

Kuwait proceeds with privatization program



Clashes as Kashmir marks key anniversary



23 Egyptian soldiers killed in deadliest Sinai attack in years



Epic Lions, All Blacks series ends in sensational draw



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UK URGES ARAB STATES TO END QATAR BOYCOTT

JOHNSON WELCOMES KUWAITI MEDIATION IN GULF CRISIS



Min 30°
Max 43°
High Tide 00:57 & 11:14
Low Tide 05:48 & 19:44

122 NATIONS ADOPT TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

UNITED NATIONS: A global treaty banning nuclear weapons was adopted at the United Nations on Friday despite opposition from nuclear powers Britain, France and the United States which said it disregards the reality of dealing with international security threats such as North Korea. The treaty was adopted by a vote of 122 in favor with one country - NATO member The Netherlands - voting against, while Singapore abstained. None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons - the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel - took part in the negotiations or the vote.

Even Japan - the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945 - boycotted the talks as did most NATO countries. Loud applause and cheers broke out in a UN conference hall following the

vote that capped three weeks of negotiations on the text providing for a total ban on developing, stockpiling or threatening to use nuclear weapons. Within hours of its adoption, the United States, Britain and France rejected the treaty and said they have no intention of joining it.

"This initiative clearly disregards the realities of the international security environment," said the UN ambassadors from the three countries. "This treaty offers no solution to the grave threat posed by North Korea's nuclear program, nor does it address other security challenges that make nuclear deterrence necessary," they said in a joint statement. North Korea marked a worrying milestone in its drive to develop nuclear weapons when it tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile this week.

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with British counterpart Boris Johnson yesterday. — AFP

KUWAIT: British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson yesterday urged Arab states to end their Qatar boycott, downplaying the odds of a military escalation in the worst crisis to grip the Gulf in years. Johnson met with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah yesterday and was scheduled to visit Qatar later in the day. "What people need to see is de-escalation and progress towards tackling the funding of terrorism in the region, and progress toward an end to this blockade," Johnson said, voicing support for Kuwait as a mediator in the crisis.

Johnson, who also held talks in Saudi Arabia on Friday, said it was "highly unlikely" that the current standoff would descend into military conflict. "Everybody I have talked to said the opposite. No possibility of a military confrontation," he said. "The blockade is unwelcome and we hope there will be a de-escalation," he added.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain last month announced the severing of all diplomatic ties with Qatar over allegations the emirate bankrolled Islamist extremists and had close ties to Saudi's archrival Iran. On June 22, they issued a 13-point list of demands, including downgrading ties with Iran and shutting down broadcaster Al-Jazeera, as a prerequisite to lift the sanctions, which include the closure of Qatar's only land border and suspension of all flights to and from the country. Doha has refused to comply with the demands and denies accusations of ties to Islamist groups.

Kuwait has been leading mediation efforts to resolve the crisis that is threatening the existence of the 36-year-old Gulf Cooperation Council. Kuwaiti officials have held talks with the foreign ministers of Germany and fellow Gulf Cooperation Council member Oman, which has not joined the Qatar boycott. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is scheduled to arrive in Kuwait tomorrow for talks on the Gulf crisis. — AFP

TRUMP VS THE REST AT VIOLENT G20

US LEADER WINS CLIMATE, TRADE CONCESSIONS

HAMBURG: World leaders made concessions on trade and climate language to Donald Trump yesterday at the end of the most fractious and riot-hit G20 summit ever, in exchange for preserving a fragile unity of the club of major industrialized and emerging economies. In a departure from final summit declarations that tend to outline consensus on issues that range from fighting terrorism to financial governance, the extraordinary conclusions this year spelled out differences on core issues.

It acknowledged Trump's decision to go his own way on taking the United States out of the 2015 Paris climate accord and clearly stated Washington's wish to continue using and selling fossil fuels that are a

main driver of global warming. The declaration also stated for the first time the right of countries to protect their markets with "legitimate trade defense instruments" - wording that essentially gives Trump wiggle room to push on with his "America First" policy.

Trump, carried to the White House on a wave of public fury over deindustrialization in vast areas of the United States, had launched "Buy American" and "Hire American" campaigns. The nationalistic stance has set him on collision course with many of America's allies, who warned Trump against an isolationist path and starting a round of trade war.

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TRUMP, PUTIN IN 'ROBUST' FIRST MEETING AT G20

HAMBURG: US President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin engaged in a "very robust exchange" over claims Moscow meddled in America's elections, during their first face-to-face talks Friday at the G20 summit. From the outset of the blockbuster encounter, the US property tycoon fired the key question that has weighed on his presidency, pressing the ex-KGB agent "on more than one occasion" on the vote interference claims, said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was in the meeting.

But Tillerson's counterpart Sergei Lavrov quickly added that Trump "accepted" Putin's denial of Moscow's role in propelling him to the White House, after hearing the Russian out. Over the course of two hours and 15 minutes of talks that covered not only the damaging claims but also a slew of global crises including the Syrian war, the two leaders clearly engaged, said Tillerson.

"Let me characterize: The meeting was very constructive, the two leaders I would say, connected very quickly," said Tillerson, adding "there was a very clear positive chemistry between the two." "There are so many issues on the table... Just about everything got touched upon... Neither one of them wanted to stop," he said. "I believe they even sent in the (US) First Lady at one point to see if she could get us out of there, but that didn't work either... We did another hour. Clearly she failed!"

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Members of Syrian pro-government forces take selfies by Lake Assad, the enormous reservoir created by the Tabqa dam, at a water pumping station which they captured near the village of Dibsi Faraj, at the entrance of Raqqa province and adjacent to areas taken by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) yesterday. — AFP

SYRIA TRUCE TO ALLAY ISRAEL, JORDAN FEARS ABOUT IRAN

AMMAN: A separate truce for southern Syria, brokered by the US and Russia, is meant to help allay growing concerns by neighboring Jordan and Israel about Iranian military ambitions in the area, including fears that Tehran plans to set up a disruptive long-term presence there. Such apprehensions were stoked by recent movements of Shiite militias - loyal to Iran and fighting alongside Syrian government forces - toward Jordan's border with Syria, and to another strategic area in the southeast, close to where the two countries meet Iraq.

The advances are part of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's push to regain territory from rebel groups, some backed

by the West, in the southern Daraa province, and from Islamic State extremists in the southeast, near the triangle with Iraq. But Syria's neighbors suspect that Iran is pursuing a broader agenda, including carving out a land route through Syria that would create a territorial continuum from Iran and Iraq to Lebanon.

