out, and can improve their lives," T Haque, chairman of the land policy department at government think tank Niti Aayog, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. —Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwait-times.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



WITH ALASKA IN RANGE, FEW OPTIONS FOR TRUMP

North Korea's test-firing of a missile apparently capable of reaching Alaska underlines the shrinking options for US President Donald Trump to halt Pyongyang's nuclear drive after losing faith in China's mediation efforts. Shortly before his January inauguration as president, Trump said he would never let North Korea develop a nuclear weapon that would put parts of the United States in range, declaring on Twitter: "It won't happen!"

But after Washington confirmed that North Korea had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), experts say the US may have to accept that red line is close to being crossed if the missile system can be developed to carry a nuclear warhead. "The window for negotiating denuclearization is closed," Jeffrey Lewis, an expert in nuclear non-proliferation, told AFP. "The big point is that we have to accept North Korea with a nuclear-armed ICBM."

In the immediate aftermath of the latest test, Trump again took to Twitter to berate the North's leader Kim Jong-Un and press China to "put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!" But there are growing signs that Trump has

already effectively given up on China's capability of reining in Kim's regime, declaring last month that Beijing's efforts had not worked out. The Trump administration's hardening stance was also illustrated last Thursday when it slapped sanctions on a Chinese bank linked to North Korea - drawing an angry response from Beijing.

In a weekend phone call with China's president, Trump reportedly told Xi Jinping that Washington was prepared to act on its own in pressuring North Korea, according to the New York Times. As well as leaning on China, Trump has also been seeing if he can work with South Korea's new leader Moon Jae-In, inviting him to the White House last week. He has even tried to flatter Kim himself, calling him a "smart cookie" whom he would be "honored" to meet - if only he would halt his missile programs. Adam Mount, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress for Nuclear and Defense policy, said international pressure and diplomacy was of limited use now that Pyongyang was so far down the line.

'Deter, contain, constrain'

"It is now illogical to apply pressure to

prevent the threshold from being crossed. It has been crossed. Denuclearization is untenable," said Mount. "US policy failed. The best we can hope for now is to sustainably deter, contain, constrain, and reform the regime over the long term." In the short term, the Pentagon is studying its options for military action, though the United States and South Korea quickly made a show of force following the ICBM test, firing missiles off the coast of the Korean peninsula in what Washington called a display of "precision fire capability."

But US military chiefs have made clear they see enormous risks in a confrontation with the North. Speaking in May, US Secretary of Defense James Mattis said any war with North Korea would be on a scale similar to the devastating Korea conflict in the 1950s. "The North Korean regime has hundreds of artillery cannons and rocket launchers within range of one of the most densely populated cities on Earth, which is the capital of South Korea," he told CBS News. "The bottom line is, it would be a catastrophic war if this turns into a combat, if we're not able to resolve this situation

through diplomatic means." Trump's National Security Adviser H R McMaster said in a speech last week that nothing had been ruled out but was blunt about the risks associated with any effort to impose a military solution.

"The president has directed us to ... prepare a range of options, including military options, that nobody wants to take," he said. Lewis, a researcher at the California-based Middlebury Institute for International Studies, said the Trump administration's focus should now be on dissuading North Korea from firing anything in earnest. "We should consider ways to reduce tension while strengthening deterrence," said Lewis. "Ballistic missile defense might part of deterrence."

The US has already installed parts of a missile defense system - the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system - in South Korea to guard against threats from the North. But Moon has suspended further deployment following a furious campaign of economic sanctions and diplomatic protests by Beijing against the US missile shield, dealing a blow to Washington's regional security policy. — AFP

DUTERTE PROPOSED DEAL, THEN BACKED OUT

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was preparing to make a deal with Islamic State-inspired militants in the days after they laid siege to a southern city, but aborted the plan without explanation, an intermediary involved in the process said. Agakhan Sharief, a prominent Muslim leader, told Reuters that after a band of Islamist fighters overran parts of Marawi City on May 23 and took hundreds of people hostage, he was approached by a senior Duterte aide to use his connections with the Maute militant group's leaders to start back-channel talks.

Two other Marawi sources familiar with the matter confirmed the president had worked behind the scenes to hold talks with the Maute brothers, Omarkhayam and Abdullah. However, the process was halted when Duterte in a May 31 speech declared he "will not talk to terrorists". It was not immediately clear what prompted Duterte's about-face. It came five days after another televised speech in which he told the militants "we can still solve this through dialogue", but if he could not convince them of that, "so be it. Let's just fight".

"The problem with our president, his mind is changing always," said Sharief, a cleric who has had roles in various peace agreements on the long-restive southern island of Mindanao. "He announced he will no longer talk to terrorists and that made our negotiations cut." Duterte's top peace envoy Jesus Dureza said he was unaware of any back-channel talks, while his national security adviser, Hermogenes Esperon said it was unlikely Duterte had reached out to the Maute group. "Why will he talk to the terrorists?" Esperon said. Despite his tough rhetoric and frequent promises to wipe out militants, Duterte has a reputation as a peace-broker, having dealt with separatist and Marxist rebellions during his 22 years as mayor of Davao City in Mindanao, an island of 22 million with a long history of unrest.

Duterte's Biggest Crisis

The battle for control of Marawi has been the biggest crisis of Duterte's year-old presidency. Fighters from the Maute group and others loyal to Islamic State have been holed up in the commercial district of the town through more than 40 days of air strikes, artillery bombardments and fierce street clashes with troops. More than 400 people have been killed, including 337 militants, 85 members of the security forces, and 44 civilians. Some 260,000 residents have been displaced by a siege that has fanned regional fears that Islamic State is trying to establish a stronghold in Southeast Asia.

Marawi Mayor Majul Usman Gandamra confirmed that back-channel talks did start but said he was not privy to details. He told Reuters the process failed because the rebels did not show good faith or reduce the intensity of attacks on government forces after Duterte offered them an olive branch. "There was a window of opportunity," he said. "But there was no show of sincerity."

Rebels 'Convinced'

Sharief, known locally as "Bin Laden" due to his resemblance to the late Al-Qaeda leader, would not reveal the identity of Duterte's aide, whom he said was confidentially assigned to set up a meeting with the Maute clan. He said the aide agreed that Sharief would accompany the Maute brothers' influential mother, Farhana, by helicopter to meet Duterte in nearby Cagayan De Oro or Davao City. Sharief said her sons requested she represent them in talks with Duterte. "He (Duterte's aide) prepared everything that I needed. I told him that I need a chopper to get the mother of the Maute brothers to bring her to the president. He prepared that. I called the Maute brothers and their mother ... I told them, I convinced them."

Sharief said the president was prepared to offer the Maute clan implementation of sharia law in their hometown, Butig, if he achieves his goal of establishing a federal system in the Philippines. Reuters could

not independently verify that such a proposal had been made. The talks with the Maute group did not go ahead and the mother was arrested on June 9 elsewhere in the same province as Marawi. The Maute brothers' father, Cayamora Maute, was apprehended three days earlier in Davao City.

The cleric said that the rebels would have taken Duterte's deal to end the siege. "They agreed, they supported this," said Sharief, who last met with Abdullah Maute on June 25, when he led a group of emissaries into the heart of Marawi to free some hostages during the Eid al-Fitr Islamic holiday. Sharief, who owns four private schools in Marawi, some of which were badly damaged by the fighting, said he was against the radical ideology of Islamic State. But he said he was reluctant to speak out against the Maute clan because he still hoped he could convince them to end the siege. "I am a peacemaker," he said. "I cannot negotiate anymore if I talk against them." — Reuters



This photo taken on June 27, 2017 shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte giving a speech during Eid al-Fitr celebrations at Malacanang Palace in Manila. — AFP

DAWSON TO FACE SOUTH AFRICA IN FIRST TEST

LONDON: Joe Root, the new England captain, has confirmed that spinner Liam Dawson will play in the first Test against South Africa at Lord's starting today. With England having selected a 12-man squad, it means that, for the second year in a row, uncapped paceman Toby Roland-Jones has missed out on the chance of making a Test debut at his Middlesex home ground. This match will be Hampshire left-armed Dawson's first Test on home soil after he made a debut against India at Chennai in December.



His inclusion means that England will field two spinners-off-break bowler Moeen Ali and Dawson in a Lord's Test for the first time since 1993. Root also confirmed Wednesday that his recalled Yorkshire colleague Gary Ballance would bat at three, with the skipper himself in at four and their fellow county team-mate Jonny Bairstow, the wicket-keeper, in at number five. Root was named as Alastair Cook's successor in February, but England have not played a Test in the intervening period and Thursday's first of a four-match series will mark his opening match in charge. — AFP

EVERGRANDE CAPTAIN FINED FOR HANDSHAKE SNUB

SHANGHAI: Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande fined captain Zheng Zhi for failing to gather all his players to shake the hands of match officials after the dramatic weekend defeat at Tianjin Quanjian. The Chinese international midfielder becomes the latest major name to hit disciplinary trouble in the Chinese Super League (CSL), with the Shanghai SIPG quartet of Oscar, Hulk, Wu Lei and manager Andre Villas-Boas all serving bans. Evergrande slapped Zheng with a 100,000 yuan (\$15,000) fine and warned him about his future conduct for "failing to meet the high standards of team management requirements." "All coaches and players are required to respect their opponent and referees during the match," the statement added. Evergrande players shook hands with their opponents in the 4-3 loss at Tianjin but not with the referee or his assistants, media reports said. Luiz Felipe Scolari's Evergrande saw their lead over SIPG at the top of the CSL cut to a single point following the defeat on Sunday. — AFP

I'M DIFFERENT FROM DAD, INSISTS ENZO ZIDANE

MADRID: Enzo Zidane insisted yesterday that he was a "different player" from his father Zinedine, after being unveiled at La Liga club Deportivo Alaves. "I don't think much about that," the 22-year-old attacking midfielder said when asked about comparisons with Zinedine Zidane, a 1998 World Cup winner feted as one of the finest talents of his generation. "I'm Enzo, I'm different, a different player," Zinedine's eldest son insisted of his father, who now coaches Real Madrid, last season leading the Spanish giants to a second successive Champions League title. Enzo Zidane signed a three-year deal with Alaves having previously played for Real Madrid's third division reserve side Castilla of which his father was coach before taking over the reins of Real's first team. Last season, Enzo made a scoring debut for Real in the King's Cup, and has played 78 games for Castilla. Deportivo Alaves, based in Vitoria-Gasteiz in the Basque country, reached the final of last season's King's Cup, where they lost to Barcelona. — AFP



QUEENSTOWN: British and Irish Lions players train in Queenstown, New Zealand, yesterday. The Lions will play the All Blacks in the third and final test at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday. — AP

RUGBY

RELAXATION OVER AS LIONS FOCUS ON THIRD TEST

QUEENSTOWN: After three days spent relaxing in the South Island resort of Queenstown, the British and Irish Lions have resumed in earnest their preparation for Saturday's third and deciding rugby test against New Zealand.

The Lions' decision to travel to Queenstown after winning last weekend's second test and leveling the three-test series was thought to be surprising by some commentators who thought the tourists should have traveled straight to Auckland to begin their third test build-up. But the Lions say their time in Queenstown, where they jet-boated and bungy-jumped, were important in allowing players to recharge their batteries before the challenge of Saturday's decider. Assistant coach Neil Jenkins said Wednesday the break the Lions players had enjoyed in Queenstown was important at the end of a long tour and near the end of a much longer season.

"It's nice to have a couple of days off

and feel refreshed and ready to go," Jenkins said. "The boys have been flat out for seven weeks. They have been non-stop on this tour let alone the season they already played so I think it's good for the guys to have a bit of down time." Jenkins was adamant the Lions' decision to relax at the start of test week was not an indication they underestimated the task ahead of them or took it lightly. The Lions' win over the All Blacks last weekend was their first in a test in New Zealand since 1993 and they now have the chance to win a series against the All Blacks for the first time in 46 years.

He said the All Blacks have been stung by their 24-21 second-test loss and would be formidable on Saturday as they try to stave off a series defeat and their first loss at Auckland's Eden Park since 1994.

"Look, we know what's coming," Jenkins said. "They're incredibly good, we know that. Very rarely do they lose and very rarely do they lose at home, so everything

is on the line ... we know how hard it's going to be." Hooker Jamie George, who has been in outstanding form throughout the test series, said the Lions players are "fully aware of what's at stake." "I think it's going to be a fantastic occasion on Saturday and one again that we'll never forget," he said. "(But) we can't get carried away with the emotional side of the game. We've got to make sure that physically we are on it, mentally we are on it, we know our stuff and we can go into the game with clear heads and really attack it."

George said the Lions would have to sharply improve their discipline in the third test after conceding 10 kickable penalties in the second, of which seven were converted by All Blacks flyhalf Beauden Barrett.

"We made it very difficult at times with our discipline," he said. "I don't think many teams can say they came back from 18-9 down in those conditions to win the game so we're really happy with that." — AP



QUEENSTOWN: British and Irish Lions loose forward Taulupe Faletau, right, passes the ball during a training session in Queenstown, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

BRUMBIES, STORMERS AIM FOR SUPER RUGBY CREDIBILITY

BRISBANE: Two first-place teams with a lack of commensurate credentials have a chance to gain some confidence this weekend ahead of the Super Rugby playoffs, a round they wouldn't likely have reached if qualifying was based purely on win-loss records.

The ACT Brumbies, who have clinched the woeful Australian conference despite having only six wins from 13 matches, play the Queensland Reds in one of five matches on the penultimate weekend of the regular season.

The Brumbies could see the return of co-cap-

tain Christian Leali'ifano, who was diagnosed with leukemia less than a year ago. He missed selection in the starting XV but could be included in the reserves for Friday's game in Brisbane.

The Cape Town-based Stormers have clinched the weak South African 1 conference title after eight wins from 13 matches. On Saturday they'll play the Tokyo-based Sunwolves, who are coming off a record 94-7 loss to the Lions. The competition point totals for the Brumbies (33) and Stormers (34) would leave them out of playoff contention if they had-

n't clinched top spot in their conferences. They would have needed two wins in their remaining matches just to have a chance of catching the Durban-based Sharks, who with 42 points are currently the eighth of eight teams heading to the quarterfinals.

None of the other three weekend matches involve teams which will make the playoffs. The Western Force host the Melbourne Rebels in Perth - one of those teams is expected to be cut next season as Super Rugby is cut back to 15 teams - the New South Wales Waratahs host Argentina's Jaguares at Sydney and the Bulls are at home to the Southern Kings in Pretoria.

Yesterday in Canberra, 29-year playmaker Leali'ifano missed selection in the starting lineup but remained a contender for the bench. It has only been 11 months since he was diagnosed with leukemia and eight months since Leali'ifano underwent a bone marrow transplant. He's been in remission from the cancer since February. The 19-test Wallaby played for the Brumbies in an exhibition match in Singapore last month and took part in a club rugby match in Canberra last weekend. "He's done everything that he needs to do to get himself right for selection," Brumbies coach Stephen Larkham said yesterday. "His progression has been good and he's put himself in the mix for selection this weekend." The Brumbies play the New Zealand-based Chiefs in the 17th and final round next weekend, and could also meet them - or the Wellington-based Hurricanes - in the quarterfinals.

The other two conference winners are the unbeaten Crusaders, 16-0 in New Zealand, and the Lions (13-1) in South Africa 2. The current fifth- through eighth-place teams to round out the quarterfinals are the Hurricanes, Chiefs, Highlanders and Sharks.

The quarterfinals are set for the weekend of July 21-22, the semifinals for July 28 or 29, and the final - at the home of the highest-ranked semifinal winner - on Aug. 5. — AP



BRISBANE: In this Oct 18, 2014 file photo, Australia's Christian Leali'ifano, center, runs away from New Zealand's Richie McCaw, left, during the Bledisloe cup rugby match against New Zealand in Brisbane, Australia. Leali'ifano played the last 30 minutes of the Brumbies' exhibition match against the Asia-Pacific Dragons on June 22, 2017 in Singapore. Leali'ifano could make a return to Super Rugby in time for the ACT Brumbies' playoff campaign, less than a year after being diagnosed with leukemia. — AP

NO REGRETS FOR COOPER DESPITE WOLVES' STRUGGLES

MANCHESTER: Mike Cooper insists he has no regrets about returning to Warrington Wolves despite their struggles this season as they look set to miss out on the Super 8s. Currently tenth in the table, Warrington have to beat Leigh on Friday to have any hope of reaching the top eight, but even then, a Huddersfield win over Widnes would end their chances of winning Super League.

Cooper spent seven years with Warrington from 2006 to 2013, helping them win the Challenge Cup on three occasions, before heading to Super League to play for St George Illawarra Dragons. The 28-year-old returned this season to a Wolves side who had been challenging for the title on a regular basis, but as an underwhelming campaign nears its end, Cooper insists it was the right decision to head home. He said: "It has been tough. Not coming back to the club, it has been great coming back to Warrington, but it is hard being in this position."

"Then again, this is sport and you have to take it as it comes. We have had a lot of bad luck along the way. I am positive there will be plenty of good days. We will win things again, just the way we did."

"It has been difficult but that is sport - it is very hard to stay at the top of the tree for as long as the club has. Okay, we have not won the Grand Final but you are talking about a team that has been in the top four for a number of years now."

"This happens to a lot of top sides. We have had a hell of a lot of injuries and we have struggled to keep combinations going." They take on a Leigh side who are set to be without Jamie Acton, who faces

a disciplinary hearing for a Grade F offence for "other contrary behaviour" after he appeared to grab Greg Bird and push him to the floor when he was injured last week in defeat to Catalans.

If found guilty, Acton faces a minimum eight-game ban, and the club have asked for a delay to his disciplinary hearing to prepare a defence.

Meanwhile St Helens, who face Hull FC on Friday, will be without Matty Smith for an extended period after he underwent surgery on his eye.

Head coach Justin Holbrook said: "Unfortunately it is not great with Matty. He needed surgery on Friday on account of his eyelid being very badly damaged. "We were hoping that would be it but he's had to go in today for a second lot of surgery. Fingers crossed he will be fine."

"As for when he will return to play is just too early to tell." This week's action kicks off today when Wakefield Trinity host Castleford Tigers, while Huddersfield can all but secure their place in the Super 8s with victory over Widnes the following day.

They will be without Jake Mamo though, the former Newcastle Knight has suffered a Lisfranc foot injury and will be out for the rest of the campaign.

Head Coach Rick Stone said: "He's had an operation and it's going to keep him out for the rest of the year. "It's an injury that players definitely come back from so there's no real concern but it takes time and our goal now is to get him ready for next year." Catalans are in must-win territory against Wigan Warriors on Saturday, before Salford Red Devils host Leeds Rhinos in the last game of the round on Sunday. — AFP

FINALLY, FAREWELL: CHRIS BOSH, MIAMI HEAT FORMALLY PART WAYS

MIAMI: Chris Bosh's time with the Miami Heat is officially over. Weeks after the sides came to a final agreement on how to part ways and more than a year since his last NBA appearance because of blood-clot issues, Bosh was waived by the Heat on Tuesday. The move was a formality.

It gives Miami access to \$25.3 million in salary-cap space for this coming season, which the Heat will use to sign free agents starting today. Bosh still gets that salary, plus \$26.8 million for next season, and in theory could continue his career - if another team declares him fit to play.

It's unknown if that will happen. But at least there's finally closure on his Miami era, and the Heat announced his No. 1 jersey has been retired. "Chris changed his life and basketball career when he came to Miami," Heat

President Pat Riley said. "And he changed our lives for the better, in a way we never would have imagined when he joined the Miami Heat. We will forever be indebted to CB for how he changed this team and led us to four trips to the NBA Finals and two NBA championships.

"He is, without a doubt, one of the greatest players in the history of the franchise." Bosh signed a five-year deal to stay with the Heat in 2014, shortly after LeBron James left Miami for a return to Cleveland. James, Bosh and Dwyane Wade went to the NBA Finals in all four of their seasons together in Miami, winning titles in 2012 and 2013.

Bosh's last Miami deal was worth \$118 million. For that, he was only able to play in 97 games. "You always want what's best for Chris, whatever that is," Heat captain Udonis Haslem said earlier

this year. "I know how difficult this has been for him."

On Tuesday, after the news broke, many players - James and Wade included - tweeted out their well-wishes to Bosh. "An unbelievable teammate and one of the best dudes out there," wrote former Heat forward Mike Miller, a part of Miami's 2012 and 2013 title teams. "Thank you for the 2 rings."

Bosh appeared in 44 games in 2014-15, his season ending at the All-Star break when the first known clot episode started. A year later, he played in 53 games and - in an eerie similarity - his season again ended at All-Star weekend, when another clot was found shortly after he landed in Toronto for the 2016 All-Star Game.

Bosh hasn't played since, missing Miami's last 125 games. "I'm kind of getting the taste of retirement now," Bosh

said in January. He wanted to return last season, but failed a preseason physical and the Heat made clear that they were moving on without him in their plans. Because of the sensitivity of Bosh's medical situation, the Heat never could provide specifics - under league rule, any matter that would rise to the level of being possibly life-threatening cannot be discussed openly by teams without the player's consent.

Even the team's release on Tuesday announcing the waiving made no reference to Bosh's health issues, or status. Bosh has played in 13 NBA seasons, seven with Toronto and then six with Miami. He was part of Miami's massive free-agent haul in 2010, when the Heat not only kept Wade but landed James to form something that Riley felt could turn into something dynastic.

Bosh had a huge role in perhaps

the biggest play in team history - with Miami down by three late in a win-or-lose Game 6 of the 2013 NBA Finals against San Antonio, he grabbed an offensive rebound and tossed the ball to Ray Allen to set up a corner 3-pointer that tied the game with 5.2 seconds left.

The Heat would win that game in overtime, with Bosh blocking a shot by Danny Green as time expired, and then would prevail in Game 7 for the third title in franchise history.

Bosh, a certain future member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, has averaged 19.2 points and 8.5 rebounds in his career. "We can't wait to someday hang his jersey in the rafters," Riley said. "Today, we are both moving on but we wish Chris, Adrienne and their family nothing but the best. They will forever be part of the Miami Heat family." — AP

CRICKET

PAKISTAN'S RAMIZ RAJA WANTS TEST 'WINDOW'

LONDON: Former Pakistan batsman Ramiz Raja has urged the International Cricket Council to set aside a two-month window solely for Test matches in a bid to preserve the longest form of the game.

While crowds for Tests in countries such as England remain strong, Raja, a member of the influential MCC world cricket committee, fears interest in Asia is "dwindling" thanks partly to the rise of lucrative domestic Twenty20 competitions such as the Indian Premier League.

"I feel that the ICC has a decent plan in the shape of the World Test Championship," said Raja after a committee meeting at Lord's on Tuesday. "There should be a window for that and everything else should stop for a period of two months so the best players are available to play Test cricket."

He added: "It's got to get better. In Asia, for example, because of poor Test match scheduling, the interest is dwindling. "When you go back home you are never sure if you are going to have a one-Test series, a two-Test series or whether you are going to have a Test series at all."

'RESPECT'

Raja said national governing bodies such as the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the Pakistan Cricket Board had to play their part as well.

"You have to acknowledge and respect the status of Test match cricket and it has to come from the cricket boards, in Asia specifically. "For example, MS Dhoni retired from Test cricket yet got the A-grade contract from the BCCI, Shahid Afridi retired from Test cricket yet got the A-grade contract from PCB.

"It is under a lot of stress in Asia but if we have a properly planned Test match championship, that's the way out of this, otherwise we will be struggling to put aside as much money as is available for the T20 leagues," Raja insisted.

Meanwhile the committee, whose members also include such illustrious names as Ricky Ponting, Brendon McCullum, Sourav Ganguly and Kumar Sangakkara, has come down against reducing Tests from five days to four days after it was suggested a shorter game might be more fan-friendly.

"Last time we met, the committee was split, with some believing we should trial four-day Test matches," said outgoing chairman Mike Brearley, the former England captain. "This time, most of us thought, looking at the fact that over half the matches that got results last year got results in the fifth day, that we didn't want Test cricket to become more boring. So from a cricket point of view, we believe they should stay five days."

The committee also urged the ICC to move quickly to try to get cricket included for the 2024 Olympics, which will be staged in either Los Angeles or Paris. "It is crucial to have cricket in the Olympics because the game will be introduced to many new parts of the world," said Raja.

"But for that to happen we have to present a unified front from cricket that we want to be included in the Games. "Los Angeles would be perfect - played cricket there and you'd get massive crowds."

Brearley added it also be a huge boost to cricket in China as the Chinese government would inject huge funds if they had an Olympic team. —AFP



SALT LAKE CITY: In this April 28, 2017, file photo, Utah Jazz forward Gordon Hayward arrives for Game 6 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Clippers in Salt Lake City. Hayward has chosen to sign with the Boston Celtics and reunite with coach Brad Stevens, making the announcement Tuesday evening, yesterday on The Players' Tribune site. — AP

BASKETBALL

GORDON HAYWARD CHOOSES CELTICS OVER JAZZ, HEAT

BOSTON: Gordon Hayward and Brad Stevens were a couple inches from winning an NCAA championship together at Butler. They are now reuniting, to try for an NBA title. The top remaining free agent in this summer's class is now off the board, with Hayward announcing Tuesday night with an essay on The Players' Tribune site that he will sign with the Boston Celtics - coached by Stevens - and leave the Utah Jazz after seven seasons.

"This was a life-changing decision for me and my family, and something we took really seriously," Hayward wrote. "And from the very start of this process, one thing stood out as important: I knew that I wanted the fans and the organizations to hear my decision directly from me."

"After seven years in Utah, I have decided to join the Boston Celtics." A person with knowledge of the negotiations said Hayward agreed to a four-year contract, the last of those years being a player option, with a total value of around \$128 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be completed before the league's moratorium ends today.

It was a decision that Hayward said he agonized over, and he said he was impressed by the pitches - albeit unsuccessful ones - that Miami and Utah made for him over the last few days. But his ties to Stevens, and the memories of how close they were to a title, seemed to weigh heavily on his mind throughout this process.

Butler went to the NCAA championship game in back-to-back seasons under Stevens in 2010 and 2011, losing to Duke and Connecticut. In the 2010 game, Hayward's desperation shot to win the title from midcourt narrowly missed as time expired and Duke won 61-59.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

From there, Hayward went to the NBA. Not long afterward, Stevens followed. And now, they're together again. "That unfinished business we had together, back in 2010, when I left Butler for the NBA, as far as I'm concerned, all of these years later, we still have it: And that's to win a championship," Hayward wrote.

Hayward leaves a loaded Western Conference to join a Boston team that was the No. 1 seed in last season's Eastern Conference playoffs. He was finally an All-Star for the first time last season, averaging career bests of 21.9 points and 5.4 rebounds. Hayward also shot 47 percent, a significant jump over what he managed in the previous four seasons.

His post capped a strange day, after it was widely reported in the early afternoon that Hayward picked the Celtics - a decision immediately shot down by his agent Mark Bartelstein, who told AP and many other outlets that Hayward was still going over his options.

Several hours later, it was done, and it was Boston. "This has been the toughest decision that I've ever had to make in my life," Hayward wrote. "This weekend has probably been the longest weekend of my life. And today ... well, today has definitely been one of the craziest days of my life. But I wanted to make sure that I got this right."

He becomes the third prominent free agent in three years to announce his plans on July 4: LaMarcus Aldridge left Portland for San Antonio on that date in 2015, and Kevin Durant left Oklahoma City for Golden State on the holiday in 2016.

Hayward opted out of his contract and became a free agent late last month, a move that was expected. Utah could have been in position to offer Hayward the so-called Supermax deal - a five-year extension worth just over \$200 million - if he was selected to an All-NBA team after the season, but his vote total fell well short of making that list.

Other than Golden State stars Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant, Hayward may have been the top free agent on the market this summer. And he clearly leaves Utah with the fondness of mem-

ories, going back to his start with coach Jerry Sloan. "I was literally the last Jazz player left who played under Coach Sloan - and I always took that as a lot more than just some piece of trivia," Hayward wrote. "That was something that truly made me feel like a part of the fabric of this franchise. And that fabric is something that has meant a lot to me, ever since."

Utah has been a team on the rise. But with the West still absolutely loaded - Golden State winning two titles in the last three years, Houston acquiring All-Star point guard Chris Paul in an effort to move up and challenge the champs, and Oklahoma City getting Paul George to pair with MVP Russell Westbrook - the best chance for Hayward to make an NBA Finals may be trying to get there from the East. Boston obviously agrees. —AP

BREARLEY VOICES ASHES CONCERN AMID 'LOOMING CRISIS' FEARS

LONDON: MCC world cricket committee chairman Mike Brearley has said the threat of an Ashes boycott by Australia players is a "serious" concern amid fears of a "looming crisis" for Test cricket as a whole. A bitter pay dispute between Australia's board and players saw the two sides unable to reach an agreement before last week's deadline after months of protracted talks.

The row, which threatens fixtures including this year's prestige home Ashes series, intensified at the weekend when the Australian Cricketers' Association said players would boycott an Australia A tour of South Africa this month unless a new deal was agreed by Friday.

Brearley, whose influential committee has Australia great Rodney Marsh, until recently the national selector, among its members, said Tuesday after a meeting at Lord's: "We heard from Rodney Marsh that it seemed both sides were very intransigent and not getting close together, although there's some rumour that there might be, in which case somebody we'll have to give way." Brearley, England's captain when they won the Ashes 5-1 in Australia in 1978/79 against a depleted home side weakened by mass 'defections' to Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket, added: "We think it's a pretty serious thing. "It could stop tours they are undertaking and series they are playing, including even the Ashes."

Brearley explained the committee's over-riding worry was how to ensure Test cricket remained financially attractive to all leading players in an era of lucrative Twenty20 franchises leagues especially enticing to cricketers from relatively weak domestic economies such as South Africa and the West Indies. "I think the mood of the committee was that there was, if not a crisis, a looming, a potential crisis and that this crisis needs to be noticed and taken seriously," he said.

One of the highlights of the traditional cricket calendar-the first Test between England and

South Africa-starts at Lord's on Thursday. Yet South Africa star batsman AB de Villiers is set to miss the entire four-match series as he recuperates from being a multi-format player in demand from T20 leagues.

Asked if this was a "wake-up call" Brearley, after his last meeting as chairman before handing over to Mike Gatting-another former Middlesex and England captain-said: "It symbolises some of the problems, the issue and the tension." Fellow committee member Brendon McCullum, the former New Zealand captain, added: "It's probably another red flag." McCullum, 35, a self-styled global T20 "mercenary" since retiring from Test cricket last year, said: "Financially, there's probably plenty of money to go around."

He added: "We don't see T20 leagues as the devil by any stretch of imagination, but it's just how you have Test cricket be the pinnacle of the game and operate at the same time." Meanwhile another committee member Ramiz Raja, the former Pakistan batsman, urged the International Cricket Council to make good on promises to introduce a World Test Championship designed to give the long format more context after plans to bring it in 2013 and this year too came to nothing. Last month saw financial powerhouse India's share of world cricket revenues increased from \$293 to \$405 million.

The deal came after India complained about a decision in April to divide revenues more equitably among ICC members. But Brearley said a more equal split, while "idealistic", was needed to ensure even competition that would "help everybody in the long-run." "They (the Board of Control for Cricket in India) probably won't like it," he admitted before saying: "We can't really see how you have long-term security for international cricket unless something along these lines happens. It's not directed at the BCCI in a hostile way." —AFP

PREVIEW

ENGLAND LOOK TO 'POSITIVE' ROOT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

LONDON: A new England era will start when Joe Root captains the Test side against South Africa at Lord's today. Root was appointed in February after Alastair Cook, still in the team purely as an opening batsman, stood down but this week's match will be England's first Test since the change of skipper.

England will hope the captaincy drives the 26-year-old Yorkshireman on to even greater heights as it has done for two fellow star batsmen-Australia's Steve Smith and India's Virat Kohli.

"The way Rooty goes about his cricket, he's nice and positive the way he bats, I suspect the way he will captain the team will be similar," said England's Australian coach Trevor Bayliss last week.

South Africa ended the Test captaincy of several England skippers in Nasser Hussain, Michael Vaughan and Andrew Strauss. A similar fate, however, is unlikely to befall Root, whatever the outcome of a four-match series, ahead of this year's Ashes campaign in Australia.

The immediate task for Root is to return England to winning ways in Tests after eight defeats in a 2016 that ended with a 4-0 series loss in India. Root's county colleague Gary Ballance has forced his way back into the side after piling on the runs for Yorkshire even though his last six Test innings have yielded just 49 runs in total.