The ceasefire for southern Syria, set to start at noon today, is meant to keep all forces pinned to their current positions, said Jordan's government which participated in the talks. This would prevent further advances by forces under Iran's command, including Lebanon's Hezbollah militia.

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HAMBURG: US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit on Friday. — AFP (See Page 8)

UNESCO PUTS HEBRON ON ENDANGERED LIST

WARSAW: UNESCO on Friday declared the Old City of Hebron a Palestinian world heritage site in danger, sparking outrage from Israel which said the decision denied a Jewish claim to an ancient burial cave that is also sacred to Muslims. The Tomb of the Patriarchs, known to Muslims as the Ibrahimi Mosque, is venerated by members of both faiths as the gravesite of the biblical patriarch Abraham (PBUH), his son Isaac (PBUH) and grandson Jacob (PBUH).

The UN's cultural arm voted 12 to three - with six abstentions - to grant heritage status to the core of the ancient city in the occupied West Bank, which is home to more than 200,000 Palestinians and a few hundred Jewish settlers who live under heavy Israeli military protection. "Just inscribed on @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List & World Heritage in Danger List: Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town," the organization said on its official Twitter feed.

The vote drew a sharp denunciation from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who described it as "another delusional decision by UNESCO", while the United States announced it would review its ties with the agency. "This time they ruled the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron is a Palestinian site, meaning not a Jewish site, and that it is in danger," Netanyahu said incredulously, speaking in Hebrew in a video posted online.

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley meanwhile termed the decision an "affront to history". The US stopped funding UNESCO in 2011 after it admitted the Palestinians as a member-state, but it remains a member of the body's 58-member executive board. Brought by the Palestinians, the resolution declared Hebron's Old City to be an area of outstanding universal value. The resolution was fast-tracked on the basis that the site was under threat,

with the Palestinians accusing Israel of an "alarming" number of violations, including vandalism and damage to property. The Palestinian foreign ministry hailed Friday's decision a "success" for its diplomatic efforts that came "despite a frantic Israeli campaign spreading lies and distorting the facts about the Palestinian rights."

Israel has long accused the United Nations of inherent bias against it and there have been a number of disputes at the organization, where Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas has sought to take the battle for statehood. In May, UNESCO passed a resolution condemning Israel's role as the "occupying power" in annexed east Jerusalem in another decision slammed by Israel which sees the entire city as its unified capital. Hebron claims to be one of the oldest cities in the world, with its origins

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HEBRON: A picture taken on June 29, 2017 shows an Israeli border guard walking by outside the Ibrahimi Mosque in the heart of this divided city in the southern West Bank. — AFP

AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCE OVER SAUDI, EGYPT ATTACK VICTIMS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud over the 'martyrdom' of a Saudi security man and injury of six others in a terrorist attack in Al-Qatif in Saudi Arabia. In the cable, His Highness the Amir voiced Kuwait's sharp condemnation of this heinous terrorist attack that targeted innocents and aimed at disrupting security and stability in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Highness the Amir expressed sympathy with the Kingdom, and supported all measures taken by Saudi authorities to fight terrorism and safeguard the Kingdom's security and stability. His Highness the Amir also reiterated Kuwait's rejection of terrorism in all its manifestations and forms, wishing speedy recovery of the injured and security of the kingdom and its people.

Two other cables of condolences were sent by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In the meantime, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to the Chairman of the Saudi Shura Council (Consultative Assembly) Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad Al Sheikh. Earlier on Thursday, the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior announced the 'martyrdom' of a security man and injury of six others when a patrol was attacked in a district in Al-Qatif province, east of the country.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi over the victims of a terrorist attack in Rafah City in North Sinai. In the cable, His Highness the Amir voiced Kuwait's sharp condemnation of this heinous terrorist attack that targeted innocents and aimed at disrupting security and stability in Egypt. His Highness the Amir also reiterated



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

ated Kuwait's rejection of terrorism in all its manifestations and forms, wishing speedy recovery of the injured and security of Egypt and its people. Two other cables of condolences were sent by His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, while Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to his Egyptian counterpart Ali Abdelal.

Also, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Friday vehemently condemned the terrorist attacks in Al-Qatif in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt's North Sinai. An official source at the ministry said in a statement that Kuwait stands side by side with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and supports all measures they are taking in order to uphold their security and stability.

The source reiterated Kuwait's firm position based on rejecting violence and terrorism, emphasizing that concerted international efforts should be exerted in order to fight terrorism that targets humanity and world security and stability. The source offered condolences to the Saudi and Egyptian governments and people over the victims of the attacks and wished those injured speedy recovery. — KUNA



ROME: Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri (second from right) is seen during his visit to the mosque. — KUNA

ROME MASJID, ISLAMIC CENTER BOLSTER DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES: MINISTER

ROME: The Islamic Cultural Center and the Masjid of Rome play an important role in bolstering dialogue amongst cultures, Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday. Jabri's statement came during his visits to the Mosque and Islamic center on the sideline of his participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) conference held in Rome.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the Islamic Center Abdullah Radwan said that the center was keen on portraying true Islamic values, affirming that it also was eager to bolster dialogue with people from all cultural backgrounds. He revealed that the center offers service to some 1.5 million Muslims in Italy, adding that the facility also provides information and data on Islam for thousands of visitors.

Separately, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva congratulated Jabri on Kuwait's winning of non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council. This came during the Director General's meeting with Jabri on the sidelines of the 40th session of the FAO General Conference. Jabri noted that Da Silva said that FAO regards Kuwait's winning of UNSC seat as a strong impetus for the international organization's mission to enhance world food security and eradicate hunger. Kuwait's election in the UN Security Council is a sign of Kuwait's reputable international standing and the world appreciation of its wise leadership and its generous contribution to the humanitarian and development work as well as to its efforts to promote dialogue and peaceful interaction to retain regional and international stability, Jabri quoted Da Silva as saying.

In the meantime, Jabri reiterated Kuwait's confidence and support to FAO efforts in the world development. He stressed Kuwait's backing to FAO efforts in helping people in the conflict zones. He disclosed that the meeting focused in particular on the mutual desire to accelerate the opening of the first FAO partnership and communication bureau in Kuwait. He pointed out that Kuwait is keen on expanding cooperation with FAO for training national agricultural cadres. On June 2nd, Kuwait was elected as a non-permanent member in the UNSC for two-year term beginning in January 2018, gaining votes of 188 members out of 192. — KUNA



Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri meets with Secretary General of the Islamic Center Abdullah Radwan.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri meets with Director General of FAO Jose Graziano da Silva.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS KUWAIT TO DEVELOP TIES

KUWAIT: A Chinese delegation intends to visit Kuwait tomorrow in an attempt to look into means to bolster strategic ties, said a Kuwaiti diplomat on the visit that would last for four days. Speaking on the visit, Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Johar Hayat said yesterday that both sides were eager to boost relations on all possible domains. The visit will contribute to the development of ties and will hopefully add to the Kuwaiti leadership's vision to turn Kuwait into an international commercial and economic hub.

The 'Kuwait 2035' and China's 'Road and Belt Initiative' have much in common, said the Ambassador who indicated that the upcoming Kuwaiti-Chinese meetings on July 10 tomorrow will focus on finding links between the two plans and connecting the dots. He said that the Chinese delegation will be informed about the latest progressions in



Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Johar Hayat

several Kuwaiti development projects, looking into ways to provide Chinese expertise and experience. — KUNA

KUWAIT TURNS INTO POLITICAL HUB AS GULF CRISIS LINGERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait is turning into a political 'Mecca' this week, with high-profile Arab and foreign officials arriving and holding talks in light of mediating efforts led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in a bid to solve the Gulf crisis. Well-received on a global scale, His Highness the Amir's diplomatic initiative is seen as key to a more safe and stable Arabian Gulf region. Three out of the six Member State of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, in addition to Egypt, are in a political gridlock with Qatar; another GCC member; a rather sensitive situation that the region is not accustomed to.

In this context, Boris Johnson, the UK's foreign minister arrived to Kuwait yesterday, while his US counterpart Rex Tillerson is expected to be in Kuwait tomorrow to discuss developments of the situation and means to contain it. Johnson, who embarked on his Gulf tour yesterday in Saudi Arabia, stressed that

his visit is mainly to provide support for the Kuwaiti mediation efforts and building on Premier Theresa May's statement that the Gulf's security is one of Britain's as well. The four Arab countries are accusing Qatar of backing terrorist groups, expressing at the same time distress over Doha's 'negative' response to demands they had put forth as a condition for lifting economic and travel sanctions on the Gulf country.

Within the framework of the mediation efforts, His Highness the Amir had paid visits to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, where he held constructive talks with leaders there, who in turn, warmly welcomed the initiative.

On July 5, Riyadh, Manama, Abu Dhabi, and Cairo received the response to their demands from Doha through Kuwait. According to a joint statement by the group, the four countries confirmed that they have received the response after the additional 48-hours extension requested by His Highness the Amir. —KUNA



OOREDOO SPONSORS ENGINEERING FAIR

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, sponsored Magniscope, a graduation project that demonstrated electromagnetic and magnetic fields during the graduation project fair for Kuwait University's students of the Faculty of Engineering. The two-day fair took place last week in the Crowne Plaza Hotel's Baraka hall, under the patronage of Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister

of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan.

In a statement to the press, Ooredoo reiterated its commitment to supporting youth in all fields, especially the academic field, as part of its mission to help people achieve their wants and reach their potential. The students of the sponsored project, Areej Ahmad, Batool Dashti, Laila Boabbas, Lamis Waleed and Sazida Hussain, used the technologies of virtu-

al reality and 3D imaging to illustrate the way magnetic and electromagnetic fields work.

Ooredoo has several memorandum of understandings with esteemed academic organizations and government entities that aim to enrich the experience of youth, through year-round activities and events as per the company's corporate social responsibility strategy.

SAAD FOUNDATION LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS



(From left) Dr Fatima Al-Hashim, Dr Bader Al-Omar, Dr Ali Ibrahim and Tariq Al-Kandari.

KUWAIT: The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research Sheikh Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah announced the launch of the training program for students in cooperation with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the executive branch of the state.

Sheikha Fadia Al-Saad said on Thursday that the training program that was launched at the initiative of Ebtikar Al-Kuwait is part of Al-Saad's knowledge and scientific research initiative. She added that the foundation follows the approach that nurtures young people and enables them to exploit their potential, which in turn develops their skills and values.

The aim of the program is to strengthen the responsibility of participation and raise the efficiency of local cadres and meet the national needs that contribute

to the deepening and development of scientific exchange in the fields of education, vocational and educational.

Sheikha Fadia Al-Saad called for the need to invest young people as the energy of nations and leaders of societies towards development, stressing that their role is not negligible because they are the largest segment of society.

Dr Fatima Al-Hashim, Director General of Ebtikar Al-Kuwait, said in a similar statement that fruitful cooperation and exploitation of the youth's energies in the work of the initiative reflects positively not only on the level of the student but on the whole society.

Hashim added that she took a guided tour with the supervisor of student training in both the Faculty of Education at Kuwait University and the College of Basic Education of the General Authority for Applied Education and Training in order to strengthen relations in order to achieve the goals of the Foundation.

She pointed out that the initiative is to train students in the administrative, media and educational work, stressing that all means of motivation to achieve the desired goal within the next four weeks, the duration of the program.

Meanwhile, the observer of the training of students in the restructuring program of the workforce and the executive body of the state Tariq Al-Kandari, in a similar statement, praised the role of Ebtikar Kuwait and the role of Al-Saad in containing and empowering students through the summer program for the training of students in secondary and university levels.

Kandari pointed out that this project reflects the cooperation between one of the most important institutions of the state, represented by the restructuring program and the initiative of Al-Saad Foundation, which enhances the social solidarity responsibility for the empowerment of Kuwaiti youth. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chinese charge d'affaires Zahao Liang and the defense attache of the embassy of the People's Republic of China Senior Colonel Zhang Ge hosted a reception on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese people's liberation army. Higher officials, diplomats, community and media persons attended the event, which took place recently at the Crowne Plaza hotel.— Photos by Joseph Shagra

CHINESE EMBASSY MARKS 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION ARMY'S FOUNDING

KUWAIT: Chinese charge d'affaires Zahao Liang and the defense attache of the embassy of the People's Republic of China Senior Colonel Zhang Ge hosted a reception on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese people's liberation army.

"This evening we are gathering here in Crown Plaza to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, PLA," Senior Colonel Zhang Ge said. "First of all, as the Defense Attache of the Chinese Embassy and on behalf of Ambassador Wang and Charge d'Affaires Zhao, I'd like to extend my warmest welcome and sincere thanks to all of you for your presence. "The Chinese People's Liberation Army is the people's army created and led always by the Communist Party of China (CPC). Since its founding on August 1, 1927, the PLA has played an important role and written the most glorious chapter in the modern history of China, making indelible contributions in the founding, construction and safeguarding the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of New China. Over the 90-year developing process, the PLA has grown from its original single service into modernized armed forces, composed of army, navy, air force, rocket force and strategic support force.