Meanwhile Keaton Jennings, who attended the same Johannesburg school as

South Africa wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock, is set to open alongside Cook-who has been scoring heavily for Essex this season-against the country of his birth.

With veteran new ball duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad fit to lead an attack featuring Durham quick Mark Wood, England must decide whether to hand a debut to another paceman in Toby Roland-Jones, who would be playing on his Middlesex home ground, or give Liam Dawson a first Test on home soil following the Hampshire left-arm spinner's promising start in Chennai in December.

ELGAR VARIATION

South Africa boast a remarkable record of having lost only one away Test series in 10 years. They have been without AB de Villiers in Test cricket for more than 12 months and the talented batsman will miss the whole of this series as he considers his international future.

South Africa too will have a new captain in Dean Elgar but regular skipper Faf du Plessis is expected back for the second Test at Nottingham following the birth of his first child. "He is a gutsy player," South Africa coach Russell Domingo said of opening batsman Elgar.

"He epitomises South African cricket to the tee." The Proteas had a difficult start to this tour, losing to England in both one-day and Twenty20 series either side of a first-round exit at the Champions Trophy. —AFP



LONDON: England's cricket captain Joe Root, right, and South Africa's captain Dean Elgar pose with trophies during the photocall at Lord's, cricket ground in London yesterday. England will play against South Africa in the first cricket Test match of the current series at Lord's starting today. — AP



ATLANTA: Danny Santana #23 of the Atlanta Braves is tagged out at second base by Marwin Gonzalez #9 of the Houston Astros in the seventh inning at SunTrust Park on Tuesday in Atlanta, Georgia. —AFP

BASEBALL

SAN DIEGO EDGES CLEVELAND IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

CLEVELAND: Cory Spangenberg drove in the only run with a groundout, and six San Diego pitchers combined on a five-hitter as the Padres edged the Cleveland Indians 1-0 on Tuesday despite a record-setting outing by All-Star Corey Kluber. Cleveland manager Terry Francona missed the game after he was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for tests. Francona was hospitalized twice last month after feeling lightheaded and having a rapid heart rate. He was fitted with a heart monitor last week and said at the time doctors had ruled out any serious health issues. Team president Chris Antonetti said Francona did not experience the previous symptoms again, and the tests were being done to help determine what's causing the issue. Kluber (7-3) struck out 10 in eight innings - setting a franchise mark with five consecutive double-digit strikeout games. But the 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner received little help from his offense or defense. Jose Torres (5-2) got two outs for the win. Brandon Mauer pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

DODGERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Clayton Kershaw carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out 11 to become the first 13-game winner in the majors this season, helping first-place Los Angeles beat Arizona in a matchup of the National League's top two teams. Kershaw (13-2) ended up allowing two hits in seven shutout innings. He lost his bid for a second career no-hitter on an infield single by Chris Owings with one out in the seventh. All-Star closer Kenley Jansen entered with two on in the ninth and gave up a three-run homer to Daniel Descalso. Jansen finished for his 18th save in as many chances. Kershaw has made 12 consecutive starts without a loss and is 9-0 with a 2.19 ERA since a 4-3 loss to San Francisco on May 1. The left-hander hasn't allowed a run in his last three starts. Arizona lefty Patrick Corbin (6-8) gave up three runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings. Justin Turner homered and drove in two runs for the Dodgers. Yasmani Grandal also knocked in two runs.

RED SOX 11, RANGERS 4

Andrew Benintendi went 5 for 5 with two homers, six RBIs and a terrific catch in left field, and David Price struck out nine over six scoreless innings as Boston beat Texas to

stretch the longest winning streak in the majors to six games. The first Red Sox rookie with two five-hit games in a season, Benintendi had a three-run homer in the fifth that chased All-Star pitcher Yu Darvish (6-7), who matched career highs by allowing seven runs and 11 hits. Benintendi led off the eighth by going the opposite way for his 12th homer, with the ball hitting on top of the 14-foot wall down the left-field line. Jackie Bradley Jr. followed with his 11th home run. Price (4-2) threw 70 of 106 pitches for strikes in his eighth start since missing the season's first seven weeks with an elbow strain. The lefty departed after his second walk started the seventh. Adrian Beltre has 2,974 career hits after a three-hit night for Texas that included his 600th career double. Mike Napoli went deep for the fourth straight game, his 18th homer being a three-run drive in the eighth after the Rangers trailed 11-0.

ASTROS 16, BRAVES 4

Jose Altuve homered and drove in four runs, Josh Reddick hit a grand slam and Houston pounded Atlanta. Showing why they're the best team in baseball at 57-27, the Astros banged out 19 hits to tie a season high and led 12-0. But All-Star shortstop Carlos Correa left before the fifth inning with left thumb discomfort. He was hurt sliding headfirst into home as catcher Tyler Flowers tagged him to end the fourth inning. X-rays were negative and Correa is day to day. Yuli Gurriel doubled twice to drive in three runs, Brad Peacock (6-1) won his third straight start and George Springer went 4 for 5 with a homer, helping Houston improve to 30-9 on the road despite the return of Braves slugger Freddie Freeman from a broken left wrist. Houston has won 11 of 14 overall and 19 of 22 on the road. The Braves began the night one game shy of .500 after winning 11 of 15, but Sean Newcomb (1-3) struggled in his first career start against a potent major league lineup. Freeman came back as Atlanta's starting third baseman, moving from first base to a position he hadn't played since high school. He singled in his first at-bat and easily handled his first chance at third.

REDS 8, ROCKIES 1

Homer Bailey pitched six solid innings for

his first win since last August, Billy Hamilton had a two-out, two-run single after missing a game with a bothersome back and Cincinnati beat Colorado. Jose Peraza, Scott Schebler and pinch-hitter Scooter Gennett added homers for the Reds, who have won three of their last 18 road games. The injury-plagued Bailey (1-2) scattered eight hits in the longest of his three starts this season. The right-hander with two career no-hitters was on the disabled list until June 24 as he recovered from offseason surgery to remove bone spurs in his pitching elbow. Kyle Freeland (8-7) gave up five runs over 5 1/3 innings in his third straight loss.

BLUE JAYS 4, YANKEES 1

CC Sabathia was chased during a four-run third inning in his return from the disabled list, with Kendrys Morales hitting a two-run single that helped the Blue Jays stop a five-game losing streak. Aaron Judge dented a metal casement above a door behind the left-center field wall with his major league-leading 28th home run, a drive that would have traveled 456 feet had it landed unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast. That was the only run off J.A. Happ (3-5), who allowed four hits in six innings. Roberto Osuna pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save. Sabathia (7-3) was charged with four runs, three hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

RAYS 6, CUBS 5

Tim Beckham homered, and the Rays won their reunion with Joe Maddon. Beckham's two-run drive highlighted a five-run fourth against Jon Lester (5-5). Alex Colome gave up two runs in the ninth, but the Rays won their first meeting against Maddon since he left to manage Chicago following the 2014 season. Colome threw 38 pitches in the ninth but came away with his 22nd save in 26 chances. Chris Archer (7-5) picked up his third win in four starts, giving up three runs and eight hits in six innings. The former Cubs prospect also had an RBI single for his first career hit. Lester allowed six runs - tying a season high - and nine hits over five innings. Chicago lost for the fifth time in seven games.

NATIONALS 11, METS 4

Daniel Murphy had four hits and five RBIs, helping NL East-leading Washington to its third straight victory. Murphy improved his career average to .405 against the Mets, his first and only former big league team. Bryce Harper had three hits and two RBIs for the Nationals, and Joe Ross (5-3) allowed two runs over seven innings. Jay Bruce, Jose Reyes and Rene Rivera homered for New York. Seth Lugo (3-2) surrendered six runs and 10 hits in five innings.

PIRATES 3, PHILLIES 0

Pittsburgh right-hander Jameson Taillon struck out a career-best nine in five innings, and Andrew McCutchen hit a pair of solo homers. Taillon (5-2) allowed four hits and four relievers finished off the six-hitter. The right-hander is 3-1 in five starts since returning from surgery for testicular cancer. McCutchen ripped his 15th homer to left in the sixth, one pitch after a high-and-tight fastball from Mark Leiter Jr. (1-1) knocked him down. He connected off Ricardo Pinto in the eighth, sending a drive off the facing of the upper deck in left. A 22-minute rain delay held things up in the bottom of the

eighth. Felipe Rivero pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his fourth save in four tries.

ROYALS 7, MARINERS 3

Whit Merrifield hit the first pitch of the game from Felix Hernandez for his seventh home run, helping Kansas City to its fifth win in six games. Mike Moustakas added his 24th homer for the Royals, and Salvador Perez also drove in two runs. Danny Duffy (5-4) returned after spending a month on the disabled list and allowed two runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. Hernandez (3-3) was charged with six runs, five earned, and six hits in six innings.

ATHLETICS 7, WHITE SOX 6

Franklin Barreto homered in the ninth inning, Yonder Alonso went deep twice and Oakland snapped a season-high six-game losing streak. Matt Joyce's two-run homer and Alonso's long balls in the fourth and fifth helped stake the A's to a 6-5 lead, but Santiago Casilla (2-3) was unable to close it out in the ninth. That set the stage for Barreto's late-inning theatrics. With one out, Barreto hit a towering fly ball off Tommy Kahnle (0-3) that just cleared the wall in left field and sent the A's pouring out of the dugout for a sorely needed celebration.

BREWERS 6, ORIOLES 2

Eric Thames homered twice and Jimmy Nelson pitched seven strong innings, leading Milwaukee to the victory. Stephen Vogt and Travis Shaw also connected for the NL Central-leading Brewers. Nelson (7-4) allowed an unearned run and six hits. Jonathan Schoop hit a solo homer for Baltimore in the ninth. Ubaldo Jimenez (3-4) gave up five runs and six hits over five innings.

TIGERS 5, GIANTS 3

Victor Martinez homered, Michael Fulmer pitched eight innings and Detroit snapped San Francisco's six-game win streak. Justin

Upton went 3 for 3 for the Tigers, including a tiebreaking two-run single with two out in the seventh. Upton's big day helped make up for the loss of slugger Miguel Cabrera, who left after six innings due to left hip tightness. Fulmer (8-6) allowed two homers for the first time this season. Justin Wilson pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save. San Francisco right-hander Matt Cain (3-8) surrendered five runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. He dropped to 0-7 in nine starts since beating the Dodgers on May 15.

MARLINS 5, CARDINALS 2

Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer and Jose Urena struck out seven in five solid innings, helping Miami to the road win. JT Riddle added a two-run single for the Marlins, who had dropped five of six. Dee Gordon had three hits, and Giancarlo Stanton reached three times. Greg Garcia hit a two-run homer for St. Louis, which lost for just the second time in seven games. Lance Lynn (6-6) allowed four runs, two earned, and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. Urena (7-3) was charged with two runs and three hits. AJ Ramos got three outs for his 14th save in 15 opportunities.

TWINS 5, ANGELS 4

Kyle Gibson got his first win in three weeks and Byron Buxton hit his fifth homer, leading Minnesota to the victory. Gibson (5-6) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings in his longest outing of the season. It was his first win since June 13 against Seattle. Minnesota went ahead to stay with two runs in the fifth. Robbie Grossman hit an RBI double off JC Ramirez (7-7) and scored on Joe Mauer's single for a 3-1 lead. Los Angeles slugger Albert Pujols homered in the eighth, and the Angels closed to 5-4 when Andreton Simmons scored on shortstop Ehire Adrianza's throwing error in the ninth. But Brandon Kintzler got Martin Maldonado to bounce into a double play for his 22nd save. —AP

MLB results/standings

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

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB		
Boston	49	35	.583	-	Washington	50	34	.595	-
NY Yankees	44	38	.537	4	Atlanta	40	42	.488	9
Tampa Bay	44	41	.518	5.5	NY Mets	38	45	.458	11.5
Baltimore	40	43	.482	8.5	Miami	37	45	.451	12
Toronto	38	45	.458	10.5	Philadelphia	28	54	.341	21
Central Division				Central Division					
Cleveland	44	38	.537	-	Milwaukee	46	40	.535	-
Kansas City	43	40	.518	1.5	Chicago Cubs	41	42	.494	3.5
Minnesota	43	40	.518	1.5	St. Louis	40	43	.482	4.5
Detroit	37	45	.451	7	Pittsburgh	38	46	.452	7
Chicago White Sox	37	46	.446	7.5	Cincinnati	36	47	.434	8.5
Western Division				Western Division					
Houston	57	27	.679	-	LA Dodgers	56	29	.659	-
LA Angels	43	45	.489	16	Arizona	52	32	.619	3.5
Seattle	41	44	.482	16.5	Colorado	49	37	.570	7.5
Texas	40	44	.476	17	San Diego	35	48	.422	20
Oakland	36	48	.429	21	San Francisco	33	52	.388	23



CLEVELAND: Francisco Lindor #12 of the Cleveland Indians forces out Carlos Asuaje #20 of the San Diego Padres at second base during the fifth inning at Progressive Field on Tuesday in Cleveland, Ohio. The Padres defeated the Indians 1-0. — AFP

ROSE TELLS FIERY YOUNG STARS LIKE RAHM TO COOL IT

PORTSTEWART: Former US Open champion Justin Rose handed out sobering advice to Jon Rahm and other young stars ahead of the Irish Open starting today, suggesting the sometimes fiery young Spaniard needed to control his demeanour. Rahm, 22 and one of the most exciting young talents in world golf, drew much criticism over his unsporting manners ahead of missing the cut at the US Open at Erin Hills.

Rahm, with a maiden PGA Tour victory,

a second place to world number one Dustin Johnson in Texas, and a third in Mexico already this year, let his temper get the better of him over two rounds in rural Wisconsin in the company of Rickie Fowler and Hideki Matsuyama.

The actions of the now US-based Rahm sent many fans onto social media documenting his hot-tempered ways before he crashed out of the US Open with scores of 76 and 73 to miss the cut by five strokes. And ahead of teeing up at this week's Irish

Open Rahm revealed he had apologised to both Matsuyama, who finished runner-up at the US Open, and Fowler.

'DEEPLY EMBARRASSED'

"What happened at Erin Hills cannot happen again," he said. "I mean, I'm deeply embarrassed about what happened. I apologised to Rickie and Hideki about what I did." Rahm revealed that he has waged a long battle for self-control on the golf course and sometimes he loses spec-

tacularly. "It really frustrates me to think about it, because the person that you see on TV doing that, that's not the person who I am. I'm nothing like that," he said.

Asked about the Spaniard's conduct, Rose, who captured the 2013 US Open and is also the reigning Olympic champion, said it looked like Rahm and other young bucks had some growing up to do and needed to calm down. "But it's good to see passion. It's good to see fire. It's good to see it in the young players to a

certain point," he said.

"And all of the talent in the world is great and all of these young guys have it, but the difference in terms of winning the biggest event is the mental side.

"When I had great weeks, US Open, the Olympics, even the Masters, they are all weeks that I felt incredibly calm and when I have been challenged during those weeks I've kind of dealt with that moment in the week very well. "So, the mental side is very important." — AFP

CYCLING

SAGAN ACCEPTS EXPULSION AS FROOME LICKS LIPS

VITTEL: World champion Peter Sagan is out of the Tour de France after accepting his disqualification for racing dangerously, with the race favourites set for their first mountain battle. The 27-year-old Slovak had been hoping for a last minute reprieve after his Bora team appealed against his sanction for having elbowed Mark Cavendish into the barriers during the sprint finish to Tuesday's fourth stage.

But yesterday morning, Sagan admitted defeat in his bid to ride on. "I can only accept the decision of the jury, but I disagree. I don't think I've done anything wrong in the sprint," said Sagan. Cavendish was taken to hospital after the crash where he was diagnosed with a broken shoulder blade, forcing him out of the Tour. Sagan had elbowed him into the barriers during a muscular sprint finish, with the race commission later deciding to expel the Bora rider for having "endangered some of his colleagues seriously".

Bora reacted late on Tuesday saying they had appealed the decision and asked that Sagan be reinstated, although that scenario was always unlikely. "In the sprint I didn't know that Mark Cavendish was behind me," protested Sagan. "Mark was coming really fast from the back and I just didn't have time to react and to go left.

"He came into me and he went into the fence." For his part, Cavendish said he found Sagan's elbow inexplicable. "I was a little bit confused with the elbow, that's something I'd like to speak to him about," said the 32-year-old winner of 30 Tour stages.

'MASSIVELY DISAPPOINTED'

"I'm obviously massively disappointed to get this news about the fracture," said Cavendish. As for Wednesday's 160.5km

fifth stage from Vittel to La Planchette des Belles Filles, it has reigning champion Chris Froome licking his lips in anticipation. It was there in 2012 that he won his first ever stage on the Tour, when he went on to finish second overall to British compatriot and Sky team-mate Bradley Wiggins. "It was a really memorable victory for me," said Froome, a three-time Tour winner since.

"I'm certainly looking forward to going back there." According to Australia's 2011 Tour winner Cadel Evans, this stage will give a big clue as to who will win the Grand Tour when it reaches Paris on July 23.

"If you look back at all the results, certainly of the Tours I rode, the result of the first mountain finish is often very close to the GC (overall standings) in Paris," he said. Now retired, Evans is the only Australian and only rider for the BMC team to have won the Tour. But he has in Richie Porte a more than capable successor for both those roles. And current race leader Geraint Thomas, Froome's Sky team-mate, believes Porte will be looking to attack at the end of Wednesday's stage, which starts off quite flat but climbs to more than 1,000 metres by the finish.

"Richie is going to try for sure. He is in great form and the climb is perfect for him," said Thomas. Despite wearing the yellow jersey, the 31-year-old Welshman insisted he has no personal designs in this Tour other than helping his team leader.

"I'm fully committed to Froome and winning the Tour with him," he said. The stage ends with a steep first category climb, 5.9km long at an average 8.5 percent gradient, although the very end rises to 20 percent. "It's not a long climb," said Froome.

"We shouldn't see big time differences, but definitely it's tough enough to show exactly where all the rivals are at." — AFP



PASADENA: Jamie Nieto, a two-time Olympic high jumper who is recovering from a spinal cord injury he suffered 14 months ago after a mistimed backflip, looks in the mirror while getting his tuxedo fitted ahead of his July wedding, in Pasadena, California. — AP

ATHLETICS

AFTER ACCIDENT, OLYMPIAN NIETO WANTS TO WALK FOR HIS WEDDING

PASADENA: On good days, American high jumper Jamie Nieto can shuffle 130 steps without a cane or walker. It's an important distance - about the length from the altar to the church door. His vow: Make it all the way, under his own power, when he's married on July 22.

The two-time Olympian is recovering from a spinal cord injury he suffered on a misjudged backflip in April 2016. The accident initially left him with no feeling in his hands and feet. Walking? Doctors couldn't predict if he would take more than a few steps - or any at all.

"People keep saying my recovery is really fast," said the 40-year-old Nieto, who lives in Los Angeles. "I feel like it's not fast enough. I want to be better tomorrow. I'm built for speed, not for going slow. But I'm working on being the best walker I can be."

Nieto proposed to Jamaican hurdler Shevon Stoddart while in a wheelchair, six months after The Backflip. It used to be his signature move after big events. On April 23, 2016, the maneuver went seriously wrong for the high jumper who once cleared 7 feet, 8 inches to finish fourth at the 2004 Olympics. He was coaching some jumpers when he showed them his backflip expertise. His first attempt was a little off, and he asked for another try.

This time, he pushed off with one foot on the artificial turf and it slipped, forcing him straight back instead of into a somersault. The full weight of his body crashed on his neck. "I couldn't really feel anything. I was stuck there. I was like, 'Oh shoot, I hurt myself pretty bad,'" recalled Nieto. "I had the athletes call 911."

He was flown to a nearby hospital in Los Angeles and had surgery to fuse a disc in his neck. When he awoke, he could only shrug his shoulders and flex his quadriceps muscles. His hands and feet? "Nothing," Nieto said. "But I knew I was going to make a full recovery. There was never a doubt." The high jumper who finished sixth at the 2012 London Games spent 12 days in intensive care, two months at an inpatient rehab facility and finally returned home around this time a year ago. At first, routine tasks were a struggle: Rolling up to get out of bed, brushing his teeth, getting dressed.

He didn't have insurance, either. So his friends launched a campaign that's raised more than \$80,000. Just like his days on the track, Nieto is driven as he goes through grinding workouts five days a week. He documents his progress on social media, with one of his posts - lifting weights and pushing a sled - being viewed more than 4,000 times.

"Physically, I wasn't the most talented athlete, but I worked really hard," said Nieto, who once demonstrated his leaping ability by high jumping a car. "I had the mental capacity to fight to the end. At that level, it's what separates good athletes from great athletes. "I'm still trying to push those boundaries and limits."

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

He met Stoddart around 2010 - a story he enjoys telling. They both showed up to audition for a television commercial "to sell TVs," Nieto said. "I just said, 'Hi.'" She got the part. "Guess I should've focused on more than saying, 'Hi,'" he laughed.

Soon after, they became Facebook friends, and one day he dropped Stoddart a note that they should have dinner after a track meet. She agreed. An instant connection between the high jumper and the 400-meter hurdler. "We were talking about getting married before the accident, and when I had the accident it was clear to me, 'What are we waiting on?' You never know - you could be gone tomorrow," Nieto said.

"I asked her if she was ready to get married now or wait until I got better." Wait, she said. She's been there for him throughout his recovery, feeding him in the hospital when he

couldn't lift his arms, helping him get dressed when his fingers struggled with buttons and transferring him from his wheelchair to the bed when he struggled.

"As I get better and gether, she has to do less and less," Nieto said. "She's done so much for me." In mid-October, they went to a jewelry store to pick up the ring they'd selected. He proposed to her on the spot and in his wheelchair. He promised he would be ready to walk down the aisle by the wedding date.

A few months ago, that didn't seem likely without assistance. He could only take six shaky steps on his own. Soon, it was 23 steps. Then 53, 80 and now 130 for their wedding at a church in San Diego. Stoddart's response? Go for 200.

"I keep pushing him forward," said Stoddart, who was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to Uniondale, New York, as a kid. "After he (walks down the aisle), I'm going to be like, 'OK, now jog. Now run.' I continue to push him so he can be the best he can be."

Before his injury, Nieto wrote screenplays and appeared in movies, such as the film "Baseball's Last Hero: 21 Clemente Stories" in which he played Pittsburgh Pirates great Roberto Clemente. He continues that work, finishing a script for an episode of the TV show "Family Time" and making a cameo in a soap opera, where he plays the role of a doctor.

Nieto also is 10 chapters into a book about his recovery that he hopes to turn into a film. He already has the leading actor picked out - himself. "I don't see why not? I plan to be 100 percent again," Nieto said. "I don't think there will be any dry eyes in the theater." — AP



PASADENA: Shevon Stoddart, left, watches as her fiance, Jamie Nieto, a two-time Olympic high jumper who is recovering from a spinal cord injury. — AP

BOXING

PACQUIAO BACKS CALL FOR WBO REVIEW OF HIS LOSS TO HORN

MANILA: Manny Pacquiao asked the WBO to act on a request by Philippine sports officials for a review of his welterweight world title loss to Jeff Horn, saying he didn't want to see the boxing industry "dying because of unfair decision and officiating." While Pacquiao has accepted his defeat to Horn, who fought in his first world title bout in Sunday's so-called "Battle of Brisbane," the Philippine senator said in a statement Wednesday he had a "moral obligation to uphold sportsmanship, truth and fairness."

The 11-time world champion cited a request by the Philippines' Games and Amusements Board, or GAB, to World Boxing Organization President Francisco Valcarcel for a thorough review of the refereeing and judging of the bout, which was staged outdoors in front of more than 51,000 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

The WBO should take action on the Philippine request "so as not to erode the people's interest in boxing," Pacquiao said. "I had already accepted the decision but as a leader and, at the same time, fighter, I have the moral obligation to uphold sportsmanship, truth and fairness in the eyes of the public." "I love boxing and I don't want to see it dying because of unfair decision and officiating," he said. In their July 3 letter to Valcarcel, GAB chairman Abraham Kahilil Mitra and two other officials expressed concerns about "the possible errors of the referee and the three judges who officiated the subject fight."

"We ... request for a thorough review by the WBO for possible miscalls of the referee where some deductions were not made and of the judges in their judging that have caused varying opinions on their objectivity," the statement said. Pacquiao's trainers were critical of the referee for not doing more to stop or penalize head clashes and neck holds. They highlighted statistics that showed Pacquiao, who needed stitches to two cuts in his hairline that resulted from head clashes, landed twice as many punches.

Commentators from ESPN, which broadcast

the fight live in the U.S., were among the most vocal critics of the outcome. All three judges awarded it to Horn, with American Waleska Roldan's 117-111 score attracting most of the criticism. US judge Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan of Argentina each scored it much closer at 115-113. Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said it was a "close fight. It could have gone either way." Pacquiao had a rematch clause in the contract, meaning the 38-year-old Filipino could negotiate to fight Horn again before the end of the year. Horn won the majority of the early rounds on all judge's cards, but Pacquiao rallied and had opportunities to end the fight in the 9th when he had the Australian schoolteacher wobbling and on the ropes. Horn recovered and won the next round, setting up a battle of attrition in the two closing rounds.

The WBO published a photo of the judge's cards on its Twitter account on Sunday night, and followed up on the GAB request for an inquest with another post on Wednesday that said: "The discretion of a referee or judge cannot be reversed, except in a case of fraud or violation of laws which is not the case in Pac vs Horn." Pacquiao entered the fight with a record of 59-6-2, but the last of his 38 wins by knockout was in 2009. Horn hadn't lost any of his previous 17 professional fights, but had never encountered anybody with Pacquiao's credentials. Philippine officials organized a free public viewing of the bout in southern Marawi city, to give thousands of displaced residents, troops and police a respite from a disastrous siege by Islamic militants that has turned parts of the city into a smoldering war zone. The Filipinos cheered for their boxing hero, but fell silent when the decision was announced. Marawi crisis committee spokesman Zia Alonto Adiong said then that many could not accept the outcome but he added that the momentary entertainment was a relief and that Pacquiao provided a crucial message of courage and resiliency to the war-weary residents and troops. — AP

CAVENDISH OUT OF TOUR WITH BROKEN SHOULDER

VITTEL: Sprint ace Mark Cavendish pulled out of the Tour de France on Tuesday, hours after suffering a broken shoulder blade in a horror crash at the end of the fourth stage. Cavendish had gone to hospital after world champion Peter Sagan elbowed him into the railings by the side of the road at the finish in Vittel. Sagan was kicked off the Tour for his part in the crash but his Bora team stated they had appealed against the decision by the Tour's race commission. Late on Tuesday evening, Cavendish's Dimension Data team posted a picture of the British rider on Twitter with his arm in a sling, revealing that he was pulling out of the Tour.

"I'm obviously massively disappointed to get this news about the fracture," said Cavendish. "I feel I was in a good position to win and to lose that and even having to leave the Tour, a race I have built my whole career around, is really sad." A bloodied Cavendish had earlier demanded an explanation from Sagan for the elbow that sent him crashing into the barriers, and then to the tarmac, at the end of the 207.5km stage from Mondorf-les-Bains to Vittel. Sagan had gone to see Cavendish after the stage but the Briton was still left perplexed as to why the Slovak world champion had elbowed him as they jostled for position down the right-hand side of the road at the sprint finish. "I was massively grateful that Peter came directly after the finish to see me-I have a good relationship with Peter," said Cavendish. "Even with the movement

to the right, obviously I wouldn't be happy but that's racing. But I was a little bit confused with the elbow, that's something I'd like to speak to him about."

The Tour's race jury had earlier decided to exclude Sagan for the rest of the Tour. "We've decided to disqualify Peter Sagan from the Tour de France 2017 as he endangered some of his colleagues seriously in the final metres of the sprint which happened in Vittel," said the president of the race commission, Philippe Marien.

But Bora said they had appealed. "The team disagrees with the decision and protested it officially," said Bora in a statement. "The team applied for a redress of Peter Sagan's result in stage 4." Sagan added: "In the sprint I didn't know that Mark Cavendish was behind me.

"He was coming from the right side, and I was trying to go on (Alexander) Kristoff's wheel. Mark was coming really fast from the back and I just didn't have time to react and to go left. "He came into me and he went into the fence. When I was told after the finish that Mark had crashed, I went straight away to find out how he was doing. "We are friends and colleagues in the peloton and crashes like that are never nice. I hope Mark recovers soon."

It continues a terrible season for Cavendish. The 32-year-old Isle of Man born sprint ace who has 30 stage wins to his name since 2008 - headed into this year's race having missed two months recovering from glandular fever. — AFP



VITTEL: A combination of pictures shows (From L, Up to bottom) Slovakia's Peter Sagan riding; France's Arnaud Demare crossing the finish line; Slovakia's Peter Sagan (2ndL) giving a kick of elbow and Great Britain's Mark Cavendish (L) falling near the finish line; and Great Britain's Mark Cavendish, injured, crossing the finish line after falling; as part of the 207.5 km fourth stage of the 104th edition of the Tour de France cycling race on Tuesday between Mondorf-les-Bains and Vittel. — AFP

MODRIC QUESTIONED OVER ALLEGED FALSE TESTIMONY

ZAGREB: Croatian prosecutors yesterday questioned Real Madrid's Luka Modric over his alleged false testimony at the trial of Dinamo Zagreb's powerful former boss, Zdravko Mamic. "I came here to present my defence and tell the truth as every time so far," Modric told reporters after the questioning in the eastern town of Osijek, where the trial is being held, the state-run HINA news agency reported. "My conscience is clear," the 31-year-old Croatia captain said. "I'm certain that eventually it will be shown that I did not commit any criminal act."

In June the prosecutors opened a probe of Modric whom they suspect of giving false testimony during Mamic's trial, which is punishable with up to five years in jail.

Mamic is accused-along with his brother Zoran Mamic and two others-of abuse of power and graft that cost the former Croatian champions more than 15 million euros (\$16.9 million), and the state 1.5 million euros. Cash was allegedly embezzled through fictitious deals related to player transfers.

Modric testified in mid-June over the details of his 2008 transfer from Dinamo to Tottenham Hotspur. From there he joined

Real Madrid in 2012. The prosecutors alleged that, when questioned at the tribunal, Modric falsely said he had signed an annex to a contract with Dinamo over conditions for future transfers in July 2004.

When questioned during investigations in 2015, Modric said the annex was signed after he joined Tottenham, according to the prosecutors. Another Croatian international, Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren, is to appear as witness in September.

The 28-year-old is expected to be questioned over his 2010 transfer from Dinamo to French side Lyon. The trial, which opened in April, has attracted huge interest from media and residents of Osijek where it is being held reportedly to avoid Mamic's influence on judges in the capital Zagreb.

Mamic is considered the most powerful man in Croatian football and his connections extend into many spheres of public life. Most Croatian football fans see him as the real boss of the Croatian Football Federation and believe its formal chief Davor Suker is merely Mamic's puppet.

Modric, who grew up as a refugee in Zadar on the Dalmatian coast, is highly popular in Croatia where he has a reputation for modesty. — AFP



DOHA: Barcelona players Gerard Pique (2L) Sergio Busquets (C-back) and Jordi Alba (2R) visit the new extension of the Aspire Academy Sports Academy under construction in Doha yesterday. — AFP

TENNIS

KARATE KID MARIA SAKKARI CHASES WIMBLEDON DREAM

LONDON: Maria Sakkari made the Wimbledon third round for the first time yesterday, counting her blessings that she once got the chop from a karate class. The 21-year-old from Athens defied her world ranking of 101 to knock out 44th-ranked Kristyna Pliskova of the Czech Republic 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4. Sakkari admitted that had things turned out differently when she was a youngster, her sporting career may have taken another direction. "When I was a child, I did swimming, running, ballet and even karate," said Sakkari who will face British sixth seed Johanna Konta for a last-16 spot. "But I got kicked out of karate class on the first day I went because I was laughing so much. It all just seemed so funny to me. "I only went because my brother Yannis went. He stayed but I didn't."

"There was no way I could have been a professional." Despite Sakkari's progress in the sport she also made the third round at the Australian Open in January-tennis still lags behind football and basketball in Greece. Even her match on Court 14 on Wednesday failed to translate into a live television event back home.

Sakkari's mother Angeliki was a professional player on the WTA Tour, reaching the third round at the French Open in 1985 and 1987. It took American legend Chris Evert

to stop her mother, who played under her maiden name of Kanellopoulou, the first time in Paris. In 1986, her mother reached a career high of 48 in the world but retired at the age of 25 to start a family.