"In the new historical period, aiming at the

CPC's goal of building a strong military in the new situation, China's armed forces will unwaveringly adhere to the principle of the CPC's absolute leadership, deepen the reform of national defense and the armed forces in an all-round way, build a modern system of military forces with Chinese characteristics, and constantly enhance its capabilities for addressing various security threats and accomplishing diversified military tasks. China's armed forces will resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, providing a strong guarantee for the Chinese dream of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Belt and Road Initiative

"The world today is undergoing complex and profound changes, and China is at a critical stage of reform and development," Senior Colonel Zhang Ge added. "Chinese President Xi has proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, which is a road for win-win cooperation and a road toward peace and friendship. China's destiny has never been so interrelated with that of the world as a whole. China will unwaveringly follow the path of peaceful development, pursue an independent foreign policy of peace and a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, implement the military strategic guideline of active defense in the new situation,

oppose hegemonism and power politics in all forms, and oppose all forms of terrorism. China's armed forces will remain a staunch force in maintaining world peace and stability.

"In recent years, China's armed forces has earnestly fulfilled its international responsibilities and obligations, actively participated in UN peace-keeping missions, international disaster relief and humanitarian rescue operations, and has carried out escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and other sea areas as required. On the basis of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and all-win cooperation, China's armed forces will continue to carry out pragmatic cooperation with its counterparts in various countries of the world, develop military-to-military relations that are non-aligned, non-confrontational and not directed against any third party, so as to jointly deal with a diverse range of security threats and challenges."

Diplomatic relations

"Kuwait is the first Gulf Arabic country establishing diplomatic relations with China," Senior Colonel Zhang Ge noted. "The traditional friendship between China and Kuwait has emerged stronger over time and has stood the test of changing international and regional climate. In recent years, the bilateral relations have seen a healthy and stable



development, with notable achievements of practical cooperation being made. The two sides are now making efforts to integrate the developing strategies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait Vision 2035. Military-to-military relationship is an important part of the bilateral relations, which has also got constantly promoted and deepened over the years. In February 2017 the 24th Chinese

Naval Escorting Taskforce ships paid an official and friendly visit to Kuwait, during which the two Navies held a series of professional exchanges. Being China's Defense Attache in Kuwait, I'm fully confident that with our joint efforts the bilateral military-to-military relations between China and Kuwait will make new and greater progress in the years ahead."



KUWAIT PROCEEDS WITH PRIVATIZATION PROGRAM

LONDON: Kuwait is proceeding with the implementation of its privatization program as a strategic goal over the coming years to provide thousands of new jobs for the Kuwaiti people. Head of the Kuwait technical agency for the privatization program Sheikh Fahad Salim Al-Sabah made the statement yesterday on the sidelines of his recent visit to London.

He added that tens of thousands will be entering the labor market over the coming

two decades, making it hard for the government to find them jobs in the public sector. Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah urged the Kuwaiti youth to opt for working in the private sector with no delay, saying it will give them the chance to fulfill their expectations and promote their skills and capabilities.

He referred to fears by some young men of working in the private sector, despite the legislations preserving their rights against any potential abuse by investors or employ-

ers. He stressed in that respect that the government and the National Assembly stand by the side of the Kuwaiti ambitious youth, and defend their rights. According to Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah, the government aims from the privatization program to create jobs for thousands of the Kuwaiti youth and achieve economic growth as well as reducing the operational costs of the state. Last year, the technical agency for the privatization program conducted an overall survey for the major government sectors that can be privatized, he said. He added that they have drawn up a plan to privatize the sectors over 25 years to come. Such steps are based on the privatization law, making benefit from experience of other countries, he said. He also called for amending the law so that instead of transferring ownership totally from the public to the private sector, the latter can be involved in administration or leasing.—KUNA

development, with notable achievements of practical cooperation being made. The two sides are now making efforts to integrate the developing strategies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait Vision 2035. Military-to-military relationship is an important part of the bilateral relations, which has also got constantly promoted and deepened over the years. In February 2017 the 24th Chinese

Local Spotlight

HAS IS DISAPPEARED?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The caliphate of the Islamic State (IS) has ended. This was the most mentioned topic on social media last week, after an announcement by official Iraqi TV of the end of IS in Iraq and the liberation of Mosul. But this declaration throws up many questions. Many of us are wondering that if the war is over, then where are the bodies? Why haven't we seen anything from the media that is covering every detail of our life, from private kitchens to politicians' offices? Yet we have not seen a single video documenting the so-called war of liberation of Mosul and Iraq from IS!

Suddenly, the Iraqi army, with the support of the "popular mobilization forces", managed to retake Mosul from IS without a drop of blood spilt. This is worth thinking about, especially in our Gulf region. Where has IS gone? I have always said that I do not see IS as a state, but as an extremist militia that moves from one place to another waiting for new orders - perhaps in civilian clothes, curly beards and tight trousers this time.

IS performed its mission with distinction. It played all the roles required of it in order to distort Islam, whether in Syria, Iraq or in other parts of the world. It violated the humanity of many women and children as well as occupying territories. IS gave the greatest justification for foreign intervention in Syria, either by Russia, Iran or US, through the emergence of counter-militias fighting for all what was said to defend the oppressed - then disappearing without spilling a drop of blood. IS has done its job to justify the emergence of militias and parties of doctrinal stands.

IS will end in Syria too very soon. If the goal was to tear apart Syria and Iraq and give the Kurds an independent state carved from these two nations, then a new map of the Middle East is no longer a piece of fiction. Few foreign reports speculate about the future of IS after Iraq and Syria. It may disappear into neighboring societies and countries, and perhaps no one will feel suspicious. Naturally, under this situation, Gulf governments should strictly control and monitor all ports and movements of Islamists groups, youth and even money transfers.

I am convinced that the defeat of IS in Iraq is not the end. The source of extremism has not dried up and sectarian fanaticism is strong. It is the first nucleus for the establishment of any extremist organization, and Gulf governments must be aware of the seriousness of this issue while dealing with promoters of religious extremism.

Crime

Report

DUO ARRESTED WITH 750 GRAMS OF 'CHEMICAL' DRUG

KUWAIT: Criminal security men arrested a citizen and a bedoon with possession of 750 grams of 'chemical', a variety of 'Spice' (synthetic cannabinoids) with added chemicals. The arrests came following tips that police received. Once authorities were sure the information was accurate, warrants were obtained and the two were arrested and sent to concerned authorities.

Inmates brawl

Two citizens and a bedoon exchanged blows inside the Jahra prosecution building, and beat a policeman, who attempted to break the fight. They also caused extensive injuries to themselves. The three were held in Jahra prosecution building over a felony. Before entering the prosecutor's office, they exchanged words, which led to a fight that caused chaos in the building. Police interfered and controlled the three who were found injured, suffering from fractures and other severe wounds. They were sent to the public prosecution for further legal action.

Environmental violation

Environment police arrested an Egyptian driver who dumped sewer water in Salmi desert, as a citizen recorded video footage of his act. The video was circulated on social media showing the tanker truck's driver dumping the sewer, then police began their investigation and identified the driver. He was sent to the prosecution for further legal action.

Domestic violence

A citizen told police "I am not sorry for beating her and I thank Allah that I only beat her and nothing else," as he was summoned following a complaint for beating his wife. He beat her as she was on the pill without her husband's knowledge. A security source said police received a call about a domestic violence case, so they went to the house in Andalus and called an ambulance which took the wife to Farwaniya hospital. The husband said he saw the contraceptive pills, adding that her lack of pregnancy was disturbing him. Meanwhile the wife said she wanted to postpone pregnancy as, she is still young (in her 30s).

—Translated from the Arabic press

NUMBER OF KUWAITI DOCTORS BELOW LOCAL MARKET'S NEEDS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Medical Association completed a study on the percentage of Kuwaiti doctors in medical specialties. The association's Director General Dr Mohammad Al-Qinae said the number of Kuwaiti doctors is below the needs of the local market, as Kuwait is heading towards new development projects that need an increase in doctors. He said that the study showed 90 percent of doctors deserve a "rare specialty" status, which will in turn attract Kuwaitis to such specialties. He said the study warned against the exodus of Kuwaiti and foreign doctors, which will lead to severe shortages and will disrupt work in health projects. Qinae said the study said competent and experienced doctors must be brought in, besides increasing the number of Kuwaiti doctors on medicine scholarships to meet local market needs, especially since the percentage of Kuwaiti doctors is expected to drop from 30 percent to 17 percent during the next five years.

'Contaminated' pillows

The health ministry said it followed up a video on social media about claims of distributing 'contaminated' pillows to patients at a government hospital. It said when the video was reviewed with concerned authorities, it was found the information was untrue, as the type of pillows shown was different from those used by the health ministry. It said the ministry welcomes any suggestions or comments on health services.

Workers on strike

Deputy Director General of the Manpower Public Authority Abdullah Al-Mutoutah said the authority is following up reports on social media about workers on strike in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. He said the authority is doing its part in following up with employers, and in case of any violation by them, it takes all necessary procedures to protect workers' rights. He said the authority is carrying out its work according to law 109/2013 and its role is to implement labor law 6/2010.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met on Thursday with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle. During the meeting they discussed mutual issues that concern both sides, in addition to cooperation, mainly in the military field and ways to enhance and develop it, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said in a statement. — KUNA



Kuwait Red Crescent Society workers distribute humanitarian aid.



KRCS Secretary General chief Maha Al-Barjas meets with Yemen's Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Saffaa.



KRCS volunteers provide support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



KRCS supports Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



KRCS delegation inspects Al-Beddawi camp for Palestinian refugees.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF KUWAIT RELIEF EFFORTS

KUWAIT: Living up to its status as a 'humanitarian center,' Kuwait continued its relief work and campaigns to all those in need in the Middle East and beyond throughout the just-ended week. Last Saturday, in northern Lebanon, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) reaffirmed keenness on helping Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The needs of the Palestinian refugees' are enormous and much efforts need to be exerted, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said after a meeting with officials of the Palestinian Red Crescent in Lebanon.

The meeting was held in Al-Beddawi camp for Palestinian refugees north of the Lebanon. Barjas noted that Kuwait's relief efforts are extended to the Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, as well as to Lebanese families.

The KRCS will support the Palestinian counterpart to provide the urgent medical needs of the Palestinian refugees, she said. Over the coming two months, the KRCS will offer bread to 2,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugee families in Lebanon, as part of a project the society launched in 2011, she added.

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

The two sides also discussed supporting

the five hospitals the Palestinian society administers in different parts of the country. They have concluded an initial agreement on the form of backing over the coming period.

Lebanon hosts up to 400,000 Palestinian refugees at 12 camps. On Friday, the KRCS and the Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) signed two agreements to provide drinking water for the Syrian refugees, and to help those who are suffering renal disease in east Lebanon's Bekaa.

Food baskets

On Monday in Riyadh, a Kuwaiti aid campaign distributed 6,209 food baskets to more than 43,000 people in Yemen, which capped off an aid package for the war-torn nation. Tawfik Mohammad, a member of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Relief Authority, said that the endeavor to dole out more than 6,000 food parcels in the impoverished nation's northwestern Sadah province was unprecedented, read a press release by the 'Kuwait is By Your Side' campaign. He added that a number of similar projects are impending, all of which are geared towards the province's neediest people.

The Kuwaiti aid campaign provided urgent relief for the Yemeni people, running the gamut from nutritional and educational assistance to healthcare aid. On Thursday, institutions from across the Palestinian national spectrum joined forces for 13 agreements worth \$3 million, financed by the Kuwait Fund

for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

Rabhi Al-Sheikh, the deputy head of a Palestinian office tasked with reconstructing the Gaza Strip, said that the agreements hammered out by 13 institutions from across Palestinian territories, entail projects to rebuild Gaza through a \$3 million grant provided by Kuwait.

He noted that Kuwait has contributed a sum of \$200 million for reconstruction efforts, of which \$75 million has been allocated for the residential sector. Meanwhile, Palestinian Minister of Public Works and Housing Mofeed Al-Hasayneh, on the sidelines of a ceremony where the agreement was signed, thanked Kuwait for the country's support of the Palestinian people.

He divulged that a sum of \$500,000 will be earmarked for the agricultural sector, which is now in tatters due to the war. Egypt, Norway and the Palestinian territories convened an international conference on reconstructing Gaza in October 2014, to respond to the needs of the Palestinian people in the aftermath of Israel's military offensive.

Aid to Yemen

Also Thursday in Yemen, Kuwait Red Crescent announced that it will continue to provide medical, relief and development-related humanitarian aid to Yemen in cooperation with local bodies with recent repairs to water desalination and medical facility centers, its Secretary General said.