"My mother didn't really want me to go into professional tennis. She thought it was too hard a life," said Sakkari who moved to Barcelona at age 18 to train and play.

Her mother only played Wimbledon once when she was a first round loser in 1986. Now Sakkari, who also flourished as a track runner in her childhood, has bettered that mark even if her compatriots may be slow to appreciate it. "Some times I get recognised at home," she added. "Wimbledon is followed but tennis is not that big. It's behind football, basketball and running but it's getting bigger." She certainly had to fight on Wednesday to make the third round for the first time.

She gave up a 5-3 lead in the first set before dropping the opener and then trailed 4-1 in the second set. Pliskova, the towering twin sister of world number three and title favourite Karolina, also had points for a 5-1 lead before her game disintegrated. Sakkari broke in the fifth game of the deciding set and survived a nasty-looking fall into the net before she composed herself to take victory. — AFP



LONDON: Germany's Maria Sakkari returns to Czech Republic's Kristyna Pliskova on day three at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London yesterday. — AP

INDONESIA TO LEAD SE ASIAN 2034 WCUP BID

JAKARTA: Indonesia is set to lead a consortium of South East Asian countries in an ambitious bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, the country's football association said yesterday. Joko Driyono, the vice-president of the Indonesia's football association, PSSI, said the country had proposed to lead the South East Asian consortium at an Asian Football Federation (AFF) council meeting in Vietnam earlier this month.

"It will be officially endorsed in the (AFF) council meeting in Bali in September," Driyono told AFP.

Driyono said the bid to host the most prestigious football event was "ambitious" but that the consortium, comprising countries from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), had 17 years to prepare. The deadline to reg-

ister a bid is 2026.

Due to geographical and infrastructure considerations, only two or three of the 10 ASEAN member countries would be in a position to host matches in the 2034 World Cup, Driyono added.

He believed the bid would provide a boost to Indonesia and its neighbours in their efforts to improve their football performance. The game in Indonesia has been suffering from problems for years, from the creation of a breakaway association that tore the football establishment apart to cases of foreign players being treated badly.

"It is time that South East Asia hosts the World Cup, and the progressive growth of Asia, especially Southeast Asia, brings an optimism for us," Driyono said. — AFP

SOCCER

LIONEL MESSI COMMITS TO BARCELONA UNTIL 2021

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi has agreed to stay at FC Barcelona until 2021 in a deal that all but commits the star striker to ending his top-flight career at the Spanish giants. The megastar who joined Barcelona as a teenager 17 years ago will remain at the club until he is 34 under the new deal, the Catalan club announced yesterday, ending months of speculation about the future of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

"The deal will be signed in the coming weeks, when Messi returns to the team for pre-season training," the club said in a statement, as the 30-year-old enjoyed his honeymoon just days after he wed his childhood sweetheart in Argentina.

Messi has hinted in the past that he would like to return in the future to Argentina to play for his very first club, CA Newell's Old Boys in his hometown of Rosario, where he wed last week. But he has also said that his priority is to win more honours with Barca, the club he has called his home since he was 13. Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu has made keeping Messi at Barca a personal crusade.

"We wanted to ensure that the best player in the history of football remains at the club," he said. "He plays here and he should retire here." No financial details of Messi's new contract were disclosed, but Spain's Marca sports daily reported on Tuesday that the deal included a 300-million-euro (\$340-million) termination clause. Under his current contract, due to run out in June 2018, Messi earns around 20 million euros a year in salary, according to Spanish media-and this didn't include millions of euros in revenues earned from ads and performance-linked bonuses.

Messi joined FC Barcelona in 2000 when he was just 13 years old in the youth training centre. "He made his first team debut at just 16 years of age in a friendly against FC Porto, before making his debut the following season against Espanyol at 17," the club said in a statement.

"Shortly after, he scored his first senior goal with a clever lob against Albacete at the Camp Nou." The deal announcement is likely to reassure fans and members of FC Barcelona, which has had a disappointing sea-



MADRID: In this Saturday May 27, 2017 file photo, Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a goal during the Copa del Rey final soccer match between Barcelona and Alaves at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, Spain. Barcelona said yesterday, Argentina forward Lionel Messi has agreed to extend his contract that will tie him to the Spanish club through June 30, 2021. — AP

son by the club's own high standards.

The club was eliminated from the Champions League in the quarter finals by Juventus, and came second behind arch-rivals Real Madrid in La Liga, though Barca did win the Copa del Rey.

Messi's contract extension consolidates the much-feared "MSN" striking trio which also includes Brazil's Neymar and Uruguay's Luis Suarez. Both have also renewed their contracts until 2021. With 507 goals scored in 583 official matches, Messi is the club's all-time leading scorer and the top scorer in La Liga history and. He is widely considered the world's best player along with Portugal cap-

tain Cristiano Ronaldo, his Real Madrid rival.

"He's the best player I've ever seen on the pitch," said Ernesto Valverde, Barcelona's new coach, of Messi. Now 30, Messi could have been tempted by other horizons-having been courted by clubs like PSG and Manchester City-particularly as he was found guilty last year of tax fraud in Spain. But he has lived in Catalonia since his early teens, and currently resides in Barcelona with his now-wife Antonella Rocuzzo, their son Thiago, four, and Mateo, one-both of whom were born in Spain. And Messi himself said in May that his aim as a footballer was to "try and win the most titles possible" with FC Barcelona. — AFP

BESIKTAS SIGN PEPE FROM REAL MADRID

ISTANBUL: Portuguese international defender Pepe yesterday signed for Turkish champions Besiktas from Real Madrid on a two-year deal. Pepe, 34, landed in Istanbul before dawn aboard a private plane and was given a rousing welcome by hundreds of fans who had waited overnight at the airport.

He then went through a full medical and signed his two-year contract at a news conference at club headquarters. "I had wonderful times at Real Madrid and the supporters liked me a lot. I hope at Besiktas to make the supporters proud with my work, my devotion and my love," said Pepe.

Pepe will receive a total salary of 9.5 million euros (\$10.75 million), plus performance bonuses, over the two years, Besiktas said in a statement. There was no indication of the transfer fee. For years in the shadow of Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce and Galatasaray, the Black Eagles have won the Turkish Super Lig title for the last two seasons. With the title, Besiktas also claim Turkey's sole automatic Champions League spot and will hope for a drastic improvement on their group-stage exit last time round.

Few are better qualified to help Besiktas with that goal than Pepe, who helped Real Madrid win the Champions League three times in his career. While French internationals Mathieu Valbuena and Bafetimbi Gomis have signed for Fenerbahce and Galatasaray respectively, Pepe is arguably the biggest name to arrive in Istanbul so far this summer.

Pepe spent the last decade as a key member of the star-studded Real Madrid side and helped Portugal to victory in Euro 2016, winning the man-of-the-match award in the victory in the final over France.

At Besiktas, Pepe will join forces with his Portugal teammate, the winger Ricardo Quaresma, who has played for the Istanbul side from 2015 after an earlier 2010-2012 stint and is a big favourite with fans. — AFP



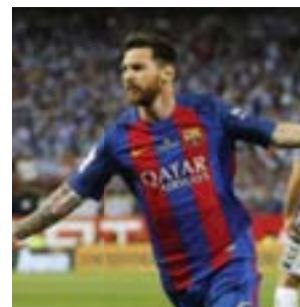
ISTANBUL: Portuguese defender Pepe signs his new contract with Besiktas yesterday at Vodafone Park stadium in Istanbul. — AFP

Sports

**Gordon Hayward
chooses Celtics
over Jazz, Heat**



**Messi commits
to Barcelona
until 2021**



THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

AFTER ACCIDENT, OLYMPIAN NIETO WANTS TO WALK FOR HIS WEDDING

Page 18



LONDON: Britain's Johanna Konta returns against Croatia's Donna Vekic during their women's singles second round match on the third day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. —AFP

KONTA REACHES THIRD ROUND AT WIMBLEDON GRITTY NISHIKORI DOWN STAKHOVSKY

LONDON: Britain's biggest hope for a women's champion at Wimbledon worked her way into the third round yesterday. Johanna Konta trailed early but managed to come back and hang on for a 7-6 (4), 4-6, 10-8 victory over Donna Vekic on Centre Court.

"It's a nice feeling not to have to keep going out there," Konta said. "We were out there a long time and both of us battled incredibly hard. Whoever was going to draw the short straw was going to be hurting." Konta, seeded sixth, is in the third round at the All England Club for the first time in six appearances. She reached the final at a grass-court warm-up tournament in Birmingham last month, but lost to Vekic.

"I think I overall trusted my game a bit more

this time," said Konta, who is trying to become the first British woman to win the Wimbledon title since Virginia Wade in 1977. "I'm definitely here with the intention of wanting to be a part of the event for the full two weeks."

Stan Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion who lost in the first round at Wimbledon, is dating Vekic and was at Centre Court watching the match. When the Wimbledon gates opened Wednesday morning, the race was on to get the best spot on Mount Murray.

The hill next to No. 1 Court at Wimbledon, formerly known as Henman Hill and also referred to as Murray Mound, was a coveted spot for Day 3 at the All England Club because Konta and Andy Murray were scheduled to play

their second-round matches on Centre Court.

Earlier, Kei Nishikori dug deep to keep his Wimbledon challenge alive as the Japanese star ground out a 6-4, 6-7 (7/9), 6-1, 7-6 (8/6) win over Ukrainian qualifier Sergiy Stakhovsky yesterday. Despite reaching at least the quarter-finals of the other three Grand Slams, Nishikori has never been past the fourth round at Wimbledon.

The world number nine was pushed hard by Stakhovsky, who famously stunned Roger Federer at Wimbledon three years. But Nishikori, 27, ignored the searing heat on Court One eventually prevailed in three hours and 15 minutes.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match because Sergiy's best surface is grass," said

Nishikori, who is finally fit after a host of injury problems. "The last set was very tough. It was hard to get a break. I played good enough. I felt very good on the court. I had enough energy for a fifth set as well. I'm very happy to be healthy again."

Nishikori's cause wasn't helped by the plague of flying ants that descended on Wimbledon throughout the match and kept smacking into his face. "There were so many, they were hitting my face all the time. It wasn't easy but I kept my focus," he said.

Nishikori faces Spanish 18th seed Roberto Bautista Agut in the third round as he aims to make the last 16 for the third time. Although he has won all four of his previous encounters, Nishikori is taking nothing for granted.

"I know I have to raise my level to beat Roberto. It will be a tough one. I'll try to recover and get some rest," Nishikori said. "I don't think we played on grass. He's a good player, very solid from the baseline. I will try to stay aggressive." Following Konta's victory, Murray was due to play Dustin Brown. Rafael Nadal, a two-time Wimbledon champion, will be on Centre Court after Murray against Donald Young, while five-time champion Venus Williams is scheduled to face Qiang Wang on No. 1 Court. Other women's winners on Wednesday include former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka and eighth-seeded Dominika Cibulkova. For the men, ninth-seeded Kei Nishikori, 12th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, 16th-seeded Gilles Muller and 24th-seeded Sam Querrey advanced. — Agencies

CYCLING

FABIO ARU WINS TOUR FIFTH STAGE, FROOME TAKES YELLOW

PLANCHER-LES-MINES: Fabio Aru emulated compatriot Vincenzo Nibali in winning the fifth stage of the Tour de France yesterday as reigning champion Chris Froome took over the race lead. Italian Aru won the 160.5km stage that finished on the La Planche des Belles Filles climb, where Nibali won three years ago before going on to claim Tour victory.

Froome came home third behind Ireland's Dan Martin in second, and took over the yellow jersey from Sky team-mate Geraint Thomas. Aru launched his attack with 2.4km left and finished 16 seconds clear of Martin. With a 10-second time bonus on the line, he moved up to third overall, at just 14 seconds behind Froome.

But more importantly, the 2015 Vuelta a Espana winner made a statement that he is a genuine challenger to end Froome's Tour reign. Having previously won stages at the Giro d'Italia and Vuelta, this completed a Grand Tour stage sweep for Aru.

"First of all I'm going to enjoy this moment because I had a great spring and won the Italian title but before that I had a tough time," said Aru, who had to pull out of May's Giro due to injury. "It's a difficult race and the opposition is very tough. I'd prefer to take it day by day because I didn't

expect to compete at the Tour.

"My goal was the Giro but unfortunately I was injured." Briton Froome came home 20 seconds behind the winner, with Australia's Richie Porte just behind him, but Colombian Nairo Quintana struggled and lost 14 seconds to Froome.

"It's amazing for me to be back in yellow but having said that the race is far from over," warned Froome. "(Aru) showed already in the (Criterium du) Dauphine he was in great form, today he just confirmed that. "Fabio's going to have to be one of the guys we keep an eye on in the next couple of weeks." Last year's runner up, Romain Bardet came home fifth at 24sec behind Aru, to now sit seventh overall at 47sec.

Thomas, who started the day 12 seconds clear, dropped to second at 12sec behind his team leader. But at the end of the first mountain summit finish of this year's race, the overall standings took on a familiar look as the overall contenders flexed their muscles for the first time.

The top 10 are now separated by one minute with all the big guns in there, including two-time former winner Alberto Contador, now eighth at 52sec. Porte moved up to fifth at 39sec, with Quintana ninth at 54sec. — AFP



VITTEL: Italy's Fabio Aru celebrates his polka dot jersey of best climber on the podium at the end of the 160.5 km fifth stage of the 104th edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Vittel and La Planche des Belles Filles. — AFP

LA 'DELIGHTED' WITH IOC REPORT VERDICT

LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles 2024 chiefs yesterday welcomed an International Olympic Committee report on the city's bid for the Games ahead of a key meeting next week. The IOC Evaluation Commission report lavished praise on Los Angeles and rival bidder Paris, stating there was "very little to separate" the two bids.

Commission chairman Patrick Baumann said members of the IOC panel had described Los Angeles's bid as "forward-looking," "innovative," "vibrant" and "cool". LA 2024 chairman Casey Wasserman expressed gratitude for the IOC report in a statement.

"We are delighted that our efforts have resonated so clearly with the IOC Evaluation Commission," Wasserman said. "We are grateful to Evaluation Commission Chairman Patrick Baumann and his colleagues for their comprehensive, insightful appraisal of our bid."

Wasserman reiterated that the LA 2024 bid—which will make use of existing or already planned venues and enjoys strong public support—made it an "ideal Olympic city and an ideal partner for the IOC right now."

The commission's report will be the key reference document for IOC members in the lead-up to the 2024 Candidate City Briefing on July 11-12 in Lausanne. The final vote to decide the 2024 hosts is scheduled to take place during the 131st IOC session in Lima on September 13.

The IOC has recommended that hosting rights for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics be awarded at the same time at September's meeting in Peru, in order to exploit the candidacies of Paris and Los Angeles. Paris is widely seen as being the front-runner for the 2024 Games, which fall on the 100th anniversary of the 1924 Olympics in the city, the last time the French capital staged the Games, having also hosted the 1900 edition. Los Angeles has staged the Olympics twice before, in 1932 and 1984. — AFP



ASIAN MARKET BOUNCES FROM EARLY LOSSES



STOCKHOLM: Volvo Cars CEO Hakan Samuelsson during an interview with TT News Agency at Volvo Cars Showroom. — AP

VOLVO TO PHASE OUT PETROL-ONLY CARS

FIRST MAJOR CARMAKER TO FORGO TRADITIONAL ENGINES

STOCKHOLM: Swedish carmaker Volvo Cars said yesterday it plans to phase out production of conventional petrol-only cars from 2019, with all new models to be either electric or hybrids. The Gothenburg-based group is the first major manufacturer to electrify all of its models and to set out a roadmap for the gradual end to the internal combustion engine, a century and a half after it was invented.

Volvo, owned by China's Geely, said it plans to launch five fully electric models between 2019 and 2021, three under its own brand and two under the Polestar brand, as well as a range of hybrid models. Polestar is a subsidiary specializing in high-performance electric vehicles and is a rival to California-based Tesla, which is about to launch production of its first lower-priced car, "Model 3". "This announcement marks the end of the solely combustion engine-powered car," Volvo Cars president and chief executive Hakan Samuelsson said in a statement.

A Volvo Cars spokesman said the first fully electric car would be manufactured in China, and that the production location of the other four was yet to be determined. The car maker, which posted record sales in 2016, noted that "consumers are increasingly pleased with electrified cars" and that it intends to respond to the growing demand for cleaner and less polluting vehicles. A Volvo Cars spokesman said the company would continue to manufacture existing petrol or diesel-only models launched before 2019,

but they will gradually be replaced by hybrid and fully electric cars.

'High climate targets'

The announcement comes a week after Geely unveiled a research and innovation centre in Gothenburg, focusing on the development of electric vehicles. "When we said it, we meant it. This is how we are going to do it," Samuelsson said in the statement. In an interview with the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) in May, Samuelsson had said he did not want to develop a new generation of diesel engines because of the high costs of stricter regulations.

EU legislation, which sets mandatory emission targets for cars, stipulates that, by 2021, the emissions of all new models and cars must not exceed 95 grams of CO2 emissions per kilometer on average. Failure to comply would result in a fine. In Sweden, the government plans to raise the tax rate on CO2 emissions in 2018, which would lead to a fivefold increase in the rate for some cars.

In concrete terms, that would translate into increasing taxes to 630 euros (\$713) per year for an owner of a Volvo V90 T5 4WD and to more than 1,500 euros for an owner of an SUV BMW X6 M, according to calculations by specialist magazine, TeknikensVard. Proponents of the eco tax argue that this is a marginal cost compared to the purchase price of these high-end models, which retail at between 60,000 and 100,000 euros.

"We have high climate targets in Sweden (and the transport sector must change direction," Sweden's industry and innovation minister Mikael Damberg told AFP. Clean energy "is completely necessary to manage climate challenges," he added. In 2016, new registrations of all electric and hybrid cars amounted to 433,847 across the whole of the EU, almost three percent of the total registrations.

Jump in registration

Electric car registrations jumped by seven percent last year compared to 2015. Registered plug-in hybrids rose by 3.9 percent and non-rechargeable hybrids by 27.3 percent, according to the European Association of Automobile Manufacturers (ACEA). Volvo aims to sell one million electric cars before 2025, when it wants its production operations to become "climate neutral".

Since Geely bought the brand from the American Ford in 2010, Volvo Cars has seen a dramatic turnaround. In 2016, its net profit almost doubled to over 600 million euros. There have been speculations in financial media for several months about possible stock market listings for Volvo in Hong Kong, Stockholm and London. Volvo Cars has not commented on such claims. Its decision to gradually shift to electric or hybrid cars was on Wednesday met with mixed reactions from analysts. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) shakes with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during a press conference. — AFP

MODI, NETANYAHU SEEK TO FURTHER DEEPEN TIES

JERUSALEM: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday on the first ever visit by an Indian premier to Israel as they sought to deepen ties beyond high-priced defense deals. The two leaders presented a series of agreements between India and Israel for cooperation on satellite technology, water and agriculture, as well as the creation of a \$40 million innovation fund. The agreements are part of efforts to extend relations in civilian areas between both countries, with Israel already selling India an average of \$1 billion per year in military equipment. Netanyahu and Modi have greeted each other warmly throughout the three-day trip that began on Tuesday, calling the visit "historic" and "groundbreaking". "I have a feeling that today India and Israel are changing our world and maybe changing parts of the world," Netanyahu said after talks with Modi in Jerusalem.

He added that they had asked their staffs to put together concrete plans for further cooperation in a range of fields by the end of the year. Modi said the discussions extended beyond bilateral projects to "how our cooperation can help the cause of global peace and stability." The Indian premier also said they "agreed to do much more together to protect our strategic interests and also cooperate to combat growing radicalization and terrorism, including in cyberspace." Modi's visit marks 25 years since India and Israel established diplomatic relations.

Red carpet welcome

Netanyahu and other officials gave him a red carpet welcome at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv as he began his visit on Tuesday. Israel, constantly searching for allies at the United Nations and for new

business partners, has portrayed the visit as a major diplomatic victory. Israeli analysts have noted that Modi is not scheduled to travel to Ramallah to meet Palestinian leaders during his three-day stay, as is common for visiting dignitaries.

Modi did however meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in New Delhi in May. Big-ticket defense deals - India has traditionally voiced its support for Palestinian statehood, long shunning ties with Israel. But the frost has thawed in recent years, with India seeking closer defence ties-particularly as it moves away from relying on traditional ally Russia for its military hardware.

India is the world's biggest importer of defense equipment, and Israel has become one of its major suppliers. In April, state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries said India would buy nearly \$2 billion worth of weapons technology, making it the military exporting giant's largest ever defense contract. The deal will see IAI provide India with an advanced defense system of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology.

The Hindu nationalist makes the trip after his visit last week to Washington, where he and US President Donald Trump embraced each other as friends, vowing to work more closely on combating terrorism, the war in Afghanistan and defense cooperation. While ties with some US allies have been strained by Trump's complaints that Washington has been the loser in trade agreements, Modi appeared sensitive to his host's emphasis on transactional diplomacy. Modi has seemed to find similar common ground with Netanyahu, Israel's longtime right-wing prime minister who hosted Trump in May. — AFP

LOCALS FACE HARD CHOICES AS LOUISIANA COAST RECEDES

BURAS: Southern Louisiana, a picturesque stretch of shadowy swamps and broad Mississippi River delta, lies in the bull's eye of rising waters, sinking land and coastal erosion, losing thousands of acres of wetlands to the encroaching Gulf of Mexico each year. Fishing channels widen as barrier islands disappear, and unremarkable rainstorms leave roads flooded. Withered, blackened cypress and oak trees, succumbing to an invasion of salt water, turn once lush land into eerie ghost forests.

Some 120,000 people live on the most vulnerable shrinking lowlands south of New Orleans, fishing for shrimp and crawfish, harvesting oysters or working in the shipyards, oil refineries and petrochemical plants along the river banks and Gulf shores. They face difficult decisions over whether to stay and fight, or flee their diminishing land - yet even getting their attention to the looming threats is no easy task. Warnings that Louisiana is losing more than 10,000 acres - equal to 10,000 American football fields - of wetlands each year are often met with skepticism, distrust and resignation.

"Most people, they're trying to live their life," said Richie Blink, who lives in Empire, a town on a skinny stretch of river delta laced with canals to the Gulf. "They're worried about putting food on the table within the next two weeks and not what's going to happen 50 years from now." Many work in the energy or commercial fishing industries, where depressed prices are costing jobs, he said.

Blink, 30, volunteers with LA SAFE (Louisiana's

Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments), a \$40 million project funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is asking coastal residents how they would like to adapt to changes predicted in the next 10, 25 and 50 years. The delta that fans into the Gulf of Mexico, formed from silt carried by the Mississippi River, is subsiding and is no longer replenished by the powerful waterway. Instead, the river is lined by levees, or raised banks, that rush its water past the delta into the depths of the Gulf.

Losing land

Maps of southern Louisiana a few decades ago show a boot of land, not unlike southern Italy, that is all but gone now. Deprived of silt and fresh water, and sliced by hundreds of miles of deeply dredged shipping channels, the shrinking wetlands are growing less effective as natural barriers to storm surges from hurricanes, putting the area at higher risk of devastation.

"It looks pretty out here, but a storm comes along and half the land leaves," said Nicky Alfonso, 52, a commercial fisherman docked at Pointe à la Hache between the Gulf and a river levee. "We're not the scientists, but we see what's happening," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We're losing land." Many low-lying coastal regions in the United States face erosion and rising sea level, linked to climate change, but the Mississippi delta is particularly vulnerable because it is sinking as well.

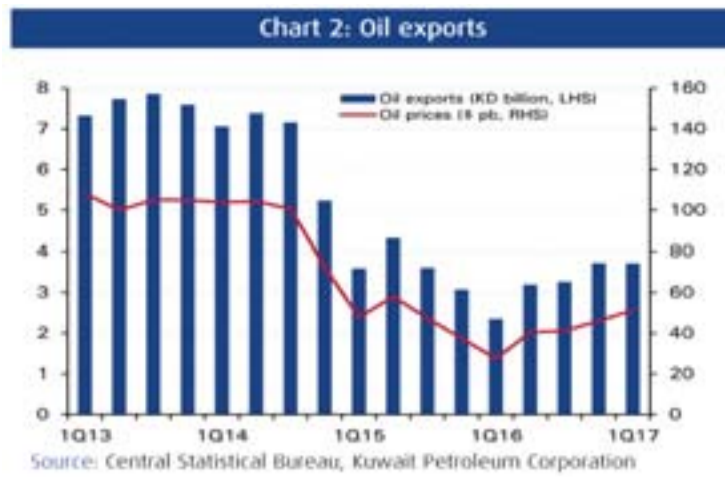
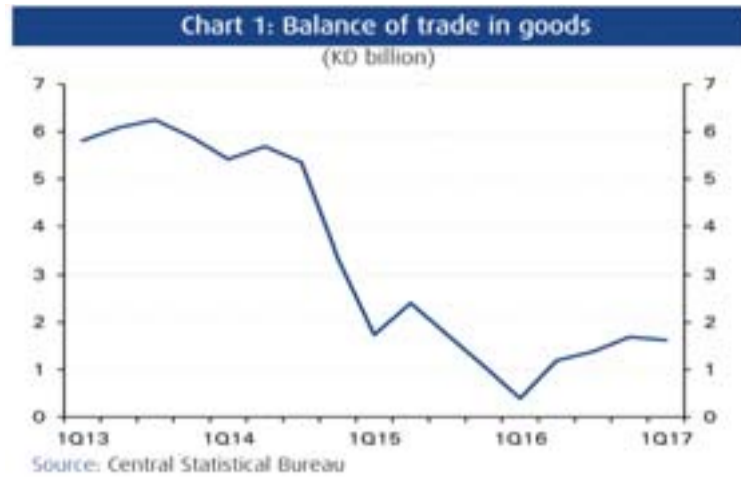
It is subsiding an average of 9 millimeters (0.35

inches) a year, 50 percent faster than had been thought two years ago, according to Tulane University geologists, who described the coast of Louisiana as one of the "most vulnerable" in the world.

"We are in a race against time in Louisiana," Governor John Bel Edwards said in March, announcing LA SAFE - which he said could become a national model for threatened communities. "A few of our most vulnerable coastal communities will need to contemplate resettlement over the next 50 years, while others are likely to experience population and economic contraction as a result of ongoing land loss and sea level rise," he said.

One such community is an Indian tribe on Louisiana's Isle de Jean Charles, in the process of relocating with \$48 million in government funds after losing most of its land to the sea. At recent LA SAFE meetings, held in schools and church meeting rooms in parishes along the coast, residents tossed around ideas to adapt to the shifting landscape, from elevating houses to promoting local seafood or building public transport.

LA SAFE works alongside the state's Coastal Master Plan, a blueprint of more than 120 projects to fight coastal loss in the next 50 years. Fully funded, the plan would cost \$50 billion. An initial LA SAFE meeting in Plaquemines Parish, home to some 23,000 people, drew a crowd of 139 inhabitants. But a follow-up meeting centered on the parish's east bank drew fewer than two dozen, and a meeting at its southern tip just nine. — Reuters



TRADE SURPLUS STEADY IN 1Q17; UP FOURFOLD FROM A YEAR AGO

NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

KUWAIT: Kuwait's trade surplus was steady in 1Q17, holding on to strong gains from a year ago thanks to an improvement in the price of oil. The trade surplus was steady from the last quarter despite a jump in imports, after oil export revenues stabilized. The surplus, at KD 1.6 billion, is expected to expand somewhat in the near- to medium-term as oil earnings gather pace on the back of some improvement in oil prices. The average price continued to edge upwards in 2Q17, and is slated to continue to do so, especially after OPEC and non-OPEC producers decided to extend production cuts through 1Q18.

Oil export revenues held steady, even as the price of Kuwait export crude (KEC) rose thanks to lower output in line with the OPEC agreement. Oil revenues, at KD 3.7 billion in 1Q17, were steady as a higher price of oil was offset by a decline in Kuwait's oil production. The price of KEC was up 12% quarter-on-quarter (q/q) while production was off by 5%.

Non-oil export earnings jumped to a multi-quarter high in 1Q17 mainly on stronger ethylene prices. Non-oil export revenues rose by 37% year-on-year (y/y) in 1Q17, after ethylene prices

	3Q16	4Q16	1Q17	change	
				KD mn q/q	% y/y
Total exports	3,622	4,118	4,165	47	55.2
Oil	3,262	3,724	3,715	-8	58.1
Non-oil	258	250	308	58	37.2
Re-exports	101	144	141	-3	29.7
Imports	2,239	2,424	2,539	115	10.9
Capital goods	436	470	535	65	15.9
Trade balance	1,383	1,693	1,625	-68	---

Source: Central Statistical Bureau

rose by 29% y/y during the same period. Non-oil export earnings are expected to pick up further in the second quarter, on the back of still higher ethylene prices.

Imports soared by a healthy 11% y/y in 1Q17 as capital goods continued to witness solid gains and the drop in consumer goods imports moderated. Growth in capital goods imports held strong at 16% y/y in 1Q17, as did growth in industrial supply imports which came in at 20%

y/y during the same period. The strong growth in these segments is a reflection of the improved implementation of the government development projects. Consumer goods imports appeared to stabilize in early 2017 following a contraction driven by a slowing consumer sector. Consumer imports saw a small 0.2% y/y decline, thanks to a rebound in food & beverage imports and as passenger motor car imports fell at a slower pace.



MILAN: A man waits for the sliding doors to open to exit a Monte dei Paschi di Siena bank branch. — AP

ITALY TO NATIONALIZE BANK, SHED \$32.5BN IN BAD LOANS

MILAN: The Italian government is taking control of troubled bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena and will try to relaunch it in a plan that includes disposing of a massive 28.6 billion euros (\$32.5 billion) in bad loans. In detailing the plan yesterday, CEO Marco Morelli said that the disposal of the nonperforming loans was "the most relevant issue" in the European Commission's approval this week of the rescue plan, which had been drawn up last year. The Italian government will inject 5.4 billion euros into the bank, giving it a 70-percent stake.

It is the third capital injection in recent years for the bank, Italy's third-largest, as it struggles to recover from poor management and a heap of bad loans that compounded during Italy's long economic crisis. Under the bad loan disposal plan, 26.1 billion euros will be bundled and sold at 21 percent of gross book value, the vast majority to the government-organized Atlante II fund, while the bank retains 5 percent.

That compares with a price equal to 33 percent of value under a previous re-launch plan announced last fall but which had to be revised after the bank failed to come up with an investor to inject 5 billion euros. The loss on the disposal will be booked by the bank in the first half of this year, while the transaction is expected to

be completed by next June. The remaining 2.5 billion euros in bad loans will be disposed in a separate procedure. The five-year plan calls for a net income above 1.2 billion euros by 2021 as the bank refocuses on retail and small business customers. During the period, the bank will be under strict cost controls, capping top executive pay, reducing employees by a net 5,500 and shutting branches as it moves toward digitalization.

"The aim of management is to proactively recover what we did lose, now that we can operate in a clear set of rules on what the bank needs to do on its capital structure and on the liquidity provisions," he said. "I think that Monte dei Paschi will walk, and run, pretty much along expectations." Morelli called the plan a "key milestone in the process of returning to a growth path," but said the process would necessarily be slow.

The European Commission's approval had been a key sticking point in the rescue of the bank, as EU rules now try to avoid using taxpayer money to save banks. But the Commission cleared the government capital injection after it was agreed that the bank's shareholders and junior creditors would take losses first, for an estimated 4.3 billion euros, to minimize the bill for the government. — AFP



BRUSSELS: EU Commissioner of Trade Cecilia Malmstrom (R) welcomes Japan Foreign minister Fumio Kishida (L) before their meeting at the EU Headquarters. — AFP

EU AND JAPAN FINALLY REACH AGREEMENT ON TRADE DEAL

BRUSSELS: The European Union and Japan reached broad political agreement on a historic free trade deal yesterday capping four years of negotiations, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said. The hard-won deal marks a big win for free trade two days before a G20 summit in Germany in which US President Donald Trump is expected to defend his "America First" protectionist stance. "We've reached political agreement at ministerial level on an EU-Japan trade deal," Malmstrom said in a tweet, after talks in Brussels with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

The two sides "ironed out the few remaining differences" and will now "recommend to leaders to confirm this at summit" today, Malmstrom added. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is set to officially rubberstamp the outline of the trade deal at a meeting on Thursday with EU Council President Donald Tusk and EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

The EU and Japanese economies combined account for a colossal 28 percent of global output making the deal one of the biggest trade

pacts ever attempted. The "political agreement" on the trade deal covers some of the accord's toughest aspects but leaves aside details that could still prove difficult.