After meeting Yemen's Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Saffaa, KRCS's Maha Al-Barjas said that after concluding the two projects, the organization is setting up a camp for surgeries that can accommodate up to 200 cases.

The project follows a similar initiative that has already resulted in the successful completion of a large number of orthopedic, brain, nerve and ophthalmologist operations. The organization has also handed out electrical generators to hospitals across the southwestern city of Taiz, wheelchairs and crutches to around 750 Yemenis along with food and cholera medicine distributed across Yemeni governorates. In the meantime, the Yemeni ambassador hailed these initiatives, saying they "stem from honest and brotherly feelings."

Syrian refugees

Meanwhile, on Friday, the humanitarian efforts exerted by KRCS to aid Syrian refugees inside Syria and Turkey are still ongoing in cooperation with humanitarian relief organizations, a KRCS official affirmed. The Kuwaiti humanitarian body has opened, in cooperation with the Turkish-based IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), a plant in Atme village, northern Syria, to manufacture medical gauze, Barjas stated, noting that the plant is one of a kind and provides free gauze to field medical centers in Syria.

Obviously, KRCS and IHH have realized the importance of providing medical gauze inside

Syria due to its current scarcity in that country, Barjas noted, commending IHH's efforts in launching that vital plant and cooperation in supervising it as well. Furthermore, KRCS has also implemented, in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), a cooperation deal on sending 10 mobile medical clinics to Syria for the internally displaced persons and families hailing from Aleppo city, she mentioned, adding that the clinics were fully equipped with medical sets, instruments, and pharmacies. The mobile clinics also included medical examination tents that covered vast geographic areas in Idlib and Aleppo, KRCS chief said, noting that the tents helped in treating around 17,000 patients.

Al-Amal Hospital

KRCS has also begun to cooperate with its Qatari counterpart in backing Al-Amal Hospital in Rehanli, Turkey to treat sick Syrian refugees, Barjas said, noting that the hospital is part of KRCS' humanitarian projects for the Syrian refugees. The Kuwaiti humanitarian body has also backed an orphanage in Gaziantep, Turkey to qualify orphans and empower them to integrate in their society, she said.

Currently, KRCS is working in several arenas through development projects and programs geared towards rehabilitation and empowerment to help conflict-stricken societies restore their ordinary life and social integration, Barjas mentioned. —KUNA

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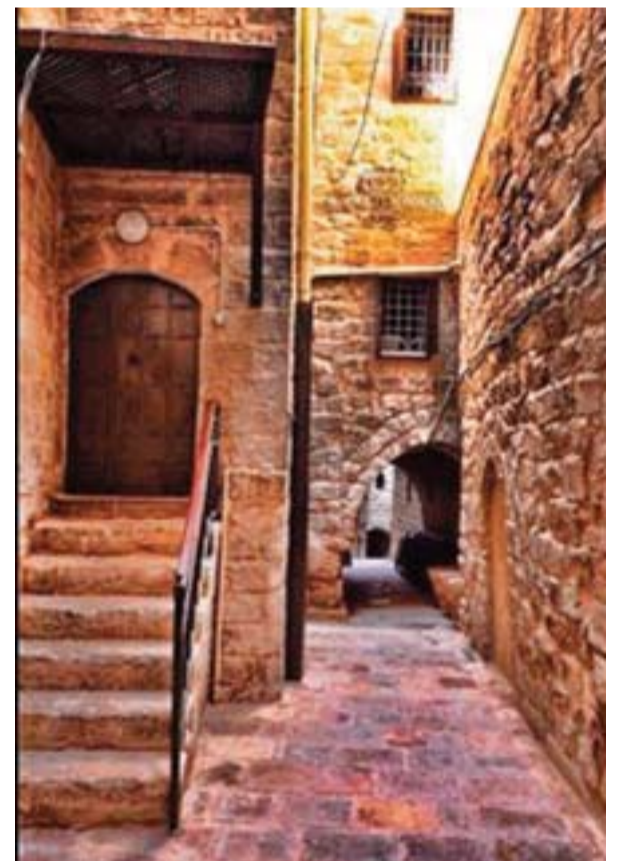
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KUWAIT VALUES UNESCO ADDING HEBRON TO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) has valued the decision of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to declare the Hebron Old Town as an endangered world heritage site, and adding it to the World Heritage List.

The old city has now become an internationally protected heritage site that enjoys an exceptional global value where the historic Ibrahimi mosque, named after Prophet Ibrahim, is still situated in the heart of the city, NCCAL Secretariat General said in a statement. The city also well-known for its unique ancient sites and several vintage industrial, and agricultural occupations, it said, stressing the importance of listing Hebron as an endangered world heritage site.

In the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Poland yesterday, the UNESCO voted 12 to three, with six abstentions, in which the Committee simultaneously added the site of Hebron to the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Old Town in Hebron,

which is in the West Bank, is the fourth Palestinian cultural site to be included in UNESCO's World

Heritage List. The first three were the Old Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Pilgrims path. —KUNA



In Brief

GULF RIFT

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah phoned Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Abdullatif Al-Zayani on Thursday. During the phone call, they discussed the latest developments related to the Gulf rift and the importance of Kuwait's mediation role. Also, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled thanked Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for lauding His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to maintain Arab national security and pan-Arab relations. —KUNA



SUPREME COUNCIL

CAIRO: Head of the Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) Dr Mohammad Al-Mutairi, has been elected by acclamation as chairman of the Supreme Council of the Arab Medical Union (AMU). Kuwait's uncontested election for the post took place during the council's general assembly hosted by the Egyptian Medical Syndicate, Mutairi said. The choice reflects Kuwait's status and the distinct role of the Kuwaiti political leadership on the foreign scene, he added. Mutairi previously held the post of the assistant secretary general of the AMU. —KUNA



OIL PRICE DOWN

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwait oil went down \$1.30 to \$44.17 per barrel (pb) Friday after being at \$46.47 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The prices were also went down on the global level with Brent Blend future contracts for September reaching \$47.15 pb, while the ones for West Texas Intermediate for next August reached 44.59 pb. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti folklore band performs during a national activity. Pearl diving ships in pre-oil Kuwait used to carry a person named 'Al-Nahham' whose job was to sing, entertain and motivate divers during long sea voyages. After the discovery of oil and subsequent end of pearl diving trips, 'Al-Nahma' became celebrated as a folklore musical art form in Kuwait. —KUNA photo