At the heart of the accord is an agreement for the EU to open its market to the world-leading Japanese auto industry, with Tokyo in return scrapping barriers to EU farming products, especially dairy. Left untouched for now are the controversial investment courts that have stoked opposition to trade deals in the EU nations, including Germany and France.

The deal could be seen as a provocation to Trump who pulled the United States out of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership this year, in favor of striking country-to-country bilateral deals, including with Japan. The EU's Malmstrom and Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan visited Tokyo last week to unblock the talks, with tariffs on European cheese a key sticking point. Brussels wants Japan to eliminate its 30 percent tariffs on some EU-made cheese, while Tokyo wants duties cut on cars which it exports to the 28-member bloc. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC PROPOSES NATIONALIZING CENTRAL BANK

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's ruling African National Congress proposed at its policy conference yesterday that the central bank be nationalized, two party sources said, news that saw the rand extend losses against the dollar. The proposal to make central bank fully state-owned was agreed at a party plenary session, the sources said. It follows an earlier row over central bank independence that rattled foreign investors just as South Africa's economy fell into recession and as unemployment is close to 28 percent.

Following the plenary, the head of the ANC's economic transformation committee Enoch Godongwana told reporters the bank's independence should be guaranteed but it was an "anomaly" that the regulator was in private hands. Policy recommendations made at this week's conference will only be approved for implementation at a December summit when a successor to President Jacob Zuma will also be chosen.

The proposal is still likely to raise concerns about the independence of the reserve bank after an anti-graft watchdog recommended its mandate be changed to place more focus on growth and not just inflation and the currency. The rand extended its losses to as much as 2 percent lower in response to the proposal on the nationalization of the bank filtering out of a closed-door session on the last day of the conference. The South African Reserve Bank has been privately owned since its establishment in 1921.

The Bank was de-listed from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 2002 and its shares now trade on an Over-the-Counter Share Transfer Facility market. It currently has more than 660 shareholders. — Reuters

UK PM MAY DEFENDS AUSTERITY AMID SPLITS

LONDON: Embattled British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday defended her government's policy of austerity, amid signs of cabinet splits over the seven-year squeeze on public spending. The Conservative leader, who is battling to assert her authority after last month's disastrous general election, drew loud cheers from her MPs when she insisted that Britain must "live within our means".

In a robust exchange in the House of Commons, opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn accused the government of "flip-flopping and floundering" over whether to raise wages for teachers, nurses and other public-sector workers. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon and Environment Secretary Michael Gove have all indicated they would support lifting the pay freeze on around five million people.

Downing Street itself suggested last week that it would review the policy only to insist hours later that nothing has changed, a position repeated by Finance Minister Philip Hammond. The confusion led to accusations that May was no longer in control of her government, after losing her party's majority in parliament in the June 8 vote. During her weekly question time, May said she would consider "very carefully" recommendations from pay review bodies.

But she warned: "We need to balance the need to be fair to public-sector workers, to protect jobs in the public sector, and to be fair to those who pay for it." Corbyn

said the pay cap had led to "real shortages" in nursing and teaching, as well as "real hardship" as wages failed to keep up with inflation, effectively resulting in a pay cut. "When Tories talk of tough choices, we know who suffers-it's the poorest and most vulnerable in our society," he said. May countered that she valued public-sector workers, adding: "The difference is, I know we have to pay for them." May warned that Labour's plans to increase public spending could see Britain go the way of debt-laden Greece-an accusation a senior party source later said was "preposterous". She also pointed to record levels of employment, attributing "good management of the economy-you only get it with the Conservatives." — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves No 10 Downing St for Prime Minister's Question Time (PMQs) at Westminster. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.701
Indian Rupees	4.693
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.976
Nepali Rupees	2.941
Singapore Dollar	221.380
Hongkong Dollar	389.200
Bangladesh Taka	3.753
Philippine Peso	6.016
Thai Baht	8.957

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.081
Qatari Riyal	83.510
Omani Riyal	789.631
Bahraini Dinar	807.360
UAE Dirham	82.782

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.650
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.715
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.220
Tunisian Dinar	125.040
Jordanian Dinar	428.680
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.026
Syrian Lira	2.167
Morocco Dirham	31.984

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.850
Euro	348.360
Sterling Pound	396.520
Canadian dollar	234.391
Turkish lira	86.940

Swiss Franc	318.330
Australian Dollar	234.720
US Dollar Buying	302.650

GOLD	
20 Gram	254.190
10 Gram	130.01
5 Gram	65.850

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.750
Canadian Dolla	235.465
Sterling Pound	393.975
Euro	346.455
Swiss Frank	294.730
Bahrain Dinar	805.645
UAE Dirhams	83.095
Qatari Riyals	84.315
Saudi Riyals	81.895
Jordanian Dinar	428.335
Egyptian Pound	16.990
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.977
Indian Rupees	4.696
Pakistani Rupees	2.895
Bangladesh Taka	3.766
Philippines Peso	6.015
Cyprus pound	167.630
Japanese Yen	3.685
Syrian Pound	2.415
Nepalese Rupees	2.940
Malaysian Ringgit	71.550

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.110
Thai Bhat	9.925
Turkish Lira	85.715

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.385796	0.395796
Czech Korune	0.005186	0.017186
Danish Krone	0.042328	0.047328
Euro	0.339571	0.348571
Norwegian Krone	0.032357	0.037557
Romanian Leu	0.075173	0.075173
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.031619	0.036619
Swiss Franc	0.308437	0.319437
Turkish Lira	0.081134	0.091434
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223343	0.235343
New Zealand Dollar	0.215012	0.224512
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.229476	0.238476
Georgina Lari	0.137347	0.137347
US Dollars	0.300000	0.304420
US Dollars Mint	0.300500	0.304420
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003429	0.004013
Chinese Yuan	0.043282	0.046782
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036867	0.039617

Indian Rupee	0.004212	0.004900
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002598	0.002778
Kenyan Shilling	0.002924	0.002924
Korean Won	0.000254	0.000269
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067137	0.073137
Nepalese Rupee	0.002944	0.003114
Pakistan Rupee	0.002690	0.002980
Philippine Peso	0.005989	0.006289
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.214616	0.224616
South African Rand	0.017045	0.025545
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009849	0.010029
Thai Baht	0.008626	0.009176
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799528	0.808028
Egyptian Pound	0.014896	0.020804
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.424311	0.433311
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019770	0.043770
Nigerian Naira	0.000393	0.001028
Omani Riyal	0.783450	0.789130
Qatar Riyal	0.079239	0.084179
Saudi Riyal	0.080007	0.081307
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.121417	0.129417
Turkish Lira	0.081134	0.091434
UAE Dirhams	0.081370	0.083070
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

BANGLADESH SAYS FAULTY BOILER CAUSED DEADLY FACTORY BLAST

DHAKA: A faulty boiler caused an explosion at a Bangladesh factory that killed 13 people this week, authorities said Wednesday, as survivors accused the owners of ignoring their concerns. A government inspector said a license to use the 15-year-old boiler which exploded on Monday night had expired last month.

His comments came as survivors of the blast told local media they had alerted the factory's owners of problems with the boiler, but their warnings went unheeded. "The license of the boiler expired on June 24. It's a five-ton boiler and aged more than 15 years," deputy chief inspector of the government's boiler department Ziaul Hoque told AFP. "In our primary investigation, we have found that the explosion occurred due to excessive pressure in the boiler."

Most of the plant's 5,000 workers were off for the Eid holidays when the boiler exploded during maintenance work, causing a section of the six-storey building to collapse. It was the

latest disaster to highlight the poor safety record of the country's \$30-billion garment industry, the second largest in the world. Local police chief Aminul Islam said at least 10 people had been charged, including three boiler operators who died in the explosion.

He said police would also prosecute the owners of the factory if they were proven to be at fault. "The owners cannot avoid their responsibilities," Islam said. "They (the operators) ran the boiler despite knowing that it was in bad condition. If they did not start the boiler, it would not have exploded," he said. The plant in the Gazipur industrial district on the outskirts of Dhaka is owned by manufacturer Multifabs, which makes clothing for brands including Littlewoods and Aldi according to its website.

One injured worker receiving treatment at a nearby hospital said the boiler was old and "beeping danger signals continuously", criticizing factory authorities for not replacing it.

"Within 10 minutes after we returned to work, the boiler exploded," Harunur Rashid told local daily Prothom Alo. "It's absolutely the authorities' negligence." Multifabs owner Mahiuddin Faruqi said the company had applied to renew the boiler license and promised compensation for the victims' families.

"We applied for renewal of the boiler license on June 19. But all government offices went closed for Eid holidays that week," he told AFP. The latest disaster came four years after the collapse of the nine-storey Rana Plaza factory complex in April 2013 in which more than 1,100 people were killed. In the wake of the disaster, authorities pledged to improve working conditions at factories, but accidents are still commonplace. Only a few hundred of the country's 4,500 textile factories have been certified as safe and last year a fire at a factory just miles from Rana Plaza claimed 34 lives. —AFP



GAZIPUR: Bangladeshi firefighters take part in a search and rescue operation at a destroyed garment factory. —AFP



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) looks on as Tom Enders (R), CEO of the Airbus Group, shakes hands with a Chinese trading partner during a signing ceremony of German-Chinese business contracts at the Chancellery. —AFP

AIRBUS ANNOUNCES CHINA ORDER OF 140 PLANES FOR \$22.8 BILLION

BERLIN: Airbus said yesterday it had won a major order from China of 140 planes for \$22.8 billion, during a visit by President Xi Jinping to Berlin. The European aircraft maker said it had sealed the agreement with China Aviation Supplies Holding Company (CAS), which chief executive Tom Enders called "one of the biggest contracts signed in a long time by Airbus". The deal covers 100 A320 single-aisle jets and 40 A350 wide-body aircraft.

"This underscores the strong demand by Chinese airlines in all segments, from domestic and low-cost to the regional and international long-haul market," Airbus said in a statement. The company said a market analysis forecast a doubling of demand worldwide for planes with more than 100 seats to 40,000 aircraft in the next 20 years, fuelled largely by demand from developing markets such as China.

"In the mid-1990s we had a market share

(in China) of five to six percent," Enders said. "Twenty years later we have around 50 percent—we really put our foot on the gas." Airbus said its A320 line of planes was the world's best-selling single-aisle aircraft with more than 13,000 orders and 7,600 planes delivered. In January last year, BOC Aviation, owned by Bank of China, announced an order for 30 Airbus A320s worth more than \$3 billion to meet growing demand.

At last month's Paris Air Show, Airbus announced 326 orders worth nearly \$40 billion. However, it was outpaced at the event, one of the biggest annual sales bazaars in the industry, by Boeing thanks to its new 737 MAX 10 airliner, taking in a total of 571 orders for nearly \$75 billion. Xi was in Berlin for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of the G20 summit of big industrialized and emerging economies in the northern German port city of Hamburg starting Friday. —AFP

EURO'S GLOBAL ROLE COULD GROW AS EUROPE STABILIZES

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: The euro gained ground as a reserve currency in 2016 after years of decline, the European Central Bank said yesterday, suggesting that receding political uncertainty in the eurozone could boost the trend. The euro's share of foreign currency reserves worldwide inched up 0.3 point to 19.7 percent in the fourth quarter, according to an annual ECB report. "Instability seems to be receding in the eyes of market participants," ECB board member Benoît Coeuré told journalists in Frankfurt. "That might bode well looking forward for the role of the euro as a reserve currency."

By comparison, the US dollar accounted for some 64 percent of foreign currency reserves worldwide, a drop of more than 6.0 percentage points from the 2007 level, while China's renminbi stood at 1.1 percent. A 2017 survey of foreign reserves managers highlighted by the central bank found that one in three were concerned about political instability in Europe. But the failure of anti-European Union and anti-euro parties to take power in French and Dutch elections this year could see those fears dwindle, Coeuré suggested.

"Given what we hear from investors, they perceive political uncertainty in the eurozone to be less," he said, suggesting that "we could see a rebound in the role of the euro" in future. The euro remained the second most-used currency worldwide on a range of measures, with its share of international payments for goods and services growing almost 2.0 points to 31.3 percent.

Some 42 percent of international payments were in dollars and 1.7 percent used renminbi. Most other measures saw the euro used less, notably on international debt markets, where the share of both outstanding and newly-issued debt denominated in euros fell. Its share of new foreign-currency-denominated debt dropped 4.4 points to 20.4 percent by the end of 2016. The ECB insists that it does not aim to increase international use of the euro, as its mandate empowers it only to work for price stability—or a steady rate of inflation just below 2.0 percent. Nevertheless, Coeuré acknowledged that "the single currency is an instrument for Europe to play a role on the global stage... it's only normal that European leaders would see it that way." —AFP

EUROZONE DELAYS GREECE BAILOUT AMID LEGAL ROW

BRUSSELS: Eurozone finance ministers delayed the latest bailout disbursement to Greece yesterday awaiting clarification on a legal case against European experts who had worked on the Greek privatization program. While officially approving the latest raft of reforms, eurozone finance ministers in a conference call put off the payment of 8.5 billion euros (\$9.5-billion) from Greece's massive bailout.

The eurozone finance ministers "encouraged the Greek government to resolve the pending issues swiftly," a statement from the European Stability Mechanism, the eurozone bailout fund, said in a statement. This would

"pave the way for the approval of the third tranche" from the country's 86-billion euro bailout, agreed in 2015.

Senior eurozone officials would meet again by teleconference tomorrow in hopes of releasing the funds, instead of yesterday as originally planned, the statement said. Eurozone ministers struck a long-delayed bailout deal with Greece on June 13 to unlock the badly needed rescue cash. The deal was to avert a repeat of the summer of 2015 when Greece spectacularly defaulted on an IMF loan, and allow Athens to meet seven billion euros of debt repayments due in July. —AFP

SELF-MADE VENEZUELANAS IN SPAIN AIDING COUNTRYMEN

'IT'S ABOUT GIVING THEM A HAND, SUPPORT'

MADRID: A decade ago, Edgar Rodriguez travelled from his home country of Venezuela to Madrid to carve a new life. Now the head of the Arepa Ole chain of restaurants serving stuffed corn tortillas typical of his country, he is one of several Venezuelan entrepreneurs giving work to fellow countrymen and women who are increasingly coming to Spain to flee the crisis back home. "It's about giving them a hand, support, for them to arrive and somehow or other have a job, which probably isn't what they did over there, but they get stability," says Rodriguez, whose 25 employees are all Venezuelan.

No 1 asylum seekers

Rodriguez himself had to work under the table when he first arrived in 2006 before getting the necessary ID. "We're supporting the Venezuelan community that is arriving. We suffered when we started out," he says. In 2016, the number of Venezuelans emigrating to Spain increased 26.2 percent according to official data, and they are the biggest community to ask for asylum, ahead of Syrians, says the Spanish Commission for Help to Refugees.

Ricardo Rojas, 33, left Venezuela last year with his wife. An engineer by training and the head of a small coffee company in his home country, he grew tired of the acute shortages. Venezuela has the world's biggest oil reserves, but a collapse in energy prices has drained its revenues, prompting shortages of food, medicine and basic goods along with soaring violent crime and a stratospherically high inflation rate.

The economic crisis has been a major factor in three months of protests in which 89 people have died. Once they arrived in Madrid, Rojas and his wife survived on their savings for several months, until the money got tight. He met Fernando

Rodriguez, president of Antojos Araguane, a company of Venezuelan products in Madrid with around 50 employees, 95 percent of whom are from the south American country. Rodriguez gave him a chance and Rojas is now the firm's director of operations. "He was once in this situation as an emigrant, he arrived with little, and he understands and the first thing he does is help whoever he can," says Rojas.

40 CVs a day

Rodriguez founded his company in 2008 after arriving in Madrid, first as a small factory of homemade cheese. Now he has a meat restaurant, two bakeries and stands of

Venezuelan products in markets. He receives 40 CVs a day, "99 percent from Venezuelans," he says as he cooks cachapas, typical corn pancakes from Venezuela, in an enormous pan in the company's factory outside Madrid.

Those who work in these companies are often over-qualified for the job—varying from engineers, lawyers, to journalists and students—but they aim to get stability first before going for a post in their specialist area. Fashion designer Mayela Figueroa, for instance, a 38-year-old from Caracas, escaped "the terrible situation in Venezuela" in December 2015.

When she got a residency permit in Spain, she got a job in the kitchen

of Arepa Ole, even if she had never worked in a restaurant before. "It's been a great help," she says in between orders at one of the restaurants in central Madrid, where she works alongside an engineer and a tourism degree-holder. She recognizes that in Spain, her life "is different." In Caracas she had her own business and lived with her husband in a middle-class district. Now, on top of nostalgia for her country and her separation from her husband, her salary only allows her to live and pay rent in Usera, a poorer district of Madrid where many immigrants live. But "the difference is that now I can go out at night and know that I will come back alive," she says. —AFP



MADRID: Venezuelan businessman Edgar Rodriguez poses outside his restaurant called "Arepa Ole". —AFP

JAPAN SCRAMBLES FOR JOB-HOPPERS TO COPE WITH LABOR SHORTAGES

TOKYO: Japan's labor shortage has pushed job-hopping to its highest since the global financial crisis, as companies scramble for workers with experience in the rapidly-ageing economy. Job-hopping goes against the grain of Japan's work culture, where many companies hire graduates and employ them until they retire. But the country's jobs-for-life system is slowly giving way as firms curb labor costs and society shifts. Switching jobs for better conditions is no longer taboo amid a tightening labor market, and the trend is being led by mid-career workers.

"There's always a risk of failure. But you can't get what you want if you don't try," said Hiromichi Itakura, 44, head of a medical job placement department at Saint Media Inc in Tokyo, who changed jobs in January. "I took up this job because it gives me a more responsible post. As a salary man, I also wanted a higher salary," he said, adding that his pay is now 20 percent higher than previously. The number of job-hoppers rose for the seventh straight year to 3.06 million in 2016, the highest since 2009, though it still accounts for just 4.8 percent of the labor market.

Older workers have more opportunities because of demographics: a fast-ageing society, low birth rate and falling working-age population. The jobless rate has stood at a near two-decade low while the jobs-to-applicants ratio is at a 43-year high. Big firms say the labor market is at its tightest since 1992, according to the Bank of Japan's latest "tankan" survey published this week. Though job turnover is still low relative to other major economies - the change should be welcome news to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe,

who has been championing labor flexibility and merit-based pay - with little success so far. Enhancing labor mobility is expected to help raise low productivity and boost wages, getting Japan convincingly out of a deflationary rut.

Competition for workers

Companies facing labor shortages are willing to pay for battle-tested workers who don't need as much training. Electric motor maker Nidec Corp is actively hiring mid-career engineers and remunerating them for their experience. "Competition is tough for tried-and-true personnel," a company spokesman said on condition of anonymity. "We are doing our best to persuade talented people to join our company." Job-hoppers aged between mid-40s and 65 or older are on the rise, hitting their highest, according to comparable data going back to 2002. "The mid-career job market is booming," said Hirofumi Amano of en-japan inc, a job placement agency.

People older than 35 used to be considered past their prime in the mid-career market but these workers are now sought after. Companies are seeking experienced managers and engineers and offering higher pay, Amano said. Workers who secured higher salaries from changing jobs outnumbered those whose paychecks shrank, labor ministry data from 2015 showed. A quarter of job-hoppers saw their salaries rise by 10 percent or more.

In comparison, average base wages in April rose just 0.4 percent from a year earlier. The International Monetary Fund has urged Japan to enhance worker mobility to strengthen productivity and wage pressures. "Low labor mobil-

ity, a strong preference for job security, and wage setting based on past inflation constitute the main bottlenecks for triggering needed wage-price dynamics."

New attitude

The rising mid-career job market reflects Japan's changing business climate and evolving attitudes about lifetime employment and seniority-based promotion, analysts say. "Look what happens to even big firms like Toshiba, there's no guarantee for job security. Lifetime employment is something of the good old past," said Masae Miyachi, 41, of an IT venture company kaonavi, inc.

Miyachi changed jobs a year and half ago and her annual salary has now increased by 1 million yen (\$8,857), helping her finance a home loan. "You need to carve out a career for yourself to earn stable income, and I'm doing just that by changing jobs." Japanese firms have curbed labour costs by replacing full-time jobs with part-time positions since the asset-inflated bubble burst in the early 1990s.

Now a rising rank of non-regular workers - including part-timers and contract workers - account for nearly 40 percent of the workforce. Hiroaki Okutani, a 57-year-old contract worker at a logistics company Ueda Co Ltd, who left his job at a food processing firm two years ago, said his decision was partly due to anxiety about life after retirement. "There's no compulsory retirement with this job," Okutani said. "I'm happy working here as long as my body holds up because I don't think I can live on my pension alone." —Reuters

ASIA BOUNCES FROM EARLY LOSSES

HONG KONG: Asian markets rebounded to sit mostly higher yesterday as early nervousness over North Korea's latest sabre-rattling gave way to bargain-buying following the previous day's steep losses. Traders ran for the sidelines in the morning after Washington confirmed that Pyongyang had for the first time tested a missile capable of reaching the United States, ratcheting up pressure on the already tense Korean peninsula. But in the afternoon the selling and rush for safe-haven assets such as the Japanese yen reversed.

By the close Tokyo was up 0.3 percent, while Seoul also added 0.3 percent and

Singapore jumped 0.8 percent. Hong Kong gained 0.5 percent in late trade after diving 1.5 percent Tuesday, and Shanghai ended 0.8 percent up. However Sydney finished 0.4 percent off while Wellington and Jakarta also edged down. Despite the gains, dealers remain on edge and are now awaiting the next development after Russia and China issued a joint appeal to ease tensions while the United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency meeting later in the day.

The test came just as the US was preparing to celebrate Independence Day and days before a G20 summit, where it will likely top

the agenda. It was the latest provocation by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un who is determined to develop a nuclear weapons program he says is needed to ward off invasion. South Korea and the US yesterday launched a barrage of missiles simulating a precision strike against Pyongyang, in response to the provocation.

"Traders and investors may be wondering what reaction this latest missile test will get," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader. Traders were given few leads with European markets slightly down and Wall Street closed for the July 4 holiday. Tech

firms saw some much needed buying after suffering a recent sell-off as global central banks consider tightening monetary policy.

The sector has been a huge beneficiary of the years of cheap borrowing from lenders, sending their stock prices soaring, but the prospect of an end to such largesse has led to profit-taking. Hong Kong-listed Tencent edged up from Tuesday's fall of more than four percent, while AAC Technologies also bounced and Sony jumped 0.8 percent in Tokyo. Investors are awaiting the release of minutes from the Federal Reserve's June policy meeting and key US jobs data tomorrow.

"The Federal Reserve will release the minutes from the June meeting and investors will get an insight into what the US central bank was thinking when it raised interest rates for the second time this year," said CMC Markets analyst David Madden. "Since then, Janet Yellen, the chair of the Federal Reserve announced there will be further monetary tightening, but it will be 'time-ly and predictable'."

The Fed last month raised its benchmark interest rate by a quarter point to 1.0-1.25 percent. The US central bank said it expected to lift borrowing costs for a third time this year, brushing aside weaker inflation and consumption data in recent weeks. Earlier yesterday, Asian equity markets rebounded to sit mostly higher as early nervousness over North Korea gave way to bargain-buying.

European markets wobble

Meanwhile, European stock markets wobbled yesterday on investor jitters over North Korea's latest sabre-rattling. London sagged 0.1 percent while Frankfurt and Paris eked out slender gains of 0.1 percent. "Investors over in Europe are not ignoring the bout of risk aversion triggered by North Korea's ongoing missile tests," said analyst Naeem Aslam at trading firm ThinkMarkets. "The geopolitical tensions remain a major threat for the global stability and economic health and traders would not ignore this fact."

Traders ran for the sidelines after Washington confirmed that Pyongyang had for the first time tested a missile capable of reaching the United States, ratcheting up pressure on the already tense Korean peninsula. Sentiment was somewhat subdued with Wall Street having been shut Tuesday for the Independence Day holiday. Investors meanwhile waited for the publication of minutes from the US central bank's most recent meeting, ahead of key jobs data

Dispite those gains, dealers remain on edge and are now awaiting the next development after Russia and China issued a joint appeal to ease tensions while the United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency meeting later in the day. The test came just as the US was preparing to celebrate Independence Day and days before a G20 summit, where it will likely top the agenda.

It was the latest provocation by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un who is determined to develop a nuclear weapons program he says is needed to ward off invasion. South Korea and the US on Wednesday launched a barrage of missiles simulating a precision strike against Pyongyang, in response to the provocation. "Traders and investors may be wondering what reaction this latest missile test will get," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at AxiTrader. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report				Global			
Wednesday 05 July 2017							
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades	
Price Index	▲ 32.16	6,670.93	6,638.77	54,453,932	10,326,691	2,473	
Weighted Index	▲ 0.99	398.65	397.66				
KSX 15	▲ 1.09	909.88	908.79				

Trades							Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KDI)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	89	66	199,638	13,331	28	▲ 66	SOKOLK	48.0	44.1	2,302,111	10,796	12	47.0	▲ 1.5
IPO	396	396	2,000	792	1	▲ 396	KRE	55	54	180,000	8,709	4	54	▲ 0.0
NAFESCO	1,430	1,300	1,620	2,116	14	▲ 1,430	URC	85	85	1,000	85	1	85	▲ 0.1
ENERGIYH	38.9	38.9	1,255	49	1	▲ 38.9	NRE	109	108	174,392	18,834	12	108	▼ -1.0
GPI	38.2	37.9	1,252,183	47,673	42	▲ 38.2	SRE	384	384	100	38	1	384	▼ -4.0
ABAR	86	86	100	9	1	▲ 86	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,452,797	63,970	87	▲ 1,012.97	AREFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	▲ 0.0
						▲ 20.90	MASSALEH	44.7	44.7	40	2	1	44.7	▼ -0.2
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 279	ARABREC	33.0	31.0	641,915	20,303	23	33.0	▼ -0.7
BPOC	574	540	703,842	395,171	47	▲ 564	ERESCO	39.9	38.5	455,385	17,626	17	39.9	▲ 1.8
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 590	MBANEE	756	750	2,376,687	1,787,570	82	752	▲ 2.0
ALQURAIN	335	334	53,885	18,051	14	▲ 334	INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
Basic Materials			757,627	413,222	61	▲ 1,224.29	INVESTORS	23.4	22.4	100,833	2,276	6	23.3	▲ 0.9
						▼ -6.10	IRC	29.9	29.9	54,000	1,815	1	29.9	▼ -1.6
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 480	ALTUJARA	74	73	533,300	38,932	9	73	▲ 0.0
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 407	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
SHP	216	216	20	4	1	▲ 216	AAYANRE	83	82	242,000	19,944	10	82	▼ -1.4
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 920	AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 300	ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▲ 0.0
MRC	87	75	110	8	2	▲ 87	MAZAYA	111	111	381,520	42,349	12	111	▲ 0.0
ACICO	262	262	9,300	2,437	4	▲ 262	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 208	TUJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▲ 0.0
KBMMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 136	TAMEER	34.0	30.0	1,605,969	52,582	53	32.2	▲ 0.9
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 198	ARKAN	85	85	31,450	2,673	4	85	▲ 1.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 49.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0
NGCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 119	ABYAR	22.9	22.5	915,250	30,782	21	22.6	▼ -4.1
GYPISUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 95	MUNSHAAT	53	53	1,535	81	2	53	▲ 0.3
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 59	FIRSTDUBAI	46.5	46.0	140,950	6,485	5	46.0	▲ 0.0
AQITY	810	727	359,502	263,386	118	▲ 727	KBT	47.0	46.0	180,485	8,339	9	46.5	▼ -0.5
EDU	370	365	77,040	28,387	11	▲ 370	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	45.0	38.6	30,833	1,215	11	▲ 43.9	MENA	23.7	23.7	6,700	159	4	23.7	▲ 0.2
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 80	ALMUDJON	38.0	35.0	379,680	14,006	53	36.2	▲ 1.0
KCPK	165	165	10,000	1,650	1	▲ 165	MARAKEZ	42.5	42.5	100	4	1	42.5	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	4,198	4,196	116,566	489,329	10	▲ 4,196	REMAL	78	59	9,916,207	716,362	181	78	▲ 12.9
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 150	AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	▲ 0.0
GFC	70	69	10,100	697	2	▲ 69	Real Estate			16,529,509	2,790,600	524	912.35	▲ 2.00
MAYADEEN	26.9	26.9	4,310	116	4	▲ 26.9	KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	▲ 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 619	FACIL	170	170	630	107	1	170	▼ -1.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 56	IFA	33.0	31.5	2,038,520	68,331	21	32.6	▼ -0.5
LIPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 881	NINV	101	99	179,946	17,903	9	100	▼ -0.7
ALAFCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 315	KPROJ	537	534	244,470	81,683	47	535	▲ 1.6
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 73	COAST	40.5	40.0	110,000	4,415	4	40.5	▲ 1.4
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 51	SECH	39.9	39.6	225,000	8,935	7	39.9	▲ 0.4
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 78	ARKAN	32.5	32.3	114,660	3,726	4	32.3	▼ -1.7
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 78	MARKAZ	107	92	6,600	631	3	107	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 78	KMEPIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.0	▲ 0.0
FCEM	79	79	50,414	3,963	2	▲ 79	ALAMAN	42.5	42.3	178,000	7,557	9	42.5	▲ 0.5
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 90	ALOLA	44.6	44.2	245,500	10,871	4	44.2	▼ -0.8
SPEC	88	83	102,210	8,052	11	▲ 88	ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.0	▲ 0.0
Industrials			776,405	799,905	177	▲ 1,892.25	GH	34.0	32.6	5,311,209	43,268	69	33.0	▼ -1.0
						▲ 1.40	AAYAN	39.4	37.5	2,198,004	84,052	98	38.3	▼ -0.7
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 190	BAYANINV	49.5	48.0	3,063,516	149,454	22	48.3	▲ 0.4
CATTL	232	220	26,290	5,930	4	▲ 227	OSOL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	▲ 0.0
DANAH	70	70	100	7	1	▲ 70	KPIC	40.0	40.0	2,984	119	1	40.0	▲ 5.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 2,399	KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
Consumer Goods			26,390	5,937	5	▲ 1,071.37	NH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
						▲ 5.60	UNICAP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.0	▲ 0.0
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 453	MADAR	21.0	20.1	1,298,078	26,859	45	21.0	▲ 0.5
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 1,100	ALDEERA	31.4	28.0	17,398	519	6	31.0	▼ -0.9
YACCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 184	ALSALAM	40.0	45.0	878,010	40,127	33	45.0	▼ -2.2
Health Care			0	0	0	▲ 0.00	EKTTITAB	35.2	35.0	26,869	944	5	35.1	▼ -1.4
						▲ 0.00	ALMADINA	50	45.6	984,200	46,210	42	47.1	▲ 0.1
KCIN	1,670	1,362	16,217	24,032	6	▲ 1,670	NOOR	52	51	36,498	1,846	5	52	▲ 1.5
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 250	TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 87	EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	30.0	26.0	4,424	119	7	▲ 30.0	KSHC	33.0	32.0	40,010	1,280	2	33.0	▼ -0.3
EYAS	766	700	85,700	62,972	35	▲ 766	ASIA	43.5	43.1	104,374	4,539	4	43.1	▲ 0.0
IFHR	285	285	100	29	1	▲ 285	GNAC	34.8	33.1	198,002	5,684	8	34.8	▼ -1.5
OULAFUEL	119	118	137,405	16,334	22	▲ 119	AMWAL	46.0	44.8	101,650	4,588	28	45.0	▲ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 82	ALUMTIAZ	161	158	5,549,832	863,295	89	159	▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	470	470</												

US FACTORY ORDERS FALL FOR SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH

WASHINGTON: Orders to US factories fell for the second straight month in May, a potentially worrisome sign for American industry. The Commerce Department reported yesterday that factory orders declined 0.8 percent in May, the biggest drop since last November. They fell 0.3 percent in April. Economists had expected factory orders to drop again in May - but the fall was twice what they'd forecast. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, factory orders fell 0.3 percent in May. Orders for civilian aircraft plunged 11.6 percent after dropping 12.2 percent in April. Computer orders slid 2.1 percent.

Orders rose a modest 0.2 percent in a category - capital goods excluding aircraft and military equipment - that is closely monitored for signs of businesses' investment plans. American manufacturing has been sending mixed signals. The Federal Reserve reported last month that factory orders fell 0.4 in May, reversing a sharp

increase in April. The Institute for Supply Management reported Monday that its manufacturing index rose last month to the highest level since August 2014.

US factories have rebounded from a slump in late 2015 and early 2016 caused by cutbacks in the energy industry and a strong dollar that made American products costlier overseas. But overall economic growth has been lackluster. The US economy expanded at a 1.4 percent annual pace from January through March. Consumer spending on long-lasting durable goods dropped at a 1.6 percent annual pace in the first quarter, the weakest showing since the second quarter of 2011.

Elsewhere Petroleum-linked shares tumbled early yesterday, on lower oil prices, pressuring US stocks, while some big technology shares were modestly positive. ExxonMobil and Chevron were among the biggest losers in the Dow as oil prices slid on worries about higher output from

members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

But large technology companies including Apple, Amazon and Microsoft advanced modestly. Tech shares have been volatile for the last several weeks, with some analysts describing a rotation to disfavored sectors from after the Nasdaq surged to a series of records this spring. About 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.2 percent at 21,441.82.

The broad-based S&P 500 lost 0.1 percent at 2,425.92, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index was flat at 6,111.05. US markets were closed Tuesday for the Independence Day holiday. Key events this week include the release of Federal Reserve meeting minutes, which are expected to shed light on the US central bank's thinking on raising interest rates further and Friday's release of the June employment report, expected to show an addition of 173,000 jobs. —AP



CANTON: In this April 6, 2016, photograph, a technician uses a lift to move a back seat section into a new Altima on the assembly line at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. —AP



This photo provided by Toyota shows the 2017 Toyota Corolla, an example of a car that could be less expensive to lease new than to buy used. —AP

WHEN LEASING A NEW CAR IS A BETTER OPTION THAN BUYING

WASHINGTON: Car shoppers are becoming more eager to lease than to buy cars, according to recent data. More than a third of all new-car owners leased rather than bought in 2016. But the statistics don't tell the whole story. Many car shoppers don't set out to lease a new car, but once they run the numbers, leases look like a much better deal. Here are three reasons why:

1. Car-buying payment shock

Leasing doesn't even cross some car shoppers' minds until they see how much it's going to cost to buy the car of their dreams. Here's an example: Prospective buyers of a Honda Pilot intended to finance the purchase and didn't want to put any money down. They didn't want to hear about monthly payments either; they just wanted to get the lowest possible out-the-door price (after all fees and taxes). They agreed on an out-the-door price of \$35,000 and the salesperson got started on the paperwork. But when they saw the \$610 payment that goes along with a 60-month loan for \$35,000 at 1.9 percent annual percentage rate (APR), they were stunned. They had no idea the payment "for a Honda" could be so high. That \$610 monthly payment was too much for their budget, and it looked like the deal was off. Before they left, though, the salesperson offered them a lease. Same SUV and no down payment, but with a monthly payment that was far less. After thinking it over for a few minutes, they signed the deal.

2. Expensive used-car financing

Here's the scenario: A shopper walks into a dealership intending to finance a used car in the \$10,000 price range with the goal of getting a low monthly payment. Instead, she ends up leasing a new car. What happened? It's the result of how banks handle used-car loans. Some banks won't offer 60-month loans on older cars or cars with lots of miles on the odometer. Such cars also might not qualify for standard financing terms or a low APR. A shopper wants a \$10,000 loan for 60 months with a 4 percent APR, which results in a \$184 monthly payment. What the bank will approve, however, is a \$10,000 loan for 36 months at 11 percent APR. That results in a \$327 monthly payment. Not what she had in mind. Enter the lease: She could lease a 2017 Toyota Corolla for three years,

paying \$159 a month and \$1,999 at signing. Compare that to \$327 a month on an 8-year-old Toyota Corolla with 100K on the odometer. Even if she preferred to buy used and might want to own that car free and clear in a few years, the prospect of a brand-new, under-warranty car with low monthly lease payments might carry the day.

3. To cure being 'upside down'

More shoppers than ever are upside down on their car loans, meaning they owe more on the loan than the car is worth. If you owe \$10,000 on a vehicle that's worth \$8,000, you're \$2,000 upside down. A third of car shoppers who traded in their old cars as they bought new ones in 2016 had average negative equity of \$4,913, according to Edmunds research. Unless a shopper starts a new deal with a down payment that's big enough to cover that negative equity, he will need to fold the balance into the selling price of the new vehicle. That, of course, makes it even more expensive. A lease can flip the picture for a car owner who is upside down. Here's an example, based on a real 2016 "mystery shopper" experiment Edmunds conducted. The shopper contacted a large Honda dealership in search of a new 2016 Honda Odyssey. He reported that he had excellent credit and wanted to put \$3,000 down. Unfortunately, the shopper said, he also was \$4,800 upside down on his current car. To make the deal, he planned to trade in his car, put \$3,000 down, and fold the \$4,800 he still owed into the financing for the Odyssey.

The dealership laid out these possible purchase terms: On a 48-month car loan, the payments would be a steep \$711 a month. For a 60-month loan, the payment was better but still high: \$572 a month. It would have taken a 72-month loan to get the payments to a more palatable \$493 a month. Leasing was a different story: With the same \$3,000 out of pocket, the 36-month lease would only cost him \$438 per month. And the negative equity would go away. Leasing isn't a cure for high monthly payments or upside-down car loans. Leasing's mileage limits can put a damper on spontaneous road trips. Excess damage charges loom over every spilled soft drink or parking-lot ding. And in the long run, leasing cars over and over will cost more money than buying a new or used car and keeping it. —AP

PUERTO RICANS STRUGGLING TO FIND CAREERS IN FLORIDA

HITTING THE SAME BARRIERS MOST MIGRANTS FACE

ORLANDO: Kaisha Toledo was studying for a doctorate in psychology in Puerto Rico, but after four years in Florida, she still hasn't found a permanent job in her field. Ricardo Negron passed the bar on the island, but still can't work as a lawyer in Florida. Carlos Martinez got his nursing license in Puerto Rico, but still serves up lattes as a Starbucks manager in Orlando.

Residents of the US territory have been US citizens for a century now, and should have a built-in advantage as Americans when they move to the mainland. But as the island's best and brightest join an exodus of nearly half a million Puerto Ricans coming state-side to escape the territory's 10-year economic recession, they're hitting the same barriers most migrants face: language difficulties, costly certifications, confusing requirements and culture clashes.

"We don't know the system yet that well, so we're learning on a learning curve," Toledo told The Associated Press. "We just find that jobs are very specific and they say you need to have two or three years of experience, but it's like, 'OK, but if you don't open the door for me, how will I be able to get that experience?'"

Deep cuts

Puerto Rico's Instituto de Estadísticas said managers and professional workers made up the largest category of people moving from the island in 2015. Since then, the island's 3.4 million people have endured multimillion-dollar debt defaults, soaring foreclosures, a crumbling pension system, states of emergency at government agencies, deep cuts in education and an unemployment rate of 12 percent, nearly triple the mainland rate. "Everybody is leaving the island, from the neurosurgeon to the janitor," said Vicente Feliciano, an economist in Puerto Rico. "Young people are leaving, and thus, you have fewer taxpayers to support an increasingly elderly population." New York was their top destination during the last major migration wave in the 1940s and 1950s, but now Central Florida is where they land, with more than 1 million Puerto Ricans living in the state.

"There's the weather, and you will find Puerto Ricans, you will find the food, everywhere. So it's the next best thing to being home without having the issues," said Negron. Before leaving the island in 2015, Negron had lined up a legal assistant job at an Orlando law firm. But after arriving, his position was cut. He now runs a community center and says he lacks the time or the money to take three months off to study for the Florida bar.

"I would have to shut myself in to study, and I'm like, 'How am I going to live? I'm not going to get

Workplace norms

Many Puerto Ricans move from the island without the proper preparation, said Sami Haiman-Marrero, who runs a marketing and business development firm in Orlando. With her friend, Jackie Mendez, she now offers orientation sessions to new arrivals on how to adapt to life and workplace norms in central Florida. "You can't kiss your co-workers on the cheek ... Don't start talking about personal things ... You are supposed to be there at five minutes to the hour and be ready to work ... You need to have command of English," Marrero said.

Congress to make the US territory the 51st state, which is unlikely under Republican control, since Puerto Ricans tend to favor Democrats. "We have been a colony for 500 years, and we have had US citizenship for 100 years, but it's been a second-class one," Rossello said after declaring victory.

Meanwhile, people like Toledo just want a chance to work as professionals again. When she moved to Orlando four years ago, Toledo got a job as a mental health therapist and case manager at a private company, but soon the company ran out of money and stopped paying her. She



ORLANDO: In this Saturday, June 24, 2017 photo, newly arrived Puerto Ricans to the mainland listen to Sami Haiman-Marrero, left, as she speaks during an orientation session. —AP

more student loans to study," Negron said. Martinez worked at a theme park, a hotel and a store since he left the island three years ago, but he still hasn't found a nursing job because he hasn't found the time or money needed for the prep class needed to study for his license in Florida. "At the moment, I can't do it," Martinez said. "I got to make money."

Janice Dones, who moved from Puerto Rico a year ago and attended a recent orientation said, "It sometimes doesn't feel like we are part of the country." Her feelings reflect a common refrain among islanders - especially those who voted for statehood in a non-binding referendum this month - that Puerto Ricans are treated like second-class citizens. Gov. Ricardo Rossello now hopes to persuade

found a job at another company, but that also didn't pay what she had been promised. She eventually found a job out of her field, as a community organizer. She loves it, but misses the fulfillment of working with autistic kids. "Everybody is trying to make a better life," Toledo said. "I hope people will look at people like me, who have studied, and give them an opportunity." —AP

BAIDU CEO'S SELF-DRIVING CAR STUNT STUMPS POLICE: MEDIA

BEIJING: Chinese internet giant Baidu's roll-out of a new self-driving car may have police trying to figure out who to ticket, local media reported yesterday, after CEO Robin Li took one of the vehicles for a joyride on a Beijing highway. The company's billionaire founder live-streamed himself catching a ride in a semi-autonomous car on the way to a conference for developers hoping to learn about the software giant's new artificial intelligence initiatives.

A packed auditorium, including an AFP reporter, oohed and aahed over the video of Li riding in the passenger seat of the car, part of a presentation introducing Baidu's new technology. In the broadcast, a driver sat with his hands in his lap, watching as the vehicle apparently maneuvered itself along a highway on the outskirts of the city and headed towards the convention centre where Li was scheduled to speak. As the car sped along the highway, a presenter asked the celebrity CEO to describe the trip.

"Even though... there are quite a few cars, it is very smooth," he replied to a round of applause. But attendees were not

the only ones watching the publicity stunt, according to the Beijing Youth Daily, which said that local police were investigating whether the CEO had broken any laws by operating the car on the city's highways. A spokesperson from the Beijing traffic management authority said that the incident had been "reported" but would not confirm there was an investigation. Baidu declined to comment.

The company has previously tested its cars close to its campus in Beijing's northwest without incident, and it is working with the government to develop rules for self-driving cars, which currently exist in a legal grey area. In any case, the car was not fully autonomous: it uses technology, similar to highly advanced cruise control, which allows its driver to take his hands off the wheel while staying in the proper lane, keeping up with traffic and even breaking to avoid obstacles. The technology, however, may have a few bugs to work out. During the video, the car appeared to cross over a solid line on the highway and even seemed to cut off another driver. —AFP

PHILIPPINES' ADULT ENTERTAINMENT KING WINS 'JOLLI' TRADEMARK BATTLE

MANILA: The Philippines' biggest fast-food chain has lost a long trademark battle against the nation's "King of Night Entertainment" to own the "Jolli" brand, according to government documents. Famous for fried chicken, hamburgers and spaghetti, Jollibee Foods opposed in 2013 the trademark registration of real estate firm Jolliville Holdings Corporation, saying it was "confusingly similar" with its name.

But the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines ruled in favor of Jolliville, which said the company's name was a tribute to its founder Jolly Ting. "While (Jollibee) was making it big in the food service business so was Mr. Jolly L. Ting in the night entertainment business," the Philippines' patent office said in the decision released this week. "As the owner of a string of night entertainment establishments such as Pegasus, Discovery, Mega Heartbeat, Lexus, he earned the moniker 'King of Night Entertainment.'" The government agency said there was no reason to prohibit the registration of Jolliville, which later diversified its business into property management and development. Jollibee had accused Jolliville of unfair competition but the government said there was no evidence the property firm passed off its goods and services to be part of those of the fast-food giant. "Jollibee and the 'bee' mascot device... is great for kids' entertainment," the ruling said. The market cheered the ruling on Wednesday, with Jolliville share prices surging 12.01 percent to close at 6.90 pesos (13.6 US cents). Jollibee shares ended unchanged at 208 pesos. — AFP

CHINA BACKS HUNDREDS OF GLOBAL COAL POWER PROJECTS: REPORT

BEIJING: Chinese companies are planning or constructing hundreds of coal-fired power projects around the world, data show, even as Beijing talks up its commitment to fighting climate change. The report by German environmental lobby group Urgewald comes as China seeks to fill a vacuum left by the United States following President Donald Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate agreement.

Urgewald estimates about 250 Chinese companies are involved in nearly half of the 1,600 new coal power projects planned or being built worldwide. They include state-owned energy giants China Datang Corporation, China Huaneng Group, and SPIC. Urgewald bases its figures on publicly available company information and the Global Coal Plant Tracker published by San Francisco-based research platform CoalSwarm.

It estimates more than 840,000 megawatts will be added to the world's coal-fired power capacity if the 1,600 projects are completed. Just 120 major coal plant developers-including 26 Chinese companies-are responsible for about two-thirds of the planned expansion. The projects are in 62 countries, including 14 which have no

existing coal-fired power capacity. China-backed projects are planned or under way in several nations including China, Pakistan, Malawi, Egypt and Jamaica, Urgewald said in the report published on June 29.

"If the Chinese government truly wants to position itself as a global climate leader, it needs to rein in its state-owned companies that are flooding the world with new coal power plants," Trusha Reddy, coordinator of the International Coal Network at Earthlife Africa, was quoted by Urgewald as saying. China's National Energy Administration did not respond to a request for comment. Urgewald said the top 120 companies were "paving the road towards climate chaos."

"The companies pushing forward this glut of new coal infrastructure pose a threat to us all, as their projects would bury our chances of keeping global warming well below two degrees Celsius," Urgewald director Heffa Schuecking said. China, the world's biggest polluter but also its biggest investor in renewable energy, has repeatedly vowed to stay the course on reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Earlier this year it reportedly cancelled more than 100 carbon-belching coal power projects. —AFP



British Airways customers will soon be given new luxurious bedding by The White Company.



British Airways' new amenity kit by The White Company.



British Airways' new luxuriously soft quilt and bed topper.

BA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WHITE COMPANY

KUWAIT: British Airways yesterday announced its plans to give customers a great night's sleep in the sky through a partnership with the luxury lifestyle brand, The White Company. The iconic British retailer will supply bedding and amenity kits in Club World as part of the airline's £400m customer investment plan, with a focus on excellence in the premium cabins and more choice and quality for all.

Later this year, customers travelling in Club World between Heathrow and New York JFK will be given a new elegant day cushion which will double up as a fantastic lumbar support when working or relaxing on board. Exclusively for British Airways, The White Company have also designed a bespoke, luxuriously soft large pillow and white cotton pillowcase to enhance customers' comfort and to help them sleep well in the sky.

Customers will also be given a super-soft woven blanket with satin trim and a specially developed luxury duvet to improve their quality of sleep, as well as a padded mattress cover giving an extra layer of comfort. The new bedding from The White Company will then be gradually rolled out across British Airways' other long-haul routes.



The White Company partners with British Airways.

The new Club World amenity kits come in an elegantly designed bag from The White Company and contain products from the retailer's 'Restore & Relax Spa Collection', as well as a super-soft jersey eye-mask, offering a further touch of luxury in the sky.

Alex Cruz, British Airways' chairman and CEO, said: "Our investment in Club World has started and we're kick-

ing off by helping our customers sleep even better in the skies. Partnering with The White Company, another quintessentially British brand renowned for quality and style, is the first step in a multi-million pound investment for our premium customers."

Chrissie Rucker MBE, founder of The White Company, said: "We are passionate about creating the best night's sleep for all our customers and I'm truly delighted to now be working with British Airways to 'sleep well in the sky'. I hope you love the result as much as we do." The White Company opened its first international flagship store in New York last month at 155, Fifth Ave in the city's Flatiron district.

British Airways is also introducing a number of measures on board to maximize available shut-eye time for customers in Club World. Breakfast cards will also be given out so customers can select if they wish to be woken for breakfast and if so, what they would like. In autumn a new restaurant-style premium dining service will begin in Club World, with display trolleys allowing customers to select dishes from a choice of freshly prepared starters and desserts served on beautiful new table settings.



British Airways' new bedding.

BB OFFERS PREMIER CUSTOMERS AIRPORT MEET & ASSIST SERVICES

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is pleased to announce a new service tailored specifically to its Premier Customers, to provide an enhanced travel experience in luxury and style, as part of its customer centric and innovative approach. Adding value and further convenience, Burgan Bank's latest service provides Premier customers with up to 25% discount on meet & assist services at over 450 airports worldwide. This service is provided by YQ Now Group to help Premier

customers speed pass through airports. Premier customers holding Visa Signature can now enjoy personalized voyages and world class service quality in airports around the world with the help of a global network of specialists. YQ Now Group provides travel services such as fast-track immigration, customs clearance baggage handling, executive car transfers and flowers on arrival. Such services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

GREEN BONDS: COMING OF AGE

The green bond market turns ten years old this year and is rapidly heading towards adulthood. As it comes of age, this market will be an increasingly critical source of capital for projects that will help the global economy limit the impact of climate change.

It's not been an entirely easy childhood so far. The first-ever "green bond," a EUR 600 million issue in July 2007, was followed by, well, not very much in the same vein for several years. It took until 2013 for green bond issuance to vault the US\$10-billion-a-year mark -- and even that is a tiny amount compared with the overall bond market.

Ten years on, however, the baby of the capital markets has grown spectacularly. Over US\$ 90 billion was raised via green bonds last year -- more than double the 2015 amount. That included the first ever sovereign green bond, a EUR 750 million issue by Poland. And in January this year, France issued a EUR 7 billion, 22-year green bond -- a milestone in terms of its size and long tenor -- and all the more remarkable because investor demand, at more than EUR 23 billion, far outstripped the size of the offering.

Climate change is an urgent threat to the planet, and major injections of capital are required to finance less carbon-intensive technologies and infrastructure. Think wind turbines and solar-energy farms. Think low-carbon transport systems. Think technologies that will make buildings -- and entire cities -- ever more energy- and water-efficient.

The green bond market may be a late developer, but it is now critical to financing a lower carbon economy. It enables companies to tap the growing pool of cash globally that is looking for climate-friendly investment opportunities, converting those funds into capital for environmentally sustainable projects. At present, green bonds still account for less than 1% of the overall global bond market. But here's why we believe the market is rapidly growing up:

First, there have been profound changes in the way businesses, consumers and investors perceive the risks stemming from pollution and rising global temperatures. The 2015 Paris

Agreement established an overwhelming global consensus on the need to address climate change. It required the nearly 200 signatories to develop their own national plans to meet the target of limiting the increase in global temperatures to two degrees Celsius or less over pre-industrial times. This has galvanized global green-tech investments and financing.

Second, technological advances are making more and more low-carbon alternatives (from alternative energy technologies, to electric vehicles and batteries) economically viable. Green investments are increasingly not just ethically but also financially sound.

Third, the authorities in China and India have thrown their considerable weight behind efforts to green their economies. By launching green bonds for the first time in 2015, Chinese and Indian institutions added geographical diversity to a market that had until then been dominated by the likes of Scandinavia, the United States and Britain. Last year, more than US\$ 33 billion-worth of Chinese green bonds were issued. That's over one-third of the global total -- and up from just US\$ 1 billion in 2015. Indian volumes are more modest, at just over US\$ 1 billion last year, but the country is likewise going through a paradigm shift in low-carbon technologies.

The increasing momentum behind green bonds means issuers and investors can no longer afford to ignore them. True, there is lingering scepticism over the "greenness" of specific bonds. Are proceeds really deployed to finance climate-related or environmental projects? Or are they headed towards projects or companies whose "greenness" is debatable? Who assesses whether a particular issue is as "green" as another? Many investors are still put off by the lack of consistency and transparency on those fronts, while issuers shy away from the extra efforts (and costs) of disclosing, reporting and certifying "green" ventures.

But the extras tend to be overestimated, and

progress is being made on standardization and monitoring. For example, Standard & Poor's in April launched a tool designed to evaluate not just whether a bond is green, but how green it is.

Meanwhile, the advantages of issuing a green bond are substantial -- though perhaps not yet as widely recognized as they should be.

For a start, issuing green bonds allows companies to tap the growing demand for such instruments among pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and other investors who are concerned about their portfolios' exposure to high-carbon and unsustainable issuers and activities. As of early 2016, there were some US\$ 23 trillion of assets professionally managed under responsible investment strategies. That's up 25% since 2014, and represents more than a quarter of all professionally-managed assets globally. Likewise, a recent HSBC survey found that two-thirds of global institutional investors want to put more capital into low-carbon and climate-related investments.

What's more, the launch of a green bond allows an issuer to demonstrate they are aware of and preparing for the long-term challenges of global warming. And, by requiring them to identify, minimize and monitor their climate risk profile, it can help them embed low-carbon thinking in their corporate culture and business strategy. Over the long term, this could well create an advantage over less well-prepared companies in terms of valuation and business prospects. Given what's at stake, the green bond market's coming-of-age can only be welcome. Happy 10th birthday.

By Gordon French, Head of Global Banking and Markets, Asia Pacific, HSBC



Gordon French



PROFESSOR ILIAC MIHOV REAPPOINTED AS INSEAD DEAN

ABU DHABI: INSEAD, the global business school with campuses in Europe, Asia and Middle East, announced today the re-appointment of Iliac Mihov, the current Dean and the Rausing Chaired Professor of Business and Economic Transformation, as Dean of INSEAD for a second five-year term commencing September 1, 2018. Professor Mihov has been serving as Dean of the school since October 1, 2013. He is also the first Dean to be based in the school's Asia campus in Singapore and the second Dean of INSEAD to be elected for two consecutive terms. Dean Mihov's re-appointment was confirmed by the INSEAD Board, following the INSEAD Dean Renewal Committee's recommendation, after the school's faculty voted overwhelmingly in favor of it.

Andreas Jacobs (MBA'90D), Chairman of the INSEAD Board, said, "Iliac's renewed mandate strengthens what we all believe to be a historically significant time for INSEAD. I want to thank Iliac for all he has done for the school thus far, and for having been so inspired by the entire INSEAD community that he welcomed this extension of his service. I am looking forward to working closely with Iliac during his next term as he leads INSEAD into a bold and exciting future."

Under Dean Mihov's leadership, INSEAD has strengthened its academic excellence by hiring the best minds from around the globe. Widely recognised as a school of international thought leadership, the faculty are consistently celebrated for the impact of their research, the dynamic course delivery through innovative teaching methods and leading-edge online programming, as well as the value of their business cases.

During his current term, INSEAD achieved a "triple-first" in the Financial Times rankings in 2016 -- INSEAD's MBA and Tsinghua-INSEAD EMBA (TIEMBA) programs were ranked #1, while the Global Executive MBA (GEMBA) pro-

gram was the highest ranked single-school EMBA program. The INSEAD MBA program retained its #1 position in the Financial Times ranking in 2017.

Iliac Mihov, Dean of INSEAD and Professor of Economics, said "I am humbled by the vote of the faculty and the Board. I look forward to increasing the collaborative momentum created by our exceptional faculty, our dedicated staff, our loyal alumni, and our spirited students across three campuses. At this transformational time in INSEAD's history, we are all aligned in our efforts to make the school the most impactful business school in the world. Together we can build the business school of the future: a business school that champions business as a force for good."

Dean Mihov's first term has also seen the school gain numerous achievements and innovations. For example: the campus expansion in Singapore to meet the increasing demand of management education globally, a revitalized MBA curriculum to better prepare students to build new businesses, and an integrated digital strategy in which INSEAD Customised Online Programme has received prominent awards for industry impact.

In addition, the school has developed highly personalized and comprehensive career services, which yield outstanding results. The school has also seen a major increase in MBA applications and the highest-ever proportion of female students at a record 38 percent for the classes graduating in 2017. Finally, in the last few years under Dean Mihov's term, INSEAD has engaged in increased outreach and fundraising efforts, yielding outstanding results. Investments in the school in 2015-2016 amounted to A\$23.8M, an increase of 67% over the year prior, while the establishment of new initiatives such as the global Alumni Forums have connected the alumni back to the school.

US FIRM VANTIV AGREES TIE-UP WITH WORLDPAY

LONDON: US payment processing giant Vantiv has agreed to take over British peer Worldpay, the pair said yesterday, to create a global giant worth \$27 billion. The deal was billed as a merger, with Worldpay shareholders owning 41 percent of the new group, whose current combined stock market capitalisation is the equivalent of about 24 billion euros including debt. Under the cash-and-shares deal, Vantiv is paying around \$11 billion including debt for Worldpay.

"The boards of directors Worldpay and Vantiv Inc. are pleased to announce that they have reached an agreement in principle on the key terms of a potential merger," the pair said in a statement. The news came one day after Worldpay's share price rocketed on news it had received takeover approaches from both Vantiv and banking giant JPMorgan Chase. The latter yesterday said it would not come back with a formal rival offer for Worldpay. "The boards of Worldpay and Vantiv see compelling strategic, commercial and financial rationale for combining Worldpay and Vantiv's complementary businesses," they added yesterday.

"The... merger creates a scale world class payments group in a dynamic market, with deep payments capabilities, product and vertical expertise and strong distribution channels to serve merchants around the world in the global e-commerce market, and in-store and online in the UK and US markets." The two companies added that "substantial opportunities" for cost savings had been identified. Worldpay has 400,000 customers and was owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland until the state-backed lender sold off its remaining stake to private equity firms Advent International and Bain Capital in 2013. Two years later, the company sealed the biggest flotation of 2015 when it listed on the London Stock Exchange. — AFP

CONGO IN TALKS WITH RUSSIA'S VTB FOR \$1BN INVESTMENT

KINSHASA: Democratic Republic of Congo is in talks with Russian state-owned bank VTB over potential investments worth as much as \$1 billion, Congolese officials said, though VTB said there had been no discussions about bilateral lending. Africa's top copper producer has been hit hard by low commodity prices in recent years. It has only enough foreign currency reserves to cover about three weeks of imports and its franc currency has lost half its value in the past year.

The government is discussing possible assistance with the International Monetary Fund but Western donors are reluctant to aid the government of President Joseph Kabila, who refused to step down when his constitutional mandate expired last December. Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala's office said in a statement late on Monday that VTB representatives, including Managing Director and Head of African Origination Raymond O'Leary met with Tshibala on Monday to discuss a possible \$1 billion investment fund to finance "strategic projects".

The statement cited Albert Yuma, chairman of Congo's state mining company and president of its chamber of commerce -- who organized the meeting with Tshibala -- as saying it would be "up to the government to decide how

the funds are used". In a statement, however, VTB said its meetings in Congo were related to advising Congo about "successful future capital raising transactions" and "not with bilateral lending".

Congo has tried to cultivate closer diplomatic ties to Russia amid growing strains in its relationship with the European Union and United States over its failure to organize elections on time and alleged human rights abuses. In March, Congo's foreign minister Leonard She Okitundu met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow, where he offered Lavrov "a box of rare minerals" as a birthday gift, according to the Congolese ministry's Twitter feed.

VTB, Russia's second-largest bank, is one of several Russian financial institutions the United States sanctioned in 2014 over Moscow's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. It was also at the centre, along with Switzerland's Credit Suisse, of \$2 billion of loans taken out in secret by the Mozambique government, which has since defaulted on repayment. VTB has denied any wrongdoing relating to the transactions, which IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde described as "clearly concealing corruption" on the part of the Mozambique government. — Reuters

REACH OF SEARCH WARRANT FOR EMAILS AT ISSUE IN 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.

Conflict of law
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.

Outdated statute
Even Judge Gerard Lynch on the New York panel that sided with Microsoft called for "congressional action to revise a badly outdated statute." The Stored Communications Act became law long before the advent of cloud computing. To the extent personal information was kept online, it was mainly on personal computers. Today, companies build data centers around the world to keep up with their customers' demands for speed and access.

Members of Congress have introduced legislation to update the law, but nothing has been enacted. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, opposes the administration's appeal, but said in a statement that "Congress can and should modernize data privacy laws to ensure that law enforcement can access evidence in a timely manner." Microsoft also supports revising the law. The company also is among those challenging "gag orders" that prevent service providers

from notifying customers that their data have been turned over to the government under court order.

Companies have been more willing to assert their customers' and their own privacy interests since former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's leak of classified US material about America's surveillance programs, Kerr said. The technology companies wield enormous power, perhaps more than governments do, in shaping the

scope of digital age privacy rights, Daskal said. The companies decide "what to retain, where to keep it, for how long, and whether to encrypt it," she said. And when governments produce court orders for customers' information, it's the companies' call about "when to comply and when to resist," Daskal said. The justices won't decide whether to hear US v. Microsoft, 17-2, before the fall. If they do, arguments wouldn't occur until next year. —AP



REDMOND: This July 3, 2014, file photo, shows the Microsoft Corp. logo outside the Microsoft Visitor Center. —AP



CANON ADDS UNRIVALLED FLEXIBILITY TO IMAGE FORMULA SCANNER PORTFOLIO

DUBAI: Canon Middle East, world leader in imaging solutions, today announces the launch of the imageFORMULA Flatbed Scanner Unit 102 (FSU102) - the perfect accompaniment to the Canon imageFORMULA Document Scanner range. Specifically designed to partner Canon imageFORMULA scanners, the compact and lightweight FSU102 enables users to capture images from both devices in one operation - using the same software driver interface. As the ADF and FSU102 work together, users are able to combine several documents, from both sources, and create a single file - improving productivity for even complex workflows.

Alongside seamless scanning, the FSU102 further enhances efficiency by delivering scans in record time. A4 page scanning takes less than three seconds in grayscale and under four seconds in color. From A4 documents down to smaller items, such as passports, all materials can be captured quickly and easily, allowing work to be completed in a faster timeframe. The FSU102 enables users to scan bound documents, books and fragile media (up to A4) swiftly and simply.

Harnessing Canon's world renowned image quality, the FSU102 delivers high

resolution scanning to ensure crisp detail and perfect accuracy. As well as Auto Color Detection, Auto Resize and Text Orientation Recognition, the device offers impressive image processing features including Auto Resolution, 2D Code module compatibility, Background Smoothing, Notch Removal and Dot Eraser. Optimal energy efficiency is ensured by an all new CIS sensor and the addition of an LED light source; under which the scanner can run under 7W while in full operation and less than 1.7W in sleep mode.

Shadi Bakhour, B2B Business Unit Director, Canon Middle East comments: "The new Flatbed Scanner Unit 102 has been designed to provide customers with best-in-class choice and flexibility. When combined with Canon's sheet-fed scanners, it enables businesses to combine high-speed batch scanning with the ability to capture bound materials, such as books, magazines, and newspaper clippings. The devices work together seamlessly and deliver a great range of enhanced features to boost productivity and convenience. The Flatbed Scanner Unit 102 drives improved value alongside the highest image accuracy and quality synonymous with Canon."

UKRAINE MINISTER CLAIMS THEY PREVENTED SECOND CYBERATTACK

KIEV: Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov says that authorities have avoided a second cyberattack. The announcement suggests that the effort to wreak electronic havoc across Ukraine is ongoing. Ukraine is still trying to find its feet after scores or even hundreds of businesses and government agencies were hit by an explosion of data-scrambling software on June 27.

Avakov said in a statement posted to his Facebook page that what he described as the second stage of that malware attack had been timed to hit its peak at 4 p.m. Ukraine time on Tuesday. Avakov said that, like the first attack, Tuesday's originated from the Ukrainian tax firm M.E. Doc. Yesterday's announcement adds clarity to Cyberpolice's midnight announcement that they had raided M.E. Doc and seized the company's servers.

'Uncontrolled proliferation'
Ukraine's national cybercrime unit seized servers belonging to a small company at the center of a global outbreak of malicious software after "new activity" was detected there, the service said in a statement early yesterday. The announcement raised the possibility that the hackers behind last week's wide-ranging cyberattack were still seeking to sow chaos.