MINISTER LAUDS OFID IN EXECUTING GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VIENNA: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh extolled on Thursday the vital role by OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the globe. Speaking at the conclusion of the 38th session of the OFID's Ministerial Council meeting, Saleh said the fund established in 1970s is committed to completing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The

Asked about repercussions of a drop in oil prices and challenges facing some countries in the region, Saleh said the fund's reserve help overcome all challenges and achieve its developmental role as well. The minister stressed that he is proud of visions of the Kuwaiti youth working at the fund that aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including energy, food and water security. Meanwhile, OFID Director-General

By the end of 2016, through the expert management of paid-in resources of just over \$2.4 billion, the fund had committed more than \$20 billion in support of over 3,600 development operations across 134 countries, he said, adding that this is a remarkable achievement considering its modest size. "The journey has been extraordinary. We have embraced new financing instruments and models, built a more diverse partnership network and, occasionally, as our Annual Report shows, we have even ventured into uncharted territory," he said. He pointed out this is shown by the subordinated debt facilities provided to banks in Honduras and Nicaragua; the first of their kind under the Private Sector facility. "For all that we have achieved in 2016- and indeed over the past 40 years - we are mindful that nothing would have been possible without the trust of our Member Countries." During the meeting, the aQ'on Jay Program of the Foundation for Integral Development (FUDI) in Guatemala has been announced. The program will receive \$100,000 from OFID in support of its efforts to improve maternal and child health and nutrition. The council also announced the winners of the 2017 OFID Scholarship Award Program. This year, more than 20,000 students from OFID partner countries applied for a chance to complete their higher-level university studies with OFID's support. Ten young and remarkable individuals were selected from Colombia, Egypt, Guyana, Mongolia, Rwanda (two students), Sudan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Since 2006, OFID has supported 40 outstanding young people to attend top ranking universities including Oxford, Harvard and Cambridge. —KUNA



VIENNA: Kuwait's Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh (left) participates in the 38th session of the OFID's Ministerial Council meeting. —KUNA

meeting of OPEC member states' finance ministers concluded yesterday witnessed the approval of financial statements and annual reports of the fund for 2016, and the review of OFID's performance and accomplishments, he said. The OFID's reserve hit \$7 billion and Kuwait's contributions to the fund's activities reached 11 percent, he noted.

Suleiman Al-Harbash said the fund's ministerial council comprises the finance ministers and other senior officials of OFID member states. It meets once a year. "OFID has evolved over four decades. Today we are both a trusted global lending institution and a major player in the international development arena," Harbash added.

ARAB COOPERATION NEEDED TO OVERCOME REGIONAL WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM: KUWAIT



CAIRO: Ministry of Electricity and Water Undersecretary Mohammad Boushehri heads Kuwait's delegation in the 9th session of Arab Ministerial Council for Water. —KUNA

CAIRO: Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water Undersecretary Mohammad Boushehri said on Thursday that water shortage is an important challenge that faces the Arab World and needs cooperation to overcome this problem. He said that many water security related issues were discussed in the meeting, such as implementing a plan to manage water resources in the Arab region, in addition to water shortage challenges. Boushehri made the comments after heading the Kuwaiti delegation at the 9th session of the Arab Ministerial Council for Water in the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo. Although many Arab states have a water shortage problem, others consume more than they should, he added. Moreover, he welcomed Kuwait's plans to host an upcoming conference on the matter in May 2018, that will also discuss Arab cooperation to manage water resources. The Arab Ministerial Council for Water urged regional and international organizations to shed the light on violations committed by Israel, which it accused of stealing water from Palestinian territories and abusing Palestinian water rights. —KUNA

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Former Gitmo prisoner gets apology, millions

NEPALI GIRL DIES IN A 'MENSTRUATION HUT'



MOSUL: A picture shows a general view of the damage in the old city of Mosul as Iraqi government forces continue to fight Islamic State (IS) group jihadists to retake the last parts of the city. The decaying bodies of foreign jihadists are piling up among the ruins of Mosul where the last dozens of Islamic State group fighters are mounting a desperate last stand. — AFP

MOSUL BECOMES 'GRAVEYARD' FOR FOREIGN JIHADISTS

MOSUL: The decaying bodies of foreign jihadists are piling up among the ruins of Mosul where the last few dozen Islamic State group fighters are mounting a desperate last stand. More than three quarters of the remaining jihadists in Mosul are foreigners, according to Iraqi commanders who have reported a spike in suicide attacks as anti-IS forces close in on the Old City. "They never surrender," said General Abdel Ghani Al-Assadi, a commander in Iraq's elite Counter-Terrorism Service.

"Old Mosul will be their graveyard." It was in Mosul in July 2014 that IS supremo Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi made his only public appearance, to urge Muslims worldwide to move to his "caliphate," proclaimed less than a week earlier, straddling Iraq and Syria. Thousands of foreigners responded to his call. According to Iraqi police and

army commanders, most of the foreign IS fighters still in Mosul in recent months came from Russia, particularly Chechnya, and other former Soviet bloc countries, as well as various Arab states.

Iraqi jihadists flee

Then come Muslims from Asia-Afghans, Pakistanis, Uighurs from China as well as Europeans from France, Germany, Belgium and Britain, along with Americans, the same sources said. They are also believed to include a few dozen jihadists from other French-speaking countries. "Most of them come from countries such as Algeria, Morocco or Tunisia," said General Abbas Al-Jabouri, a commander of the police Rapid Response force. Pale, hungry civilians who managed to escape from the Old City

described the foreign fighters as cruel men who detained them in houses, many of which were bombed out.

When Iraqi forces launched an assault on the Old City on June 18, foreigners accounted for only 20 percent of the 1,200 jihadists identified at the time, according to army officers. But most Iraqi jihadists have fled by mingling in with the flood of civilians fleeing the Old City. The army says many were arrested, but officers privately estimate that several hundred were able to slip through the cracks.

Foreigners though would be "arrested immediately" during exit screening, says Lieutenant Colonel Haider Hussein, instantly recognizable because of their poor grasp of Iraqi Arabic. An Iraqi officer is more blunt: "When we see them, we kill them". In May, the Wall Street Journal reported that France had asked Iraq to

hunt down and eliminate 27 French jihadists in Mosul to prevent them returning to Europe. France, as well as the Iraqi commanders, denied the existence of such a list.