Tax software firm M.E. Doc was raided to "immediately stop the uncontrolled proliferation" of malware. In a series of messages, Cyberpolice spokeswoman Yulia Kvitko suggested that M.E. Doc had sent or was preparing to send a new update and added that swift action had prevented any further damage. "Our experts stopped (it) on time," she said. It wasn't immediately clear how or why hackers might still have

access to M.E. Doc's servers. The company has been the focus of intense attention from authorities and cybersecurity researchers since it was identified as the patient zero of the outbreak, which crippled computers at several multinational

security helped seed the malware epidemic.

Cyberpolice chief Col Serhiy Demydiuk previously told AP that M.E. Doc's owners would be brought to justice, but Kvitko said there had been no arrests. Adding to the

been sent to text storage sites, hinting at the prospect of some kind of a forthcoming statement. Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials were just beginning to count the costs of the outbreak. Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan told AP his



KIEV, UKRAINE: Airport employees use a laptop computer at Boryspil airport. A new and highly virulent outbreak of malicious data-scrambling software appears to be causing mass disruption across Europe —AP

firms and knocked out cash machines, gas stations and bank branches in Ukraine. The company has not returned messages from The Associated Press, but in several statements posted to Facebook it disputed allegations that its poor

intrigue, the bitcoin wallet linked to the hackers who masterminded the outbreak was emptied around the same time as the police announcement. Kaspersky Lab researcher Aleks Gostev said on Twitter that some of the digital currency had

department had incurred "millions" in costs, with hundreds of workstations and two of its six servers knocked out. Ukrainian officials have yet to put a dollar amount on the total damage or even estimate its scope. —Agencies

SILICON VALLEY'S SEXISM PROBLEM

NEW YORK: Sexism in Silicon Valley has been an open secret for years. What's changing: A growing number of women are coming forward with personal stories of sexual harassment and discrimination, prompting apologies, resignations and plenty of hand-wringing. It's too soon to tell whether the incidents will lead to meaningful, long-term change. But the revelations, many implicating industry bigshots, are at least leading to some humbled self-reflection in an industry long criticized as arrogant and self-centered. In the latest example, prominent venture investor Dave McClure apologized over the weekend for making "inappropriate advances" toward several women. His apology - titled "I'm a Creep. I'm Sorry" - follows a New York Times report that described offensive behavior by McClure and other prominent venture investors, as related by female entrepreneurs. On Monday, he resigned from the venture capital fund he co-founded, 500 Startups.

Reports of sexism in the industry are not new, as the male-dominated tech and venture capital industry has often downplayed or turned a blind eye to issues of discrimination and worse. The problems can be particularly acute for women leading startups, as their companies are dependent on clubby venture capitalists for funding.

So what's prompting more women to speak out? Credit Susan Fowler, a former Uber engineer who outlined a culture of harassment at the company. Uber CEO Travis Kalanick resigned in the aftermath, and the company has promised to institute broad changes. Last month, meanwhile, several female entrepreneurs told the trade publication The Information about harassment by a partner at the VC firm Binary Capital. He and another partner resigned in late June. The accused partner, Justin Calbeck, issued an apology,

but that itself drew criticism from others in the tech industry.

"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," Google product manager Brenden Mulligan wrote in a post on Medium. One of Calbeck's accusers, Niniane Wang, wrote that she "laughed out loud" reading the apology.

Indeed, plenty of skepticism remains about the tech industry's ability to change overnight. After the allegations against Calbeck came to light, LinkedIn co-founder and former CEO Reid



BEVERLY HILLS: In this Sunday, Feb 26, 2017, file photo, Uber CEO Travis Kalanick arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party. —AP

Hoffman lamented a "lack of outrage and commentary" following the VC harassment reports. In a post on LinkedIn, Hoffman called the renewed attention on Silicon Valley's gender problems "very good criticism." He urged venture capitalists to establish human resources policies - just as companies and other institutions do - "so that venture capitalists who engage in such behavior face the same sort of consequences that they would if their overtures

were directed at an employee." Experts and advocates also have long called for improving gender and racial diversity in the industry. Companies with more women overall and more women in leadership positions, the thinking goes, are less likely to face problems of sexism and sexual harassment. While tech companies are often blamed for hiring too few women, the issue is also persistent at VC firms. According to a report by Deloitte and the National Venture Capital Association, women hold 26 percent of senior positions at VC firms and 11 percent of investment partners and equivalent positions. The 2016 report surveyed 1,336 firms in the U.S., which the groups say is representative of the overall VC workforce in the country.

Of course, the tech industry isn't alone. In 2014, the nonprofit worker rights group Restaurant Opportunities Centers United estimated that two-thirds of female workers and more than half of male workers experienced some form of sexual harassment, whether from customers, co-workers or bosses. The group called sexual harassment "endemic to the restaurant industry." The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received 6,758 complaints alleging workplace sexual harassment in 2016, the latest available figure. That's down from 7,944 in 2010 - though the decline of complaints does not necessarily indicate a decline of incidents. "Tech companies are supposed to be doing things different," said Tom Spiggle, founder of the Spiggle Law Firm, which focuses on workplace law. "And they have been like Uber, almost a retro kind of sexual harassment behavior." Spiggle, who often represents workers alleging sexual harassment and discrimination, said in a recent interview that he doesn't see the problems getting better, despite high-profile cases such as Uber's. He said he was shocked when he started taking workers' cases in 2009, saying, "It felt like the 1950s." —AP

CHINA TECH GIANT LEECO CONFIRMS ASSETS FROZEN

SHANGHAI: Assets linked to Chinese tech giant LeEco have been frozen in a dispute with a creditor, a unit of the troubled company has confirmed, highlighting its perilous financial state. Chinese financial magazine Caixin first reported Monday that a Shanghai court had ordered the freezing of 1.237 billion yuan (\$182 million) in assets connected to LeEco, its subsidiaries, and billionaire founder Jia Yueting.

The court ruling was in response to legal action brought by China Merchants Bank over unpaid loans to a LeEco smartphone unit, Leview Mobile. LeEco was founded in 2004 by Jia to provide online video streaming but has since launched aggressive forays into self-driving cars, smartphones, film-making, and sports broadcasting rights that have plunged it into a cash crunch.

In a statement late Tuesday to the Shenzhen stock exchange, Leshi Internet Information and Technology Corporation-a listed LeEco subsidiary-said 519 million of its shares owned by Jia, which were used as collateral in the loans, had been frozen by the court. The statement did not refer to the apparently separate "assets" mentioned by Caixin.

Owed money

Adding to LeEco's woes, debt collectors from 19 firms including some of its suppliers have gathered at the company's Beijing headquarters for the past two days to demand money they claim they are owed, the National Business Daily reported yesterday. Pictures posted online showed people lying or sitting on blankets and yoga mats

inside the building. Leshi's statement did not comment on LeEco's larger cash woes. LeEco and the bank did not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment. In a statement emailed earlier to Bloomberg News, China Merchants Bank said the business risks in the dispute were under control, without elaborating, adding that the impasse could be resolved through negotiations with LeEco.

Sometimes referred to as a combination of Netflix, Apple, Amazon and Tesla, LeEco last year announced bold plans to break into the US market, but has since throttled back following a series of setbacks. In a letter to employees in December, Jia admitted the firm was cash-strapped and had "blindly sped ahead" with expansion.

In January, it secured a \$2.2 billion investment lifeline from a group led by property developer Sunac China Holdings. But a month later the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it had terminated a \$100 million contract with subsidiary LeSports to broadcast AFC games in China after reports of payment defaults. In April, LeEco dropped a bid to acquire US television maker Vizio and in May announced it was laying off 70 percent of its US staff, or 325 jobs.

LeEco's troubles have been cited as a cautionary tale arising from a flood of Chinese overseas investment in recent years. Since late last year, Chinese authorities have moved aggressively to rein in the outflows amid a fall in the country's currency, concerns over capital flight and official warnings that many overseas investments were unsound. —AFP

DROUGHT-HIT ETHIOPIA MOVES TO PROTECT ITS DWINDLING FORESTS

CHILIMO, Ethiopia: Ethiopia is enlisting the cooperation of people in and around its forests to manage woodland better, hoping to protect the country from the effects of climate change while boosting development prospects for its population of 100 million. The government of Africa's second most populous country has set an ambitious aim of reducing poverty and becoming a carbon-neutral economy by 2025, in part by transforming the way rural landscapes are managed.

Its Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy aims to meet half of its target reduction in carbon emissions by adding 5 million hectares (12.4 million acres) of forests by 2020 - just three years from now - and restoring 22 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030.

The government sees adding forests as a key way to both curb climate change and help the country adapt to and deal with strong climate change impacts, including droughts, said Yitbetu Moges, the national representative for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) at Ethiopia's Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Climate Change. With water resources under ever greater stress due to the country's rising population, forests are important to maintaining stable rainfall and building drought resilience, while the carbon

they store reduces emissions to the environment, Moges said.

Starting in Oromia

According to the ministry, the biggest forest conservation programs are taking place in Oromia, which is home to a third of the country's population. The 10-year Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP), which is getting underway this year, is a community-centered program for sustainable forest management.

The project, with an initial \$18 million of funding from the World Bank, aims to reduce deforestation and lower net greenhouse gas emissions resulting from land use. The program's first pilot project launched in early May in the Chilimo Forest Reserve, one of the last remnants of a dry, mountainous forest that once covered Ethiopia's central plateau. Located 90 km (56 miles) west of Addis Ababa, the forest currently covers about 5,000 hectares (12,300 acres), down from 12,000 hectares (29,600 acres) in the 1980s, mainly as a result of logging in the early 1990s, officials say.

Under the program, local community cooperatives have been given the right to protect and manage the forest, which faces encroaching population pressure and illegal logging, and decide on how to use the benefits accrued from it. The program encourages cooperative mem-

bers to harvest stalks and other crop residue from fields for fuel, instead of using wood, and cultivate wild honey and crops like green pepper, onion and potatoes, which can be grown within the forest limits without requiring significant deforestation.

Communities are also urged to plant fast-growing, non-native trees such as eucalyptus to harvest for timber or medicinal purposes as a way of generating income. Degu Woldegiorgis, a local community leader, is a member of one of 12 forest associations, representing 3,000 residents around Chilimo, that will participate in managing the forest.

He said the community's decision to help preserve the Chilimo reserve is the result of seeing the problems other communities have faced after destroying their forests. "The forest is our life. We get many benefits from the forest," he said. Woldegiorgis said his community has committed to planting three tree seedlings per community member on deforested land each year.

Benefits downstream

Stephen Danyo, an expert in natural resources management with the World Bank's Ethiopia office, said the forestry management scheme aims not just to secure incomes for local communities but to protect water resources for down-

stream communities as well. "Forest is worth protecting and expanding because forest not only provides jobs and livelihoods, it provides water security, it provides food security, it provides climate security," he said. Moges said protecting forests would also help ensure more stable harvests by protecting water supplies - a major concern in a country where the government says 7.8 million Ethiopians face food shortages as a result of climate change-related drought and land degradation.

"Agriculture will benefit as it will be less impacted by climate change shocks, creating climate stability, in addition to the forest's well-known touristic benefits," he said. The government estimates that about 15.5 percent of Ethiopia is covered in forests - but the country is losing 92,000 hectares (227,000 acres) of forest annually, and only 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) are being replanted, Moges said.

He said that to protect more forests young Ethiopians need to learn about the value of forest conservation in school, from primary level onward. Woldegiorgis, on the other hand, thinks tougher punishments for illegal loggers in the Chilimo Forest Reserve are needed. He said that loggers caught by his organisation and handed over to the authorities have received what he sees

as lenient prison sentences of only a few months.

Population pressure

Moges also thinks some of Ethiopia's rural population needs to move to its cities to better protect forests and other land as the country's population expands. More than 80 percent of the country's population lives in rural areas, adding to the pressure on forests, he said. "National planning is needed with regards to population pressure to relieve pressure on land. But we also have to ensure today's children can migrate to cities, learn in good schools, be employed in industries, and open up business," he said.

Danyo said such strategies need to start working soon, or Ethiopia may struggle to hold onto its remaining forests as population pressures grow. "There's not much left in Ethiopia of the old, native, original forest. It's disappearing quickly," he said. "Protecting forests is not just because people love trees and forests but because it's important for poverty reduction, jobs, water security energy and agriculture." Moges said he sees protecting forests as critical to the country's future success. "A prosperous Ethiopia is one that protects its forest resources. Preserving forests is creating prosperity," he said. —Reuters



HAVANA, Cuba: Podiatrist Serafin Barca poses for a photo with a patient in his clinic in Havana, Cuba. —AP photos



HAVANA, Cuba: Portrait of revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara hangs on the wall next to some medical books, with a reflection of podiatrist Serafin Barca seen on a glass cabinet.

SOME CUBANS CHOOSE DOSE OF PRIVATE MEDICINE DESPITE PRICE

'HE'S THE BEST PODIATRIST IN HAVANA AND ALL OF CUBA'

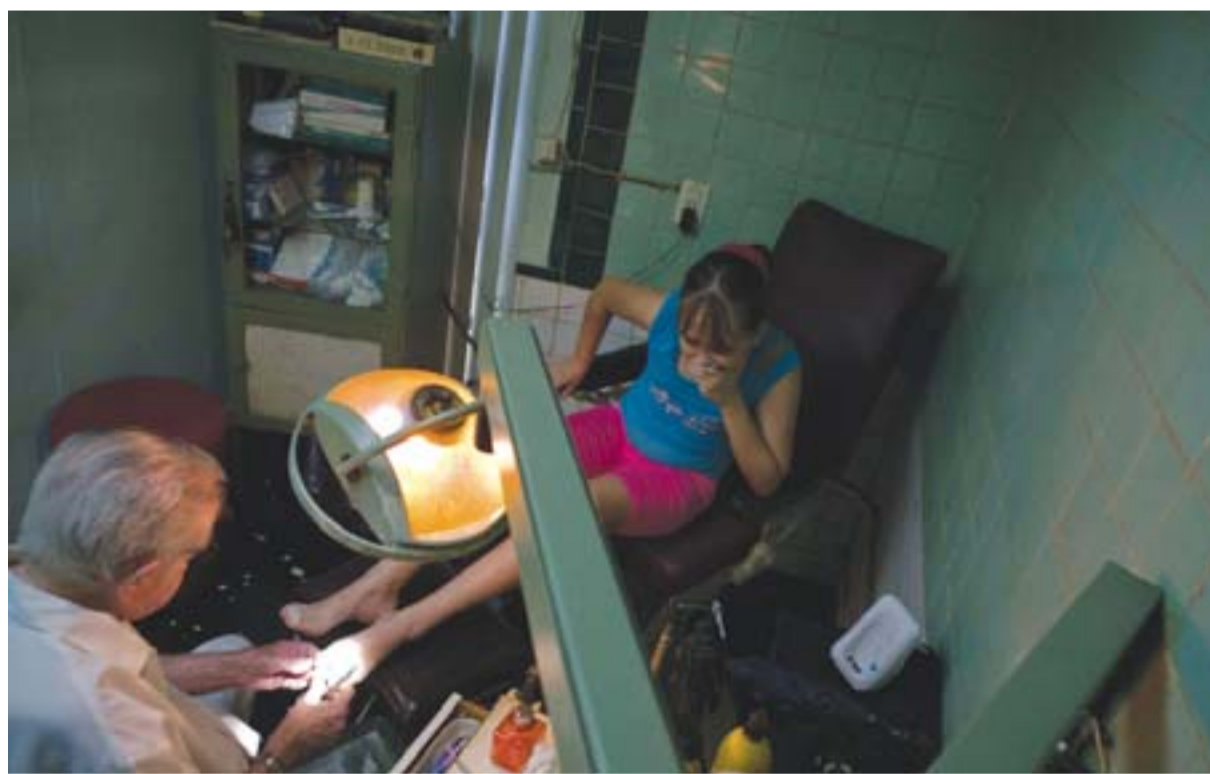
HAVANA: For a dollar, Cuban podiatrist Serafin Barca will spend a half hour cutting the corns off a senior citizen's foot, or nearly an hour removing a stubborn wart. The 80-year-old is among the last private medical workers in communist Cuba, which prides itself on its free, universal state health care and which has barred the creation of new private medical practices since 1963 - the year Barca graduated in his specialty after four years of study.

Barca is busy from morning until night treating patients frustrated with the inefficiency of the state system. "The service is of higher quality," Barca said. "If you get a patient and you don't treat them well ... you don't get them back." Some Cubans believe that allowing more private practices would improve services and help ease the state's burden, allowing it to concentrate on more complicated surgeries and treatments that require sophisticated technology. A growing number of Cubans in recent years have begun to complain about the quality of free medical services, which many say has been affected by doctors leaving on international health missions or moving to countries such as the U.S. in search of higher salaries and a better quality of life.

Martha Garcia, a 72-year-old retiree, has been visiting Barca for her foot problems for more than a decade. "I could go to the Policlinico, but I don't get the help I need when I've gone because they say they don't have the necessary equipment," she said of a free health clinic in Havana. She envisions private practices for optometrists, physiotherapists and others. "This would allow the state to take charge of more complex things," she said. Cuba continued to allow private medical practices for the first few years after the 1959 revolution. But as the country veered toward socialism and the health system was nationalized, about half of Cuba's doctors poured out of the country, leaving only about 5,000.

Significant source

The revolutionary government poured resources into health care, and there are now 70,000 doctors - many of whom serve on medical missions in other countries, which have become a significant source of income for the government. Only a handful of private practitioners remain because no new ones have been allowed in more than half a century. President Raul Castro has allowed the legal privatization of businesses ranging from cafeterias to masonries to hair salons, but professionals including doctors and



HAVANA, Cuba: Podiatrist Serafin Barca attends a patient in his clinic.

engineers, lawyers and architects have not been given the same opportunity. For now, there are no signs state authorities will expand that liberalization to the medical field, considered strategic by the government.

Officials have tried to raise awareness among Cubans about the value of its medical services, though. Posters at clinics across the island tell patients of the costs the government is paying: a consultation is \$1, an X-ray nearly \$4, an MRI \$32 and a gallbladder surgery \$36 - costs dramatically lower than in most nations due in part to the low salaries for medical workers, but still significant to Cubans, who on average make the equivalent of about \$20 to \$30 a month. Still, a few Cubans prefer paying for private treatment. Among them is Mayra Hernandez, a 55-year-old

hotel worker who said getting treated by Barca is worth paying for the bus trip to his office and the fee he charges.

"He's the best podiatrist in Havana and all of Cuba," she said, adding that she visited public clinics but was unable to get the treatment she needed. She said she'd been 10th in line at one when "the specialist came out and said, 'I have five scalps and that's it.'" Barca said he will continue to welcome patients into his crowded office as his health permits. He works four seven-hour days a week. "I like my profession," he said as he sat in his small office with worn seats and aging furniture that seemed frozen in time since the 1950s. "Everyone who had a private practice was allowed to work until they retired or died. I'll be here until I die." —AP

SHEEP POO MAKES NORWEGIAN CYCLISTS SICK

OSLO: Dozens of mountain bikers in a race in Norway have fallen sick most likely due to spray from sheep droppings on their path, Norwegian media reported yesterday. Of the 300 cyclists who took part in the Transosterdalen race at the end of June in southeastern Norway, at least 50 were struck with fever, stomach pain and diarrhoea in the days following the competition, according to public broadcaster NRK. "This is most likely a Campylobacter infection," race doctor Tor Halvor Bjornstad-Tuveng told NRK, referring to a bacteria which is present in the intestines of many animals.

He said material from the sheep droppings, which have decomposed during heavy rain and projected on the bikers' route, must have sprayed onto their bottles, faces and hands as they rode by. "In particular, if the faeces are fresh and in large quantities," Bjornstad-Tuveng said, "they can splatter on their bottles in such a way that they ingest it when they drink." —AFP

MALAYSIA HIT BY FIRST RABIES DEATHS IN ALMOST 20 YEARS

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysian children have died after contracting rabies, the country's first such deaths in almost two decades, officials said yesterday. A six-year-old girl and her four-year-old brother died Tuesday after becoming infected with the disease in a rural area on the Malaysian part of Borneo island. They were among three people confirmed to have been infected with rabies, which in most cases is transmitted via dog bites, according to Sarawak's local government and housing minister Sim Kui Hian.

"Two of the three confirmed cases... were pronounced dead," he said. "They were diagnosed to be brain dead and the parents have agreed for the life support to be withdrawn." He said the other patient was still "critically ill". Noor Hisham Abdullah, Malaysia's director general of health, told AFP that the cases were the first rabies-related deaths in the country in almost 20 years. Five villages in the Serian district of Sarawak state, which borders the Indonesian part of Borneo, are confirmed as having been affected by the outbreak. Enormous, jungle-clad Borneo is shared between Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Sim said health teams in Serian had visited 19 villages as of Tuesday and carried out checks on over 6,000 people. Only three cases of humans contracting rabies have so far been confirmed. Officials have ordered all dogs in the area to be vaccinated against rabies, reported state news agency Bernama. Rabies causes inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, and is almost always fatal once contracted, according to the World Health Organization. It mainly affects poor and vulnerable populations in rural areas, according to the WHO. —AFP

UK TURNS DOWN ITALY'S OFFER TO TREAT TERMINALLY ILL BABY

LONDON: Britain's Foreign Minister Boris Johnson told his Italian counterpart yesterday that legal reasons prevented the transfer to Rome of a critically-ill British baby due to be taken off life support. "Minister Boris Johnson expressed gratitude and appreciation for the Italian offer but explained that legal reasons prevent Britain from accepting it," a statement from the Italian foreign ministry read. Rome's Bambino Gesù hospital, a Vatican-run children's hospital, offered to treat 10-month-old Charlie Gard after Pope Francis said on Sunday that his parents should be allowed to "care for their child until the end".

But Britain's foreign ministry said Johnson had told Angelino Alfano, Italy's foreign minister, that "it was right that decisions continued to be led by expert medical opinion, supported by the courts, in line with Charlie's best interests". The parents of Charlie Gard, who suffers from brain damage, have been fighting to take him to the United States for an experimental treatment for his extremely rare form of mitochondrial disease, but lost their case in British courts and the European Court of Human Rights. The courts had ruled that keeping the baby on life support would only prolong his suffering as there was no hope of his recovering from the disease, which causes progressive muscle weakness, including in key organs such as the heart. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, which has been treating the baby, issued a statement on Friday following the European court's decision which did not specify when life support would be removed. The baby's plight has also attracted the attention of US President Donald Trump, who on Monday tweeted that the US "would be delighted" to help. Prime Minister Theresa May also waded into the debate yesterday after being questioned by a fellow MP in parliament. —AFP

'OUR CULTURE IS DYING': RISING WATERS MENACE MORE THAN LAND IN LOUISIANA

THIBODAUX, Louisiana: Louise St Pierre paints pictures of shacks and swamps on the insides of oyster shells - tiny scenes of Cajun culture she sees washing away amid the rising saltwater and periodic floods inundating southern Louisiana. "Our culture is dying," said St. Pierre, who lives in Lafourche Parish, where cypress trees are hung with lacy strands of Spanish moss and alligators lurk in bayous, the region's slow-moving swamp waterways. "It's not like it was."

People are moving away from the parish, or county, some 60 miles (97 km) southwest of New Orleans, faced with growing flood risks and unable to pay for insurance, which can reach thousands of dollars and is required by mortgage banks in high-risk

areas. Since Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, nearly 10 percent of Lafourche's population has left its southernmost end that is flood-prone and vulnerable to storm surges.

Attrition due to soaring insurance premiums is visible from the proliferation of "For Sale" signs on houses and boats, said Gary LaFleur, a biologist and faculty member at the Center for Bayou Studies at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. "No government is coming in and kicking people out, but all of a sudden the insurance rates are going up so high that it's like a slow economic way of leading to a ghost town," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Within 50 years the town is gone."

Lafourche has been home for centuries

to Cajuns who are descended from French-speaking settlers expelled in the 18th century from what is now Canada. Cajun culture is renowned for its spicy cuisine and lively traditional music. "It's a lifestyle, people, language - just the way you were brought up by your parents and grandparents," said St. Pierre. Traditions such as the blessing of the fleets in the bayous - once an annual ceremony for shrimpers and others - are dimming as the ranks of family-owned fishing boats dwindle, he said.

"When you see one shrimp boat and it's followed by five party boats, you think, aww, this isn't as cool as it used to be," he said. St. Pierre, known as Ms. Louise, sells her miniature Cajun paintings to customers

at craft shows. "They can send them to their nephew in New York and say, 'Hey, that is a part of our culture. Don't forget,'" she said.

Oil money

St Pierre, 65, learned French from her grandparents and meets each Tuesday night with fellow francophones, whose numbers are falling. Fewer than 14,000 people in Lafourche are native French speakers, according to the latest census figures, down from some 16,000 a decade earlier. And St Pierre cooks a mean Cajun meal. "I can make you gumbo and jambalaya, and do your etouffees and of course boiled shrimp and crawfish, fried oysters," she said. "And I love alligator tails." — AP



COLORADO CITY: This file photo shows Hildale, Utah, sitting at the base of Red Rock Cliff mountains, with its sister city, Colorado City, Ariz, in the foreground.—AP

2 DEAD FROM ECOLI OUTBREAK IN UTAH POLYGAMOUS COMMUNITY

SALT LAKE CITY: Utah health authorities were investigating Monday what triggered an E.coli outbreak in a mostly-polygamous community on the Utah-Arizona border after the bacteria killed two children and sickened four others. Early indications suggest the E.coli may be linked to contaminated food or exposure to animals - not the town of Hildale's water supply, said David Heaton, spokesman for the Southwest Utah Public Health Department. He said it appears isolated to one neighborhood. Heaton said he can't release the names or ages of the deceased children, or say if they are related, due to privacy concerns. He said they died in the past two weeks after getting hemolytic uremic syndrome, also known as HUS, which causes kidney damage. E.coli can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches or other symptoms.

Utah Department of Health spokeswoman Jenny Johnson said deaths from E.coli are pretty rare with an average of only one person a year dying from the illness in Utah, a state of about 3 million people. There are 80 to 100 cases per year in Utah of a strain of E.coli that have a toxin called Shiga that makes people sick, Johnson said.

The four other people who came down with E.coli in Hildale are children and adults but Heaton didn't have the exact breakdown. He declined to release their conditions but said they've all received medical care. The sister towns of Hildale, Utah and Colorado City, Arizona, are home to a polygamous group known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It is a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, which disavowed polygamy more than 100 years ago.—AP

STUDENTS CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE OVER PUBLIC SCHOOL MEAL DEBTS

SANTA FE, New Mexico: Teaching assistant Kelvin Holt watched as a preschool student fell to the back of a cafeteria line during breakfast in Killeen, Texas, as if trying to hide. "The cash register woman says to this 4-year-old girl, verbatim, 'You have no money,'" said Holt, describing the incident last year. A milk carton was taken away, and the girl's food was dumped in the trash. "She did not protest, other than to walk away in tears." Holt has joined a chorus of outrage against lunchroom practices that can humiliate children as public school districts across the United States rethink how they cope with unpaid student lunch debts.

The US Agriculture Department is requiring districts to adopt policies this month for addressing meal debts and to inform parents at the start of the academic year. The agency is not specifically barring most of the embarrassing tactics, such as serving cheap sandwiches in place of hot meals or sending students home with conspicuous debt reminders, such as hand stamps. But it is encouraging schools to work more closely with parents to address delinquent accounts and ensure children don't go hungry.

"Rather than a hand stamp on a kid to say, 'I need lunch money,' send an email or a text message to the parent," said Tina Namian, who oversees the federal agency's school meals policy branch. Meanwhile, some states are taking matters into their own hands, with New Mexico this year becoming the first to outlaw school meal shaming and several others weighing similar laws.

Free and reduced-price meals funded by the Agriculture Department's National School Lunch Program shield the nation's poorest children from so-called lunch shaming. Kids can eat for free if a family of four earns less than about \$32,000 a year or at a discount if earnings are under \$45,000. It's households with slightly higher incomes that are more likely to struggle, experts on poverty and nutrition say.



SANTA FE, New Mexico: Photo shows third grader Elliana Vigil punches in his student identification meal to pay for a meal at Gonzales Community School in Santa Fe.—AP photos



SANTA FE, New Mexico: Photo shows third grade student Lucas Jameson taps in his student identification number to deduct a meal payment at Gonzales Community School in Santa Fe.

District food service worker for students with severe physical and learning disabilities, grinds up complementary cheese sandwiches in a food processor to serve through feeding tubes to students who don't bring lunch and whose parents have not paid. "They're not able to complain too much," she said. "We should give them all the same food, and we should collect the money as much as possible."

Federal reimbursement rate

Texas recently adopted a temporary grace period for students to keep eating cafeteria food while debt payments are negotiated with parents. At the federal level, language has been proposed for next year's House appropriations bill that would set minimum standards to protect children from public embarrassment and leave them out of payment discussions. New Mexico's Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act was ushered through the Statehouse by Democratic Sen. Michael Padilla, who was raised in foster homes and vividly recalls having to sweep and mop the lunchroom

to earn meals at an Albuquerque public school.

"It's shouldn't be that way," Padilla said. "This should not have to be a thought for a child." Federal cash subsidies feed two out of three students statewide - yet meals still go unpaid, school administrators say. "The piece that is really different in this legislation is that you cannot turn a child away no matter what they owe," said Nancy Cathey, who oversees food services at Las Cruces Public Schools. That provision is likely to drive up the district's unpaid meal accounts, which recently totaled \$8,000, she said. The district previously declined to serve high school students who cannot pay and extended a \$25 credit to middle-schoolers. Most districts aim to keep meal costs close to \$3.20, the typical federal reimbursement rate for free lunches. The Albuquerque district is still weighing whether it can afford to serve the same hot meal to all students and do away with an alternative cold meal that has been nicknamed derisively the "cheese sandwich of shame."—AP

Students with no money

Children often bear the brunt of unpaid meal accounts. A 2014 federal report found 39 percent of districts nationwide hand out cheap alternative meals with no nutritional requirements and up to 6 percent refuse to serve students with no money. The debate over debts and child nutrition has spilled into state legislatures and reached Capitol Hill, as child advocacy groups question whether schools should be allowed to single out, in any way, a child whose family has not paid for meals.

"There's no limit to the bad behavior a school can have. They just have to put it in writing," said Jennifer Ramo, executive director of New Mexico Applesseed, an advocacy group on poverty issues. "We live in a credit society. I think schools should handle debt like everybody else does: You don't take away food from children. You feed them and you settle the bill later."

Spurred by Applesseed and others, New Mexico in April passed its anti-meal-shaming law, which directs schools to work directly with parents to address payments and requires that children get a healthy, balanced meal regardless of whether debts are paid on time. Elsewhere, the California Senate in May unanimously approved a bill that prevents schools from denying lunch if a parent or guardian has not paid. Thresa Thomas, a Los Angeles Unified School

WARS OF THE 'NOSES': DROUGHT THREATENS ROME'S ETERNAL DRINKING FOUNTAINS

ROME: Baking summer heat has forced Rome to close some of the drinking fountains known as "big noses", or "nasoni", that constantly gush fresh water on thousands of street corners, causing a public outcry. Hit by the soaring temperatures drying out southern Europe, the Italian capital has started turning off up to 30 of the 2,800 distinctive curved metal taps every day, dismaying Romans and prompting concerns homeless people would become dehydrated.

Brandishing a plastic bottle in the central Piazza Venezia, city resident Carmelo Teti asked, "How can you take away fresh water from tourists who walk and want to refresh themselves?" "When I go around I fill up this bottle with water because to buy mineral water costs and I cannot afford it," he said.

In a letter to Rome's mayor, Virginia Raggi, water company Acea blamed the "exceptional drought" for the tempo-

rary measure and said: "We are absolutely aware of the inconvenience that might be caused." The company said it was committed to replacing and fixing the city's decayed and ruptured pipes, which according to consumer group Codacons leak 40 percent of the water they carry.

Part of the plan is also to help limit the amount of water taken from picturesque nearby Lake Bracciano, whose sinking surface level has prompted a local campaign to protect it.

The Committee for the Defence of Lake Bracciano was critical, saying: "You won't save Lake Bracciano by leaving Rome's homeless thirsty," echoing a warning from the Red Cross. Environmental group Eco Italia Solidale said the "big noses" accounted for only 1 percent of Rome's water supply but helped in keeping sewers clean and watering plants in public places.—Reuters

HERBICIDE BOOST FOR TADPOLES: STUDY

PARIS: Maligned as a bee-killer and possibly cancer-causing, a common herbicide has turned out to be a boon for tadpoles making them more toxic to predators, researchers said yesterday. Common toad larvae exposed to glyphosate, used in the well-known herbicide Roundup, contained higher doses of bufadienolides-life-saving natural chemicals found in some plants and animals. Bufadienolides taste bad to put off potential tadpole diners, and can kill in large quantities.

"That environmental pollution can induce changes in bufadienolide production is relevant not only for toads but also for their predators," said study co-author Veronika Bokony of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. While some toad species are declining, she pointed out, others such as the Australian cane toad are invading new areas and disturbing established ecosystems.

"Thus, if some pesticides make toads more poisonous, this might alter predatory-

prey dynamics and the structure of natural communities in freshwater habitats," Bokony told AFP. Toads with more bufadienolides in their bodies are more toxic. Large Australian predators like crocodiles, for example, die from eating cane toads which are a large species and therefore contain more toxins.

For the experiment, Bokony and a team raised common toad larvae in water polluted with a glyphosate-based herbicide, and noted that the amount of bufadienolides in

their tiny bodies were elevated. "So these tadpoles became a more 'concentrated' source of bufadienolides compared to their siblings that were raised in clean water," said Bokony.

Glyphosates are widely used in agriculture, and pollute freshwater bodies that receive runoff from farms. The European Union will decide in December whether to renew the licence for glyphosate, which is produced by US agro-chemicals giant

Monsanto. Last year, Europe limited use of the herbicide for research, over fears that it causes cancer. The EU's chemical agency said glyphosate should be not be classified as cancer-causing.

But this is challenged by scientists and environmentalists who point to a finding by the International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic". The study was published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B.—AFP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال

M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



'AL-TIJARIA ELITE' CARD OFFERS EXCLUSIVE 15 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ZAFRAN INDIAN BISTRO

The Commercial Real Estate Company has recently signed an agreement with Zafran Indian Bistro restaurant which is located in Light Restaurants Complex - Mahboula, to offer 15 percent discount to all elite card holders.

Zafran Indian Bistro is an award-winning contemporary Indian restaurant that offers North - West Indian cuisine. Led by a team of highly-skilled and experienced chefs, Zafran's wide range of dishes are all made from fresh, high-quality ingredients and sea-

soned with home-ground spices. The specially designed menu is crafted with care and promises to delight its guest with the best of Indian cuisine capturing delicious and unforgettable flavors of the region. 'Al-Tijaria Elite' card was designed by the

company to add value to its client's services, enjoy special offers and discounts from outlets and restaurants located in various Al-Tijaria properties such as Al-Tijaria Tower, Symphony Style Hotel and Mall, Light Restaurants complex and other residential

and commercial properties. The Elite card application is available for download on both the android and iOS platforms and provides details of all the registered partners and the exclusive discounts they have to offer.



ESF MARKS 49 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The English School Fahaheel's (ESF) 49th Annual Graduation and Sixth Form Prize-giving was once again held with great fanfare at the Grand Hashemi Ballroom at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Graduates and hundreds of guests thoroughly enjoyed an evening that saw prizes handed out by Chief Guest renowned Kuwaiti artist and writer Thuraya Al-Baq sami accompanied by School Chairperson Jasmine

Shuhaiber. The evening was also attended by many special guests and parents. The evening commenced with the entry of the class of 2017 to a huge round of applause from the parents and guests. The Chairperson Shuhaiber spoke about progress the school has made and made a special tribute to the late Chairman Ibrahim Shuhaiber. A special souvenir was made to for Shuhaiber as

well as a special film shown during the event. Baqsami along with Chairperson Shuhaiber presented prizes to the Graduates followed by speeches by the Head Principal Russel Dunlop, Upper School Principal Stephen Dickens. Lower School Principal Claire Oraby presented the International Student Award to Year 12 student Kwangmin Nam. One of the highlights of the evening was the

musical interludes performed by year 13 student Kung mi Lee on the piano and the outstanding Robert Hao sang "Somewhere over the Rainbow". The Head Principal and Upper School Principal both spoke during the event of the outstanding principal Stephen Dickens in their speeches. Dickens also elaborated on the high percentage pass rates at ESF. A Special prize was then awarded to the Head boy Ali Majlesi and Head Girl Sara Shuhaiber by

the Indian Ambassador to the state of Kuwait Sunil Jain. A special French prize was awarded by Fredrique Asfar to the most deserving French language student Hagar Ghoneim. This year's International Student Award was presented to Fatima Al-Handal. The evening concluded with a photo opportunity for the Graduates and parents followed by a sumptuous dinner buffet for the guests.





Loyac celebrated Eid Al-Fitr with children at the Faour Refugee Camp in Lebanon, featuring participation from Syrian TV star Jamal Suleiman.



The National Union of Kuwait Students - Kuwait University Branch hosted an orientation meeting for new students this week, in cooperation with KU's Academic Guidance Department. An exhibition was also organized as part of the event.

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:55 Beneath
02:25 The Call Up
04:10 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
06:15 Rivers Nine
08:00 Savage Dog
09:35 The Call Up
11:10 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
13:10 Metro
14:50 Savage Dog
16:25 Echo Effect
17:55 The Tower
20:00 Blackhat
22:15 Gone In Sixty Seconds

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Cats 101
01:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Wildest Indochina
04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
05:02 Catching Monsters
05:49 Insane Pools: Off The Deep End
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
08:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
09:10 Wildest Indochina
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
11:55 Cats 101
12:50 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
13:45 Catching Monsters
14:40 Wildest Indochina
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Catching Monsters
17:25 The Lion Queen
18:20 After The Attack
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
21:05 The Lion Queen
22:00 After The Attack
22:55 Wildest Indochina
23:50 Catching Monsters

BBC FIRST

00:00 EastEnders
00:40 Poldark
01:35 Sherlock
03:05 Thirteen
04:05 Doctors

09:30 Man v Expert
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Quark
11:35 Quark
12:00 Quark
12:25 Quark
12:50 Quark
13:15 Quark
13:40 Quark
14:05 Quark
14:30 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Must Love Cats
16:10 Man v Expert
17:00 Mission Asteroid
17:50 Storm Chasers
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 Mission Asteroid
22:00 Mosquito
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:30 American Monster
01:20 Murder Calls
02:10 Murder Chose Me
03:00 Grave Secrets
03:48 A Crime To Remember
04:36 A Crime To Remember
05:24 A Crime To Remember
06:12 A Crime To Remember
07:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
07:50 Obsession: Dark Desires
08:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
09:30 Obsession: Dark Desires
10:20 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
10:45 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
11:10 I'd Kill For You
12:00 A Crime To Remember
12:50 A Crime To Remember
13:40 A Crime To Remember
14:30 A Crime To Remember
15:20 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
15:45 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
16:10 Love The Way You Lie
17:00 Beauty Queen Murders
17:50 Beauty Queen Murders
18:40 Beauty Queen Murders
19:30 Beauty Queen Murders
20:20 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
20:45 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
21:10 I Am Homicide
22:00 Murder Chose Me
22:50 Murder Book
23:40 Murder Calls



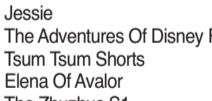
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 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 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 The Zhuzhus S1
08:10 Bizaardvark
08:35 Bunk'd
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:50 Best Friends Whenever
10:15 Liv And Maddie
10:40 How To Build A Better Boy
12:20 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 Bunk'd
17:55 Girl Meets World
18:20 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
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
20:35 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
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...

SAVAGE DOG ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

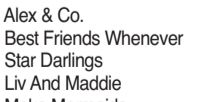
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 Call The Midwife
06:00 Father Brown
06:55 Doctors
07:25 EastEnders
07:55 New Tricks
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:40 Father Brown
10:30 Doctors
11:05 EastEnders
11:35 New Tricks
12:30 Call The Midwife
13:25 Father Brown
14:20 Doctors
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 New Tricks
16:15 Call The Midwife
17:10 Father Brown
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 New Tricks
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Agatha Raisin
21:50 Uncle
22:20 Uncle
22:50 Him & Her
23:25 New Tricks



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore 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 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 The Zhuzhus S1
08:10 Bizaardvark
08:35 Bunk'd
09:00 Stuck In The Middle
09:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:50 Best Friends Whenever
10:15 Liv And Maddie
10:40 How To Build A Better Boy
12:20 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 Bunk'd
17:55 Girl Meets World
18:20 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
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
20:35 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
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...



00:00 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Dive Wars Australia
01:50 Strip The City
02:35 Made By Destruction
02:57 Made By Destruction
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 Abandoned Engineering
09:00 Baggage Battles
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Dive Wars Australia
10:55 Strip The City
11:40 Made By Destruction
12:02 Made By Destruction
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 Ocean Warriors
21:50 Mosquito
23:05 Marooned With Ed Stafford
23:55 How Do They Do It?

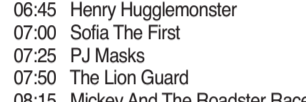


00:00 Man v Expert
01:20 Bondi Vet
02:10 Kings Of The Wild
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Must Love Cats
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made

23:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
23:35 Loloock
Disney Junior



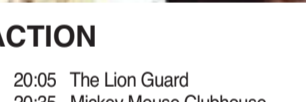
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 PJ Masks
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Micky 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 Micky And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 Goldie & Bear
11:50 Micky 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 Unbungalivable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Micky And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
16:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
17:05 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
17:35 The Lion Guard
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Micky And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates



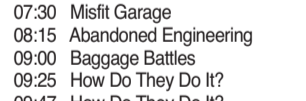
00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 WAGs
04:40 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 E! News
06:55 E! News
07:10 E! News
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News
12:15 Botched
13:10 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 E! News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 E! News
23:15 Second Wives Club



00:00 Chopped
01:00 The Great Food Truck Race
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
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 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
20:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Private Chef
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:15 Hustic Adventure Argentina
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Eat Street
01:40 A Is For Apple
02:05 What's For Sale?
02:35 What's For Sale?
03:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
03:30 Route Awakening
03:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:45 Poh & Co
06:15 Eat Street
06:40 Eat Street
07:10 A Is For Apple
07:35 What's For Sale?
08:05 What's For Sale?
08:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
09:00 Route Awakening
09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
10:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:15 Poh & Co
11:45 Eat Street
12:10 Eat Street
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 What's For Sale?
13:35 What's For Sale?
14:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
14:30 The Great Food Revolution
15:25 Route Awakening
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 Poh & Co
16:45 Poh & Co
17:15 Eat Street
17:40 Eat Street
18:10 This Is Brazil

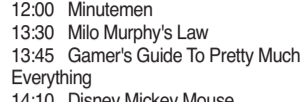


00:10 Pick Me!
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street



06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Supa Strikas
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Future-Worm!
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 Minutemen
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



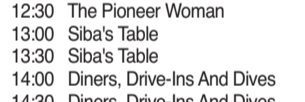
00:20 Detroit Steel
01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Storage Wars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Alone
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 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Detroit Steel
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
21:50 Lost Worlds
22:40 Time Team
23:30 American Pickers



00:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 WAGs
04:40 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 E! News
06:55 E! News
07:10 E! News
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News
12:15 Botched
13:10 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 E! News
20:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 E! News
23:15 Second Wives Club



00:15 Hustic Adventure Argentina
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Eat Street
01:40 A Is For Apple
02:05 What's For Sale?
02:35 What's For Sale?
03:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
03:30 Route Awakening
03:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:45 Poh & Co
06:15 Eat Street
06:40 Eat Street
07:10 A Is For Apple
07:35 What's For Sale?
08:05 What's For Sale?
08:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
09:00 Route Awakening
09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
10:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:15 Poh & Co
11:45 Eat Street
12:10 Eat Street
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 What's For Sale?
13:35 What's For Sale?
14:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
14:30 The Great Food Revolution
15:25 Route Awakening
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 Poh & Co
16:45 Poh & Co
17:15 Eat Street
17:40 Eat Street
18:10 This Is Brazil



00:10 Pick Me!
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street

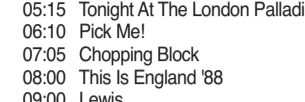


00:20 Storm Cats
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Croc Ganglands
02:50 Unlikely Animal Friends
03:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
04:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
05:35 Croc Ganglands
06:30 Unlikely Animal Friends
07:25 World's Weirdest (2015)
08:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
09:15 Extreme Animals
10:10 Secrets Of The Wild
11:05 Dead Or Alive
12:00 Blitzkrieg Sharks
12:55 Ultimate Predator
13:50 Rescue Ink
14:45 Incredible Gulpers
15:40 Born Wild (2017)
16:35 Wild Case Files
17:30 Secrets Of The Wild
18:25 World's Deadliest
19:20 Incredible Gulpers
20:10 Born Wild (2017)
21:00 Wild Case Files
21:50 Secrets Of The Wild
22:40 World's Deadliest
23:30 Blitzkrieg Sharks



00:20 My 600lb Life
01:50 Botched Up Bodies
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Little People, Big World
03:42 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddler's Tiaras: Coach Wars
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Cake Boss
07:07 Cake Boss
07:30 Sweet 15: Quinceañera
08:15 Little People, Big World
08:37 Little People, Big World

02:30 Chopping Block
03:25 This Is England '88
04:20 Lewis
05:15 Tonight At The London Palladium
06:10 Pick Me!
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 This Is England '88
09:00 Lewis
10:00 Tonight At The London Palladium
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 When Phillip Met Prince Philip
16:55 Royal Stories
17:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
17:50 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Chopping Block
21:00 When Phillip Met Prince Philip
21:55 Royal Stories
22:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:20 Detroit Steel
01:10 Forged In Fire
02:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Lost In Transmission
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Storage Wars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Alone
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 Lost In Transmission
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Detroit Steel
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
21:50 Lost Worlds
22:40 Time Team
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Hustic Adventure Argentina
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Eat Street
01:40 A Is For Apple
02:05 What's For Sale?
02:35 What's For Sale?
03:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
03:30 Route Awakening
03:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
04:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
05:45 Poh & Co
06:15 Eat Street
06:40 Eat Street
07:10 A Is For Apple
07:35 What's For Sale?
08:05 What's For Sale?
08:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
09:00 Route Awakening
09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
10:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
11:15 Poh & Co
11:45 Eat Street
12:10 Eat Street
12:40 A Is For Apple
13:05 What's For Sale?
13:35 What's For Sale?
14:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
14:30 The Great Food Revolution
15:25 Route Awakening
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 Poh & Co
16:45 Poh & Co
17:15 Eat Street
17:40 Eat Street
18:10 This Is Brazil



00:20 Storm Cats
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Croc Ganglands
02:50 Unlikely Animal Friends
03:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
04:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
05:35 Croc Ganglands
06:30 Unlikely Animal Friends
07:25 World's Weirdest (2015)
08:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
09:15 Extreme Animals
10:10 Secrets Of The Wild
11:05 Dead Or Alive
12:00 Blitzkrieg Sharks
12:55 Ultimate Predator
13:50 Rescue Ink
14:45 Incredible Gulpers
15:40 Born Wild (2017)
16:35 Wild Case Files
17:30 Secrets Of The Wild
18:25 World's Deadliest
19:20 Incredible Gulpers
20:10 Born Wild (2017)
21:00 Wild Case Files
21:50 Secrets Of The Wild
22:40 World's Deadliest
23:30 Blitzkrieg Sharks



00:20 Storm Cats
01:10 Monster Fish
02:00 Croc Ganglands
02:50 Unlikely Animal Friends
03:45 World's Weirdest (2015)
04:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
05:35 Croc Ganglands
06:30 Unlikely Animal Friends
07:25 World's Weirdest (2015)
08:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
09:15 Extreme Animals
10:10 Secrets Of The Wild
11:05 Dead Or Alive
12:00 Blitzkrieg Sharks
12:55 Ultimate Predator
13:50 Rescue Ink
14:45 Incredible Gulpers
15:40 Born Wild (2017)
16:35 Wild Case Files
17:30 Secrets Of The Wild
18:25 World's Deadliest
19:20 Incredible Gulpers
20:10 Born Wild (2017)
21:00 Wild Case Files
21:50 Secrets Of The Wild
22:40 World's Deadliest
23:30 Blitzkrieg Sharks



00:10 The Unbeatables
01:55 Ghost Squad
03:25 Step Dads
04:55 The Unbeatables
06:40 D3: The Mighty Ducks
08:25 Ghost Squad
10:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
11:30 Step Dads
13:15 Rio
15:00 Minions
16:35 Hotel Transylvania 2
18:05 Joe Princess
19:45 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
21:15 Minions
22:50 Rio



01:20 Break Point
03:00 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot
04:40 Father Of The Bride Part II
06:35 Under The Tuscan Sun
08:35 Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot
10:05 Father Of The Bride Part II
11:55 Under The Tuscan Sun
13:50 The Gult Trip
15:25 Yoga Hosers
16:55 Hope Springs
18:35 You Again
20:25 Dirty Work
22:00 Neighbors
23:45 Bad Words



INVICTUS ON OSN MOVIES HD

19:05 Route Awakening
19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:00 Poh & Co
20:30 Poh & Co
21:00 Eat Street
21:30 Eat Street
22:00 This Is Brazil
22:55 A Is For Apple
23:20 What's For Sale?
23:50 What's For Sale?

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

01:00 Jamesy Boy
03:00 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
05:00 East Side Sushi
07:00 La Bamba
09:00 Fort McCoy
11:00 I Am Bolt
12:55 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
14:45 Foreverland
16:30 No God No Master
18:15 Swing Kids
20:15 Manglehorn
22:00 The Revenant

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:20 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
02:50 Two Buddies And A Badger
04:20 Robosapien: Rebooted
06:00 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
07:10 Paws
08:35 Marco Macaco
09:55 Catcher: Cat City 2
11:30 Bamsse And The City Of Thieves
12:40 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
14:00 Outback
15:30 Marco Macaco
16:50 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
18:10 Blue Elephant 2
19:50 Outback
21:20 Paws
22:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote

CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/07/2017 TO 12/07/2017)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	11:30 AM	SHARQIA-3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:30 AM	SHARQIA-2 DESPIicable ME 3
12:00 PM	DESPIicable ME 3	12:00 PM	DESPIicable ME 3	12:00 PM	DESPIicable ME 3
12:30 AM	DESPIicable ME 3	12:30 AM	DESPIicable ME 3	12:30 AM	DESPIicable ME 3
1:00 AM	THE MUMMY	1:00 AM	THE MUMMY	1:00 AM	THE MUMMY
1:30 AM	THE MUMMY	1:30 AM	THE MUMMY	1:30 AM	THE MUMMY
2:00 PM	THE MUMMY	2:00 PM	THE MUMMY	2:00 PM	THE MUMMY
2:30 PM	THE MUMMY	2:30 PM	THE MUMMY	2:30 PM	THE MUMMY
3:00 PM	THE MUMMY	3:00 PM	THE MUMMY	3:00 PM	THE MUMMY
3:30 PM	THE MUMMY	3:30 PM	THE MUMMY	3:30 PM	THE MUMMY
4:00 PM	THE MUMMY	4:00 PM	THE MUMMY	4:00 PM	THE MUMMY
4:30 PM	THE MUMMY	4:30 PM	THE MUMMY	4:30 PM	THE MUMMY
5:00 PM	THE MUMMY	5:00 PM	THE MUMMY	5:00 PM	THE MUMMY
5:30 PM	THE MUMMY	5:30 PM	THE MUMMY	5:30 PM	THE MUMMY
6:00 PM	THE MUMMY	6:00 PM	THE MUMMY	6:00 PM	THE MUMMY
6:30 PM	THE MUMMY	6:30 PM	THE MUMMY	6:30 PM	THE MUMMY
7:00 PM	THE MUMMY	7:00 PM	THE MUMMY	7:00 PM	THE MUMMY
7:30 PM	THE MUMMY	7:30 PM	THE MUMMY	7:30 PM	THE MUMMY
8:00 PM	THE MUMMY	8:00 PM	THE MUMMY	8:00 PM	THE MUMMY
8:30 PM	THE MUMMY	8:30 PM	THE MUMMY	8:30 PM	THE MUMMY
9:00 PM	THE MUMMY	9:00 PM	THE MUMMY	9:00 PM	THE MUMMY
9:30 PM	THE MUMMY	9:30 PM	THE MUMMY	9:30 PM	THE MUMMY
10:00 PM	THE MUMMY	10:00 PM	THE MUMMY	10:00 PM	THE MUMMY
10:30 PM	THE MUMMY	10:30 PM	THE MUMMY	10:30 PM	THE MUMMY
11:00 PM	THE MUMMY	11:00 PM	THE MUMMY	11:00 PM	THE MUMMY
11:30 PM	THE MUMMY	11:30 PM	THE MUMMY	11:30 PM	THE MUMMY

FMCG REQUIRES

- 1- Sales Supervisor – Key Accounts**
- Indian National
- Experience in Hyper & Super Markets (FMCG)
- 2- Executive Secretary**
- Indian National
- 10 years' Experience in (FMCG)
- 3- Purchasing Officer**
- 5 years' Experience in (FMCG)
- Valid driving license
- 4- Van Salesman**
- Valid Health Card
- Valid Driving License

Please send you CV to:
 Fax: 22479555
 e-mail: export@barakadates.com

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:19
Shorook:	04:54
Duhr:	11:53
Asr:	15:27
Maghrib:	18:51
Isha:	20:22

Looking for Kitchen Assistant !

FEMALE
 Visa 18 transferable
 Willing to work as Kitchen Assistant
 Lighter kitchen work!
 Attractive salary
 Send us your CV by e-mail:
 Workpkwait@gmail.com
 or Whatsapp: 94466302

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Thursday 6/7/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 6/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	239	Amman	12:25
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	JZR	871	Dubai	12:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	12:55
KAC	102	London	00:15	RBG	556	Alexandria	13:00
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	BBC	144	Dhaka	13:10
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	JZR	1540	Cairo	13:10
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	MSR	2615	Cairo	13:40
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	PIA	240	Sialkot	13:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	MSC	502	Alexandria	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	JZR	502	Luxor	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	SVA	503	Jeddah	14:15
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	14:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	515	Riyadh	14:20
RJA	1464	Amman	01:45	MSC	412	Asyut	14:20
THY	1462	Istanbul	01:50	THY	773	Istanbul	14:25
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	677	Dubai	14:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	14:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	SAI	442	Lahore	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	THY	765	Istanbul	14:55
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:25	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
MEA	406	Beirut	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:35	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:30
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	MEA	407	Beirut	03:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	PGT	831	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
JZR	1543	Cairo	04:45	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	938	Kochi	04:50	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
FEF	931	Alexandria	05:00	FEF	934	Sohag	05:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	Cairo	773	Riyadh	06:35
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	Bahrain	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:00
BAW	157	London	06:05	JZR	238	Amman	07:05
KAC	294	Dubai	06:20	FDB	070	Paris	07:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	167	Dubai	07:15
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:50	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	QTR	8512	Doha	08:05
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	177	Vienna	08:25
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	513	Tehran	08:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	JZR	256	Beirut	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	117	New York	09:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	561	Amman	09:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	IRA	691	Muscat	09:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	672	Ahwaz	09:35
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	482	Istanbul	09:40
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
AHY	5101	GYD	10:15	KAC	101	London	09:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:20	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	THY	521	Al Najaf	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	UAE	804	Damascus	11:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:15	ABY	214	Bahrain	11:05
				MEF	5105	GYD	11:15
				MEF	405	Beirut	11:55

CROSSWORD 1652



ACROSS

1. Belonging to some prior time.
5. Small birds resembling warblers but having some of the habits of titmice.
12. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
15. A master's degree in library science.
16. Any tumor derived from cells of the nervous system.
17. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
18. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
19. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
20. The sign language used in the United States.
21. A quantity of no importance.
22. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
24. Greek mythology.
26. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
28. One of the islands of Saint Christopher-Nevis.
30. Author of satirical attacks on medieval scholasticism (1494-1553).
34. A city in western Germany near the Dutch and Belgian borders.
38. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
39. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
41. Posing no difficulty.
42. A city in central Georgia southeast of Atlanta.
44. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
46. Goddess of dawn.
47. A soft silvery metallic element.
48. Any of various small short-tailed rodents of the northern hemisphere having soft fur gray above and white below with well-furred tails and large ears.
50. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
51. A man who is much concerned with his dress and appearance.
53. The residue that remains when something is burned.
54. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
55. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
58. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
60. A minute epidermal pore in a leaf or stem.
63. A Loloish language.
65. Milk thickened with a butter and flour roux.
67. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
72. Having or given a name or title.
75. A convex molding having a cross section in the form of a quarter of a circle or of an ellipse.
76. Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
77. Of or relating to or characteristic of Asia or the peoples of Asia or their languages or culture.
79. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
80. Late time of life.
81. Shape anew or differently.
82. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.

DOWN

1. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
3. Wearing or provided with clothing.
4. The act of escaping physically.
5. A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
6. That is to say.
7. A branch of the Tai languages.
8. An utterance expressing pain or disapproval.
9. United States actor (born in Hungary) noted for playing sinister roles (1904-1964).
10. A graphical record of electric currents associated with muscle contractions.
11. A narrow headband or strip of ribbon worn as a headband.
12. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
13. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
14. Offering fun and gaiety.
23. A gay feeling.
25. Travel up, "We ascended the mountain".
27. Cuban dancer and choreographer (born in 1921).
29. British informal term.
31. Lower in esteem.
32. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
33. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
35. The arrangement of the hair (especially a woman's hair).
36. A parliamentary monarchy in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.
37. An antifungal and antibiotic (trade names Mycostatin and Nystan) discovered in New York State.
40. New Zealand timber tree resembling the cypress.
43. Ill-mannered and coarse and contemptible in behavior or appearance.
45. The syllable naming the fifth (dominant) note of any musical scale in solmization.
49. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
52. A verbal commitment by one person to another agreeing to do (or not to do) something in the future.
56. (India) Usually in combination.
57. Immature of its kind.
59. Established by or founded upon law or official or accepted rules.
61. A member of the Mongolian people of central Asia who invaded Russia in the 13th century.
62. (Canadian) A half-breed of white and Indian parentage.
64. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
66. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
68. A whetstone made of fine gritstone.
69. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
70. The process of becoming softened and saturated as a consequence of being immersed in water (or other liquid).
73. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
74. A depression in an otherwise level surface.
78. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your inner resources and emotions are accented now. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. Perhaps you feel this is really you. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. A conservative streak sets you against anything that is not realistic. This is a good time to practice any new techniques of problem-solving rather than reverting to the past. Also, it is an excellent time to learn how to take better care of your own development. You tend to be radical when it comes to self-analysis and this is good. Serving and caring for yourself and others are primary sources of inner growth. Careful-you may be ultrasensitive to criticism today. Forget your worries and whistle a happy tune this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your enthusiasm for the mind, the intellect and the world of ideas makes it easy for you to communicate to others as you educate yourself. You have no trouble in expressing yourself with meaning and understanding. You would make a fine entertainer or speaker. You are driven to manage and control projects. You have an urge to be practical. Your career motivation is constant and relentless. This evening, group or community work seems to hold your attention. Anything that is altruistic or serves the common good is where you can be found. You would be a perfect group leader, where your love for humanity could blossom. You strive to make your dreams real. A fun pastime activity is available this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are born to love and care for others and may tend to worry overmuch. Your fear of not making a difference in this lifetime can be alleviated by your hard work and by jumping in with both feet and putting your thoughts into action. You must have done some real thinking and planning over the last few days because today is one of emotional beginnings, a fresh start or perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns. A new attitude! Everything conspires to value and bring out your unique and unusual qualities. This is a very lucky day for finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You feel that you are able to solve problems easily. Teachers come in all sorts of shapes and forms-today a teacher will impart good advice.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You tend to be creative and original in your work and career-managing to bring new ideas and spontaneity to bear. You have high ideals and an ability to enchant others with your words and images. Your presence has a way of easing things, helping those around you let go of any differences and stand behind what unites us all. You may be drawn to spiritual authorities, teachers and older persons at this time. All that is mystical and transcendental is your appointed territory. You will probably relate this to others in the work field through your attitude more than through your words. Your attitude of acceptance from the past has changed to a more positive one and it is catching to all that are around you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You find that you can really use your mind to make clear choices and think things through. You eagerly work through problems that come to your attention. Career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You make your way through ideas and concepts with the ability to communicate and express them to others. This is a time of sudden insights into some of the most sensitive and vulnerable areas of your inner self and psychology. There are possibilities of emotional beginnings, a fresh start, perhaps the establishment of new habit patterns. You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand that you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. Later there will be time for play.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may appear to be very easygoing today. Everything seems to be working together for you. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form-a firm foundation. Everyone wants a piece of you and this can result in your needing more space, a chance to be alone. You can be the immovable object that others find irresistible and sometimes selfish. You radiate energy and information and have to just accept the fact that people like to feel your warmth. Your ability to bring people together could result in a community effort that brings about good communication as well as pleasant opportunities to have an open forum.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are at your mental best and should find yourself making decisions and taking care of business with a great deal of ease. Your sense of responsibility is so well developed that you may end up managing whatever situation you become involved with today. This is not because you are controlling, but because you are good at your job. You are good at getting others to work with and for you. There could be a bit more serious air to this day. You may want to make a conscious effort to see the lighter side of the projects you are working on now in order to relieve any stressful situations. You can really psych up a group in order to sway the attitude from negative to positive or to motivate. An older member of your family could use your help tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others-the support and cooperation you need is available. When it comes down to taking care of business, you can really shine. Others may think you are older than you are, for you tend to assume an authoritarian stance. You may even enjoy the thought of being older and probably treat authority, the elderly and your teachers with great respect, if not reverence. You may be asked to help a newcomer or take a young person under your guidance this afternoon. There is time this evening to look at cars-if you are in the market for one. Now may be the time to test run a hybrid car.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Who controls what and how to make sure you get what you want are foremost concerns at this time. A need to prove your abilities can lead to all kinds of challenges. Learning, communicating and the exchange of ideas are the experiences you crave as a new life phase begins. You are a person with something to say and you realize that others have information essential to your goals. This is a time of much mental energy and initiative-perhaps with an element of conflict tossed in for good measure. Being more in touch with other people gives you a sense of belonging. You will pass along some of your good financial tips to a friend this evening. Inspiration comes through some great purpose, some extraordinary project at this time.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You enjoy working with your mind and enjoy looking for solutions to the worst problems. You like to solve puzzles and dilemmas, yours or others. Your skills in this regard make you an expert at counseling and guiding others. You could be guiding others in finding solutions to business problems today-the energies are available. Your fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make legal work a distinct possibility. Speaking and writing are naturals. You have a need for lots of variety, a change of pace. Perhaps this evening is a time to think and study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. Be prepared for company-you could soon be spending time with a friend from long ago. Good memories, pictures and laughter fill the air.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are a stimulating influence. Others learn from your insights. With regard to politics, some may even change their voting opinions after conversing with you. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student, able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. You may be involved with some form of continued education, teaching or studying economic reports today. Your ambitions go in perfect sync with the way your plans are unfolding. You seem to shine when it comes to practical matters or those involving career. Ideas, words, books, etc., are pursued with great gusto. You are very motivated, with a strong drive to do and accomplish. Tonight you can retire early to the sounds of music.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a great time to make any plans that will require decisive action to accomplish. Joint planning sessions move along at a good pace and any differences of opinion can be worked out. Business and recreational travel is favored at this time, as are outdoor sports. A yearning for the stimulation of new ideas and ideals is emphasized now. New friends and an involvement in idealistic groups take on greater importance; the old is suspect and the new seems to hold all the answers. Sexual needs are among the life issues emphasized for you at this time. There is an instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control. This could lead to a greater interest or experience in healing and investing and in the great mysteries of life and death.

WORD SEARCH

Happy New Year

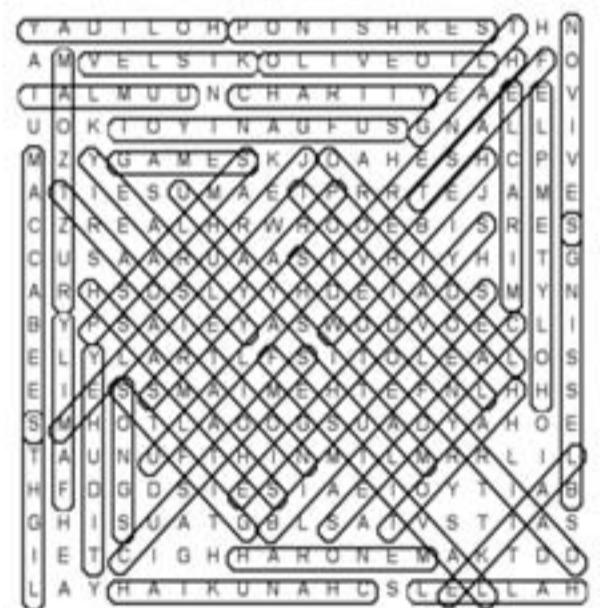
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.



- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | HATS | PARADES |
| BABIES | END OF DECEMBER | HOLIDAY | PARTY |
| BALLOONS | EVENTS | HORNS | PUNCH |
| BANNERS | FAMILY | KISS | RESOLUTIONS |
| BUFFET | FATHER TIME | MIDNIGHT | SINGING |
| CELEBRATE | FEAST | MUSIC | STREAMERS |
| CHAMPAGNE | FESTIVITIES | NEW YEARS DAY | THIRTY FIRST |
| CONFETTI | FIREWORKS | NEW YEARS EVE | TSAIAS |
| DANCE | FIRST OF JANUARY | NOISEMAKERS | WINE |
| DAY ONE | FRIENDS | OCCASION | YEAR IN REVIEW |

Yesterday's Solution

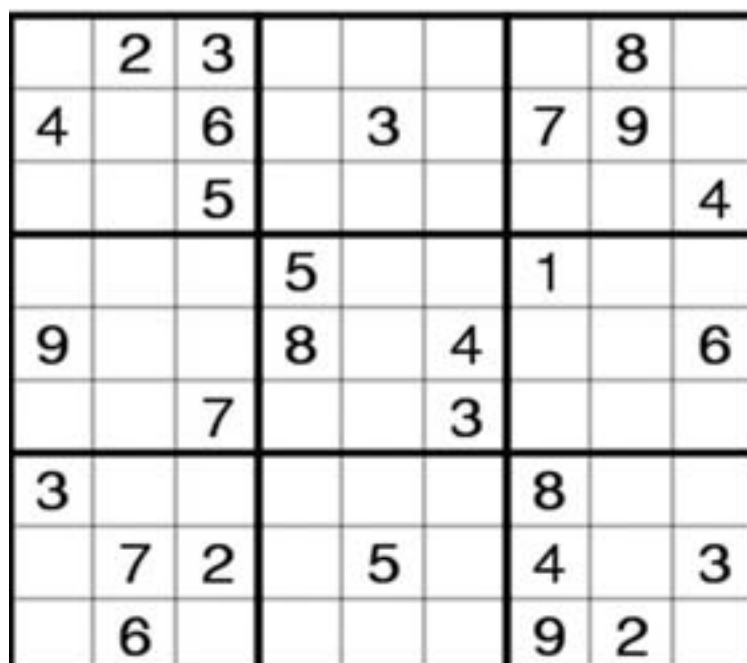
Hanukkah



- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| BMUELOS | FESTIVAL | LATKE | PSALMS |
| BLESSINGS | GAMES | LEVIVOT | SEVIVON |
| CANDLES | GELT | LIGHTS | SHAMASH |
| CHANUKAH | GIFTS | MA'OT TZUR | SONGS |
| CHARITY | HALLEL | MACCABEES | SUPGANIVOT |
| CUSTOMS | HANEROT HALALU | MATSYAHU | TALMUD |
| DAIRY FOODS | HEBREW | MENORAH | TORAH |
| DREIDEL | HOLIDAY | MIRACLE | TRADITION |
| EIGHT DAYS | HOLY TEMPLE | OLIVE OIL | YEARLY |
| FAMILY | JERUSALEM | POINTS/SHAKES | YEHUDIT |
| FEAST | KISLEV | PRAYERS | |

The hidden message is: HANUKKAH IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY THAT LASTS EIGHT DAYS

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	Fahaee 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	Pakistan	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 05/07/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr
Max Temperature 48 °C

By Day: Very hot and with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.
By Night: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southerly wind changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	Very hot and	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Very hot	Hot
Min Temp °C	32	33	31	30
Max Temp °C	47	46	47	46
Wind Direction	northerly westerly changing to variable	variable changing to south easterly	south easterly	south easterly to northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 32	10 - 35	15 - 40	12 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	38	46		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	32	48		
ABDOLY	30	49		
BUBYAN	31	38		
JAHRA	36	49		
FAJLAKA ISLAND	31	42		
SALMIYAH	34	39		
AHMADI	37	38		
JAL ALIYAH	34	48		
QAROH ISLAND	31	36		
UHM AL-MARADEM	30	37		
NUWAZIB	31	46		
WAFRA	31	48		
SALMIY	32	47		
MUTRIBA	32	49		

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	46
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	45
Min Rel Hum (%)	09
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:53
Sunset	18:51

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:19
Sunrise	04:53
Zuhr	11:52
Aer	15:26
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:23



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip 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. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
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



Photo shows Seneca Rocks rises behind the Monongahela National Forest Discovery Center in eastern West Virginia. — AP photos



Climber Phil Brown from Saranac Lake, NY, starts up the three-sided chimney just above the well-known Skyline Traverse at Seneca Rocks, W.Va.



Guide Adam Happensack crosses the Old Ladies Traverse, a foot-wide ledge high on the east face of Seneca Rocks and among its easiest routes in West Virginia.

West Virginia peaks draw experienced climbers and novices

The pale ridge rises like the ragged fin of a prehistoric fish in a rolling green sea of low forested mountains in eastern West Virginia. Massive and intimidating, the craggy landscape of Seneca Rocks draws serious rock climbers from Washington, Pittsburgh and elsewhere to its fiercely vertical routes. The mountaintop, which can be reached without technical climbing gear, once hosted American combat troops training to fight in Italy's Apennine Range during World War II.

Despite its daunting appearance, guides say this is a good place to introduce novices to a challenging but manageable ascent. "It lends itself to mellow climbing," said Adam Happensack, who led a threesome of mixed skill levels to the summit recently. "It's like the coolest exposure you'll get for this grade of climbing." From the Monongahela National Forest Discovery Center terrace, through a binocular scope, you can watch climbers nearly a half-mile (nearly a kilometer) away ascend the west face. The peak rises 900 feet (274 meters) above a fork of the Potomac River below. Visitors can splash in the river, hike forest trails and stay in campgrounds or an old motel. The nearby hamlet has two combination general stores and restaurants.

Technical climbing

Seneca Rocks viewed from the ground spears the sky with its gray quartzite, but becomes more intimate and breathtaking on the way to the top. You hear the birds and soft thrum of the wind through the hardwood forest, and occasional yells from climbers to partners belaying them on safety ropes. Happensack led climbing partner Phil Brown and me up a seven-pitch patchwork of easy routes to the top, including the Skyline Traverse. Many handholds and steps were obvious jugs of rock. No pitches were rated higher than 5.4 in the Yosemite Decimal System for technical climbing that ranges from 5.1 to nearly impossible 5.15.

One well-known feature is that traverse with little more than a few steps around a rock column into a three-sided chimney with obvious holds. However, the first moves require stepping over about a 100-foot (30-meter) drop. "It's like the scariest thing a beginner can get into," said Happensack, who has taken many first-timers up the route. He cautioned that those initial footholds are worn and slippery from decades of boots and climbing shoes. It took me a long, slow, breathless minute to follow him:

testing the leaning traverse across the space, trying to grip the narrow crack on one side and fumble toward something to hold on the other with arms spread wide; trusting that the slightly smooth step below wouldn't simply slide you into space. The safety rope attached to my climbing harness was somewhat reassuring.

'I had a moment'

This is what climbers call exposure - where there would be a high risk of injury or even death from a false step without protection. You have to trust the rope and go. Brown, who followed me, has climbed for a decade in the Adirondacks and did this traverse once before. "Wow," he said, when he joined us at the top of the chimney where Happensack belayed him. "Cool."

The next day Brown led me up Old Man's Route. Rated only 5.3 for difficulty, it consists mostly of what looks like a giant stairway along the cliff face ending in a 50-foot (15-meter) vertical corner to the summit ledge. At the base, 33-year-old Lindsey Enterline, pregnant with her first child, prepared to do it with a friend. A climber for seven years and a runner, her obstetrician told her to keep doing what

she was doing but not start anything new. She'd chosen the easy route instead of the harder climb her husband and other friends from Hershey, Pennsylvania, took on.

"I've done the route before, and it's one that I won't fall sideways - or do the traverse," she said. "I just make sure it's safe. And you have to have cool trust in the people you're climbing with." Another young woman, on her first climb, mounted the corner farther up, kept on a tight rope by the experienced partner who coached her on finding holds. She ascended with only one or two hesitations. She'd fallen farther down the mountain, but was caught on the rope and kept climbing. "I had a moment," she said with a smile. With no trail to walk down, Seneca Rocks climbs end in rappelling on ropes threaded through a device on your harness that creates friction and slows the descent. "That was scarier than the climb up," the novice said. Other sites that draw climbers to the state include the New River Gorge and Summersville Lake, where cliffs lean out over the water not far from the gorge. — AP

'Jaws' downs 72 hot dogs in 10 minutes to win US holiday eat-fest

Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, a competitive eater, talks like any other athlete. Conditioning is key for pushing the body to its limit, the 33-year-old Californian says. He certainly stretched that limit on Tuesday, downing 72 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes at the annual wiener-eating contest on New York's Coney Island, a tradition that marks every Independence Day holiday in the United States. Chestnut won the competition for the 10th time and improved on the speed-eating tally he posted last summer.



Joey Chestnut, left, and Matt Stonie compete in the Nathan's Famous Hotdog eating contest Tuesday in Brooklyn, New York. — AP photos

In the 2016 edition of the eat-fest at the Nathan's Famous beachside hot dog stand-it began way back in 1916 -- Chestnut wolfed down 70 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes to win the title. His personal record-and the world record-is 73.5 dogs and buns in 10 minutes, but that came during a qualifying round rather than an actu-

al contest. After Tuesday's victory, organizer George Shea praised Chestnut as if he were a warrior returning from a distant battlefield.

"He is an American hero. He stands as a representative of freedom, of the American ideal," said Shea to the 30,000 people who turned out to watch the competition. Chestnut spoke of himself in more measured language. "I am just a goofy dude who likes to eat. I am a lucky guy, to travel around the world and eat and make people smile," he told reporters. And Chestnut-who began eating competitively in 2005 in an asparagus-munching contest-does in fact want to get better for next year.

"I need to work on my condition so I don't sweat as much, because it slowed me down. I'll figure it out. I'll make my body work better. I have to figure out my body so I can push it to the absolute limit," said Chestnut. America is famously fat, with obesity affecting some one in three adults. So the hot dog contest is perhaps not a great example of healthy habits. Nor is it easy to watch. The rules allow the 18 competitors to soak their hot dogs and buns in water to make them easier to choke them down. Using their fingers, they slammed the frankfurters back into their mouths and leaned their heads back to help the food ooze its way south.

Besides the 30,000 on hand to watch the event, many more took in the spectacle on TV. Sports network ESPN carried it live for the 11th straight year. The event is overseen by a federation called Major League Eating, which holds about 80 such competitions each year in a season that runs from February to September. There are separate bouts for men and women. Tuesday's female winner was Miki Sudo, who ate 41 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes. — AFP



Women compete during Nathan's Famous Hotdog eating contest Tuesday in Brooklyn, New York.



In this photo, snow-covered Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, spews lava during an eruption seen from the Sicilian village of Pozzillo, Italy.

A road trip through Sicily is a trip across centuries

Sicily sits at the toe of Italy's boot, just 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the mainland, at its closest point, and a short ferry ride from the town of Messina. But our gateway to Sicily was on the other side of the island, flying into the capital Palermo. We have holidayed in Italy before, but now with my partner and our 6-year-old daughter Kitty in tow, and two weeks at our disposal, we were ready for a road trip. Sicily's size, culture, food and weather make it an enticing destination.

Located in the Mediterranean, Sicily has been of strategic importance from ancient times. The Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Saracens and Normans are just a few of the civilizations that invaded, each leaving their mark. A rainy day led us to Palermo's Royal Palace. Construction began in the ninth century during the Arab era, and it was later expanded by the Normans, invaders from northern France, who assimilated designs of the Islamic and Byzantine courts that preceded them. Sicily's Arab-Norman architecture is on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The jewel of the Royal Palace is the Palatine Chapel built in Byzantine style with lavish golden mosaics of saints, Arabic patterns and a wooden muqarnas-style ceiling - a type of ornamented vaulting often associated with Islamic domes. Sicily's Opera dei Pupi, which dates to the 19th century, features wooden puppets in tales of medieval chivalry and battles. Some of the opera's puppets, and others from around the world, are on display at the International Museum of Marionettes. An in-house show stars Orlando, a medieval knight who must rescue his beloved Angelica from a legion of Saracens. Parents, be warned: It is a rather violent plot (though our daughter loved it), with the hero slaying dozens of marionettes, which ended up in heap on the tiny stage. Some lost their heads, one lost its face.

A few days later we were sitting on the terrace of our hotel in Taormina, on the island's northeast coast, enjoying the sunshine, when Mount Etna, Europe's tallest active volcano, emerged from behind clouds and appeared to float, emitting two white plumes from its snow-covered summit. Taormina is Sicily's plush resort, more Capri than Naples, with an ambiance that recalls "La Dolce Vita." Audrey Hepburn, Ingrid Bergman, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor are just a few of the famous names who have stayed here. The resort's main attractions are the ancient Greek theater and a cable car that takes you down to a rocky promontory called Isola Bella.

Baroque buildings

Our quest to circumnavigate the island led us next to Syracuse on Sicily's south eastern corner. We stayed in Ortigia (Ortigia), a small island which was once the historic center of the city, connected to the mainland by two bridges. Syracuse's

main cathedral, il Duomo, is built on the site of a Greek temple. The original Greek columns, which can still be seen, were incorporated into a church in the seventh century. A massive earthquake in 1693 devastated much of the region and many towns were rebuilt in a late baroque style, which became known as Sicilian Baroque. Syracuse's Duomo is a good example and we also visited the nearby town of Noto, also famous for baroque buildings. Even if you're not a fan of the opulent style, it's fascinating how Sicily's history can be explored through its architecture.

In the middle of the island's southern coast, a road leads to the Valley of the Temples near Agrigento, an ancient Greek and UNESCO World Heritage site with seven temples dating to the sixth century B.C. We visited two, the Temple of Juno (also known as Temple of Hera) and the Temple of Concordia. Concordia, which was eventually turned into a church, is considered one of the world's finest surviving examples of a Greek temple. Our road trip through Sicily had taken us across the island and through history. But a winged bronze figure lying languidly outside the temple dozed in the sun as it has for centuries, oblivious to the stream of picture-taking tourists and to the passage of time. — AP



Photo shows the Temple of Concordia in the Valley of the Temples, in Agrigento, Sicily, Italy. — AP photos

FASHION



A picture taken on July 4, 2017 shows a replica of the Eiffel Tower as part of the set for the Chanel 2017-2018 fall/winter Haute Couture collection at the Grand Palais in Paris. — AFP photos

CHANEL AIMS HIGH WITH STARRY 'EIFFEL TOWER' PARIS SHOW



Paris' Mayor Anne Hidalgo awards the Grand Vermeil De La Ville De Paris medal to German fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld after Chanel 2017-2018 fall/winter Haute Couture collection.

The ever-audacious Karl Lagerfeld proved he is still nimble when it comes to putting on a fashion show. The 83-year-old had a 46-ton Eiffel Tower recreated inside the Grand Palais for the pleasure of his Chanel couture celebrity guests. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo returned the love by presenting him with the city's highest honor. Here are some highlights from the fall-winter 2017 shows Tuesday at Paris Haute Couture Week.

Eiffel Tower in the Grand Palais Hall

"Does it go through the roof?" asked a bemused fashion insider, pointing at the ceiling of the Grand Palais exhibition hall in Paris. It was a fair question. The 38-meter (125-foot) replica of Paris' most iconic monument that greeted Chanel's couture guests seemed to extend past the famed hall's glass roof thanks to the illusion of swirling clouds created by steam. Back at ground level, celebrities including Julianne Moore, Katy Perry, Kristen Stewart, Pharrell Williams and Tilda Swinton were shown to metal seats in real sand and gravel.

"It's extraordinary to come into the Grand Palais, which is awesome at the best of any time, but to stand under the tower Eiffel is extraordinary. Only Chanel," Swinton said. The wood-and-steel tower, which took workmen six weeks to make, was a stunning piece of craftsmanship. It copied nearly beam for beam the columns and metal twists of the edifice made by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 Universal Exhibition.

to black frofrou gowns that evoked the paintings of Robert Delaunay. Their frothy, flower embellishments at the hem gave the silhouette a vibrant dynamic. Mini-dresses in tweed, retro bateau collars and bows under the bust mixed in a dash of the 1960s. High-high boots added a hint of contemporary provocation.

Lagerfeld honored by Paris

The German-born Lagerfeld was awarded Paris' highest honor - the "La Medaille Grand Vermeil" - by Mayor Anne Hidalgo for service to the city he's called home for seven decades. And there was perhaps no better site for such an award than beneath a replica of the Eiffel Tower. "Paris gives you its thanks and its love through this Grand Silver Gilt medal ... which is our city's highest award," Hidalgo said in front of a celebrity audience, including models Claudia Schiffer and Cara Delevingne. "From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Paris loves you. You are Paris."

Lagerfeld, a contemporary of the late fashion icon Yves Saint Laurent, has been at the forefront of Paris fashion since the 1960s, designing for Chloe before taking over Chanel in 1983. Although he doesn't see himself as French, the designer professed his love for the City of Light. "I am a foreigner and I intend to stay a foreigner because foreigners see Paris and France through a different eye," he said, accepting the award. "And when you are not French, you look without nationalism or patriotism... Long live Paris."



British model and actress Cara Delevingne.



US actress Kristen Stewart.



German model Claudia Schiffer.



US singer Katy Perry (left) and US singer Pharrell Williams.

Chanel goes turn-of-the-century

The dawn of the 20th century - the period following the Eiffel Tower's construction - was the creative touchstone for Chanel's wintry-looking couture. The first model strode out in sunlight filtered by wrought-iron columns to set the tone of the graphic, steel-colored collection. She wore a wide-hipped, charcoal gray coat with exaggerated leg-of-mutton arms - styles that harkened to the Belle Epoque period.

This clever historic musing continued with flattened bowler hats and black patent lace-up ankle boots popular before World War I. Flourishing bouquets of plumes then shot out from wrists, ankles and shoulders in evening wear. "In this collection, there are feathers treated like fur," Lagerfeld explained. But the designer relied on myriad references for a show whose one unifying theme might have been simply the Parisienne.

"It's a vision of a revived Parisian woman. It is all about cut, shapes, silhouettes," he added. Signature tweed jackets were reimagined as long tunics, or cropped and double-breasted. Then it got arty. Mechanical Art Deco motifs gave a 1920s flair

Giorgio Armani Prive

Kate Winslet, Isabelle Huppert, Priyanka Chopra and Italian cinema icon Sophia Loren led the front row at Giorgio Armani Prive's demure yet playful collection. As ever, it was classic glamour. The leitmotif of small cone hats and sensual face veils gave the silken 61-piece show a feel for the theatricality of the 1920s. Large black neck ruffs evoked a harlequin. And a black cape with fuchsia floral embroideries was conceived by the fashion legend in gargantuan proportions - visually overpowering the model's body.

But Armani's fall-winter couture silhouette was all about the chest. An open menswear tuxedo jacket with peaked shoulders exposed the flesh underneath. Elsewhere, a neckline on a pale blue top plunged daringly and was given a tasteful lift with a brooch detail under the bust. Beautiful black gowns in organza and satin - with huge full skirts - also exposed the shoulders and the chest.

Alexis Mabille's Vintage Couture

The fashion history books seemed to have been consulted on more than one occasion ahead of this season's couture - with age-old styles wafting in the Parisian air. French fashion designer Alexis Mabille headed for the 1860s to produce a short but beautifully executed collection of silk gowns.

Old gold, shimmering white, pale blue, purple and silver brought to life the archetypically "couture" styles rendered in yards of pleated silk fabric, embroidery and thick sumptuous layering. As was the style in the mid-19th century, gowns came adorned with all the trimmings. Ruffled sleeves met cascading layers that formed different sections in a wedding cake style. Ribbons were tied around the midriff, and tassels hung off waist-binding belts. The sumptuous designs might have suited Scarlett O'Hara or any belle of the ball. — AP



British actress Tilda Swinton.

FEATURES



Models present creations for Chanel during the 2017-2018 fall/winter Haute Couture collection in Paris.

Guinean former fashion model digs into west African mining

Leaving behind chic gowns and catwalks to stomp in the mud in heavy work boots, Guinean former fashion model Tiguidanke Camara has made herself west Africa's first woman mine owner. In the small forest village of Guingouine, in the west of Ivory Coast, Camara runs a team of 10 geologists and labourers who are probing the soil for gold deposits.

She readily wades into a mucky pond to help take laboratory samples. "When I was a model, I showed off for the jewellers. They have licences in Africa to provide their precious stones," says Camara amid a swarm of gnats, still youthful and trim in her 40s. She does not recall any macho male resistance to her rise in an industry almost devoid of women, though bemused men have been prompted on occasion to ask whose assistant she might be.

"When it got too much one day, I had to produce my CEO's ID badge!" she protests mildly. Camara says that modeling for jewelry firms "roused my curiosity. I started to ask myself questions. What if African men or women took charge of business in the mining sector?" "I'm the answer to that question," declares the entrepreneur, who has been ranked by France's weekly *Jeune Afrique* among the 50 most influential businesswomen of Francophone Africa. Inspired to join forces, she and a number of other women last year created an association of Women in the Mining Network of Ivory Coast (Femici by its French acronym), while Camara is also seen as an example to village girls.

'We lack everything'

Camara had to dig deep into savings-earned on runways for big international fashion labels and jewelry brands and in promoting the wares of luxury design houses to launch her Tigui Mining Group in 2010 and acquire two licenses to prospect for gold in her homeland. Then last year she followed up with a mining concession to look



TMG Tigui Mining Company owner Tiguidanke Camara speaks during an interview in Guingouine.

for gold in Ivory Coast, which she has turned into "my base in west Africa". "I'm the owner of a mining company that belongs to me 100 percent," says Tigui's founder, stressing that she is a continental rarity, "apart from South Africa, where there are other women bosses, but mostly in partnerships."

In Guingouine, inhabitants have started to dream of the big changes that could benefit the village if the site proves to be rich in gold and a mine is opened. "Guingouine means happiness (in the local Yacouba language), but we lack everything," says village chief Alphonse Doh, clad in his traditional blue and white robe. "The school of six classes is a shed without electricity. Women in labor have to be taken in wheelbarrows 10 kilometers (six miles) to the nearest health center," Doh explains. For the chief, opening a mine could transform the lives of thousands of people. Apart

from the potential economic gains, he also hopes that Tiguidanke Camara may serve as a successful role model in a region where more than 80 percent of girls are illiterate.

In the meantime, the "mining lady" has encouraged the women of the village to form a cooperative, providing them with agricultural equipment and two solar panels. "We are very pleased with this cooperation," says Elise Kpan, who runs the Women of Guingouine association. The cooperative has enabled villagers "to place their farming produce on the market easily and to make money".

'Future growth sector'

The mining sector, dominated by the production of manganese (two mines) and gold (five mines) has been growing for a decade in Ivory Coast. Current activity accounts for five percent of the gross domestic product of the country, which also has diamonds, iron, nickel, bauxite and copper. Women are poorly represented in Ivorian mining, where they account for just 112 of some 6,000 jobs directly involved in the sector and about 400 of the 30,000 connected secondary jobs.

Concerned women have bonded to improve this state of affairs. The newly launched Femici association pools the resources of women professionals as diverse as geologists, drivers of heavy industrial vehicles, lawyers and environmental specialists. "Mining activity is a future growth sector that will attract many women," says Christine Logbo-Kossi, director of the Professional Group of Mines in Ivory Coast, the only employers' organization in the industry, founded in 2008. "If I flourish in the mining sector, it's because I have benefitted from the welcome that men gave me," Camara says. Asked what quality most helps women succeed in business, she is quick to say: "Passion." — AFP



TMG Tigui Mining Company owner Tiguidanke Camara (second right) and her employees search for gold and other minerals in a sandbank in the forest of Guingouine.



Employees of TMG Tigui Mining Company owned by Tiguidanke Camara (second right) search for gold and other minerals in a sandbank in the forest of Guingouine, a small town in the Logouale locality, near Man, western Ivory Coast. — AFP photos



Models present creations by Giorgio Armani during the 2017-2018 fall/winter Haute Couture collection in Paris.

FEATURES



Models present creations by Elie Saab during the 2017-2018 fall/winter Haute Couture collection in Paris yesterday.



Lebanese fashion designer Elie Saab acknowledges applause after the presentation of his Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2017/2018 fashion collection presented in Paris, yesterday.



Where to travel this summer!

By Real Fouz

Summer has finally arrived and it's time to start planning your summer destinations! For me, summertime is all about taking a step back from all the work and stress I have going on and focusing on myself and the things that I love to do. Traveling to new places and exploring different cities is something I really love and something that really makes me happy. With our day to day routines, we can sometimes forget to appreciate the little things in life, but traveling can change your perspective on people and the world and make you enjoy all the little things which is one of the reasons why I enjoy it so much!

If you are stuck on where to travel this summer, I've gathered a few of my top summer 2017 destinations.

1. Bodrum, Turkey

Bodrum is one of my favorite getaways during the summer time! The beautiful beaches, amazing scenery and delicious food... it's everything you need all in one place. There's a lot of

beautiful historic architecture to see there and old towns to explore. It's one of my top recommended places, I really love it there!

2. London, UK

I just got back from a short trip to London with my good friend Dana Al-Tuwaish. London is always one of my favorite city breaks! I love going there for a few days to enjoy the nice summer weather, do some shopping and fulfill my cravings with their endless amazing restaurant choices. There's so much to do there so I always enjoy spending a few days there and enjoying the beautiful city!

3. Casablanca, Morocco

Morocco has been at the top of my list of places I want to visit for a while now and I'm finally planning on making it happen this summer. I've heard Casablanca is a really cool city to visit! It's a mix of French and Arab culture which I think is such an interesting mix and it's filled with beautiful buildings and amazing archi-

ture. You can also explore the ancient cities which have a lot of history or take a trip to their beautiful deserts, there's something for everyone and that's why I can't wait to visit them!

4. The French Riviera

The French Riviera is known for its glamour and beauty and it is really a glamorous place. There's so much to see in the South of France and it is a beautiful summer destination. They have amazing world class resorts and beautiful villages and towns, the whole vibe there is amazing. I love the little boutique restaurants and cafes and the fashion is also so unique. There's something so special about The French Riviera and I think everyone needs to experience this beautiful place. It's also an amazing location for exploring the underwater world too and it's really popular to snorkel or scuba dive there so if that's something you're interested in, definitely check it out!

Hope you guys have an amazing summer 2017, happy vacationing!



Lifestyle

Chanel aims high with starry 'Eiffel Tower' Paris show

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017

37



Fireworks explode over the National Mall as the US Capitol (right) and National Monument are seen on July 4, 2017, in Washington, DC. — AFP

Museum exhibits lowrider cars, the artwork they've inspired

Lowrider cars these days are far more than tricked-out automobiles with gravity-challenged rear suspensions and ear-rattling exhaust systems that seem to cry out for police to ticket the drivers. In their finest format, they have morphed into museum-quality works of art, appearing in shows around the world from Paris' Louvre to Washington's Smithsonian. But while museumgoers have learned to appreciate these creatures that sprang from the garages of American teenagers in the years after World War II, lowrider historian Denise Sandoval says the eye-popping, airbrushed paintings, plush interiors and chrome-plated wheels and engines that have come to define them have quietly fomented something more - a new genre of contemporary art.

It's a genre Sandoval hopes to expose to a wider audience through "The High Art of Riding Low," a wide-ranging exhibition of lowrider-inspired fine art including paintings, sculptures, serigraphs, photographs, drawings and, of course, automobiles created by the world's most accomplished Chicano artists. The show, which opened Monday and runs until next June, is the third lowrider exhibition that Sandoval, a Chicano studies professor at California State University, Northridge, has curated at Los Angeles' Petersen Automotive Museum since 2000.

Artistic inspiration and art object

Like previous shows, it features its share of some of the finest lowrider cars created, among them Jesse Valadez's "Gypsy Rose," which was encased in glass for display on Washington's National Mall earlier this year when it was inducted into the US Historic Vehicle Register. The long, sleek Chevrolet is bathed in bright pink and covered with intricately painted roses running from front tire to taillight. Other cars in the LA exhibit radiate a rainbow of colors, including some with murals of beautiful women, landscapes and skeletons repre-

sented Dia de Muertos, the Latino holiday honoring loved ones who have died.

But placed right alongside these V-8-powered treasures are dozens of paintings and other museum works created by such prominent gallery artists as Gilbert "Magu" Lujan and Frank Romero, who form half of the contemporary art world's Los Four, the first Chicano artists group to have a showing at a major institution, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in 1974. "Basically we're focused on looking at the lowrider car as both artistic inspiration and art object," says Sandoval, explaining how this show differs from earlier ones. "We're taking artists from the museum gallery world and merging them with lowrider artists. So we're bringing these two worlds together."

It's an effort perhaps best exemplified by the contrast found upon first coming face-to-face with the late Valadez's stunningly colorful, intricately detailed "Gypsy Rose," parked just outside the gallery hall's entrance, and then entering the hall itself to see the other works. "That car is like the ultimate zero of lowriding. You know what I mean? It all starts with 'Gypsy Rose,'" says lowrider and artist Albert de Alba Sr, whose El Rey, three-time winner of Lowrider Car of the Year, is also on display. Inside the gallery, it all continues with a variety of stunning works in various media.

There is Lujan's acclaimed "Journey to Aztlan" painting showing a lowrider cruising across California's desert toward the mythical land of the Aztec people. Nearby is another large acrylic-on-canvas work, this one by Jaime "Germs" Zacarias and paying tribute to Lujan as it shows the late artist's own lowrider car ascending toward the heavens as it's driven by a friendly dog, a character Lujan featured frequently in his work.

'Gypsy Rose'

The actual car, a 1950 Chevy coupe that Lujan named "Our

Family Car" because it really was, is also on display. Seeing it up close allows a view of its contrasting scenes of Aztec-style paintings throughout and the multicolored flames embellishing its sides. The result makes the car appear as a hybrid lowrider-hot rod, something Sandoval says the artist was going for. The "Gypsy Rose" is also paid tribute to, by mixed-media artist Justin Favela's colorful, life-sized "piata" replica constructed from paper and suspended from the ceiling.

Other paintings, drawings, photographs and serigraphs show lowrider street scenes from around the US Southwest, illustrating what Sandoval has long maintained: that while places from Espanola, New Mexico, to East Los Angeles have claimed to be the birthplace of lowriding, it appears to have sprung up spontaneously across the Southwest during the post-war years. Caught up in the second-generation of that lowriding culture was de Alba, son of a lowrider who learned his airbrush painting skills from his father and applied them to the 1963 Chevrolet Impala he named El Rey.

The sparkling, candy-apple-red lowrider - with its gleaming chrome wheels, gold engine, etched chrome silver manifold and its stunning murals under the hood and trunk lid - is one of the show's signature pieces. Although El Rey has been displayed in Japan and Germany, the modest de Alba, who customizes cars for a living, says even he was caught off-guard to learn it would appear alongside works by some of the most prominent contemporary artists. "That, to me, was mind-blowing," he said. "I was like, 'Wait a minute.' And they go, 'It's an art form, and you're an artist.' It was a very humbling experience." — AP



Photo shows "El Muertorider," a customized 1968 Chevrolet Impala by Artemio Rodriguez and John Jota Leanos, is displayed during an exhibition titled "The High Art of Riding Low".



Photo shows the interior of "El Rey," a customized 1963 Chevrolet Impala by Albert de Alba, Sr., during an exhibition titled "The High Art of Riding Low".



Photo shows "Gypsy Rose Pinata" by Justin Favela is displayed during an exhibition titled "The High Art of Riding Low".



"Our Family Car," a customized 1950 Chevrolet Sedan by Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, is displayed during an exhibition titled "The High Art of Riding Low" at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.



In this photo, "El Rey," a customized 1963 Chevrolet Impala by Albert de Alba, Sr, is displayed during an exhibition titled "The High Art of Riding Low" at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. — AP photos



Photo shows the interior view of Jesse Valadez's "Gypsy Rose," a customized 1964 Chevrolet Impala.