But Assadi said: "All IS fighters who do not surrender must be killed, whatever their nationality." According to several Iraqi officers, Western intelligence services take DNA samples from the bodies of jihadists. At the beginning of the battle, eight months ago, the jihadists preferred ambushes, snipers and car bombs. Then, in the narrow streets of the Old City, they sent more and more suicide bombers. In the last areas where they are now entrenched, sometimes with their families, "they wait in the houses, and when our forces enter, they open fire or blow themselves up," said Hussein. "That's the only strategy they have left." — AFP

KASHMIR IN LOCKDOWN

CLASHES AS INDIAN KASHMIR MARKS KEY ANNIVERSARY

SRINAGAR: Residents in Indian-controlled Kashmir clashed with government forces yesterday as they defied a stringent curfew on the anniversary of the killing of a charismatic rebel leader whose death triggered open defiance against Indian rule. Officials and witnesses said residents in the main city of Srinagar and at least four places in southern Kashmir tried to march on the streets while chanting slogans in favor of rebels and ending Indian rule. Police and paramilitary soldiers fired tear gas to disperse the crowds. The protesters responded by hurling rocks at troops. At least 15 people were reported injured in the clashes.

While Kashmir has remained on edge, the Indian and Pakistani armies, which regularly trade fire and blame across the de-facto militarized frontier that divides the disputed territory between them, fired at each other's positions, killing three civilians and an off-duty soldier, officials said. Pakistan's military said two civilians were killed and three others wounded in the Indian army's "unprovoked" firing and shelling at two places along the highly militarized Line of Control. India's military said an off-duty soldier visiting his home was killed along with his wife after a shell fired from the Pakistani side hit their house in Poonch sector.

Army spokesman Lt Col Manish Mehta called it an "unprovoked" violation of the 2003 ceasefire between India and Pakistan. India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Pakistan denies. For the second

straight day, government forces sealed off the hometown of Burhan Wani, the 22-year-old rebel leader who was killed along with two associates in a gunbattle with Indian troops last year. Witnesses said security forces ordered residents in southern Tral town to stay indoors. "I've never seen so many soldiers in aggressive posturing enforcing a curfew in my town.

This is an unprecedented restriction," local resident Mohammed Hanief said by phone. Troops laid steel barricades and coiled razor wire on roads and intersections to cut off neighborhoods as authorities anticipated widespread protests. They also shut mobile internet services as part of the lockdown to stop activists from rallying online support. "We're enforcing strict restrictions to deal with any law and order issues," said SP Vaid, the region's police chief.

Separatist leaders, who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir, called for a strike and protests to honor Wani. Most of the top leaders have either been detained or put under house arrest. Wani's killing set off months of protests and deadly clashes across the region, during which at least 90 people were killed and thousands injured. Wani, who attracted dozens of new recruits while using Facebook and other social media sites, had rejuvenated Hizbul Mujahideen, the largest of Kashmir's militant groups. Its top leader based in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, Syed Salahuddin, was recently designated as a "global terrorist" by the US.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-

controlled Kashmir, Salahuddin asked Pakistan for military support to militants as he spoke yesterday at a rally attended by thousands of people to honor Wani. "We don't need only political, diplomatic and moral support. Now we need a solid military support against Indian forces," Salahuddin said.

The death of Wani and the public fury it caused made the armed rebellion mainstream in Kashmir and gave new life to the militant movement that had withered in recent years, reduced to just about 100 fighters in scattered rebel outfits. Officials say that since his killing, at least 100 young men have joined rebel ranks, some of them after snatching weapons from soldiers and police. It also cemented a shift in public behavior by displaying anger at Indian rule openly and violently when troops raid villages and towns to hunt rebels.

Villagers who had learned to hide any sympathy they felt for fighters now speak of them openly with reverence and warmth and also engage in deadly clashes with government forces during their counterinsurgency operations. Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the fighting and the ensuing Indian crackdown. Anti-India sentiment runs deep among the region's mostly Muslim population and most people support the rebels despite a decades-long military crackdown. — AP



KASHMIR: Kashmiri protestors (right) throw stones towards Indian government forces during clashes in Srinagar yesterday.—AFP

IN IS-HELD RAQA, PARCHED CIVILIANS RISK LIVES FOR WATER

BEIRUT: Syria's Raqa once thrived on the banks of the gushing Euphrates River, but dire shortages in the Islamic State group stronghold are forcing desperate civilians to risk their lives for water. The northern city has been without steady

running water for several weeks after damage to pipelines by heavy bombardment, including suspected strikes by the US-led coalition. Civilians dehydrated by the blistering summer heat are venturing out to the Euphrates and makeshift

wells around the city.

But as fighting between IS and advancing US-backed forces ramps up, that journey can be life-threatening. "I went to pump water from a well in the city's south, close to the river," said Karim, an activist with the Raqqa24 network who remains inside the city. He spoke to AFP using a pseudonym for fear of being targeted by IS, which still controls most of Raqa. The jihadists had sealed the street between the southern district and the Euphrates, so he and other men gathered around a borehole drilled by a resident. "We were able to get water for an hour, but then we had to run away because of artillery fire.

A shell landed just 50 meters away from me," he said. He described a hellish scene: families lugging jerry cans through Raqa's streets, suddenly scrambling for cover from incoming mortar fire and air strikes. Civilians who managed to escape Raqa have also told AFP they came under IS sniper fire as they tried to fill up buckets from the Euphrates. With temperatures reaching a scorching 46 degrees Celsius (114 Fahrenheit), Karim said Raqa residents are caught between their extreme thirst and the risky journey to quench it. "The shortages are killing

us. Cold water is the stuff of dreams."

'Dying of thirst'

Since IS overran Raqa in 2014, the city has become synonymous with the group's horrific practices, including public beheadings. With help from the US-led coalition, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters called the Syrian Democratic Forces is waging a fierce assault to oust IS from the city. Years ago, Raqa benefited from its prime location in the fertile river valley, as well as from nearby hydro-electric dams that generated power for much of Syria.

That makes the current water shortages particularly painful, said activist collective Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS). "The deepest irony lies in the fact that this city on the bank of the bountiful Euphrates River is currently dying of thirst," said the group, whose members publish news from activists inside the city. According to RBSS, at least 27 people have been killed by coalition air strikes in recent weeks as they tried to reach the Euphrates or nearby wells for water. "My uncle and seven children were killed about two weeks ago as he was heading to a school near the city

centre where there was a well," said RBSS co-founder Abdalaziz Al-Hamza. And those who manage to successfully draw water from the Euphrates also face health risks. The UN warned earlier this month that Euphrates River water was potentially "unfit for consumption" and carried "the risk of water-borne diseases". "Raqa's population is using the water for everything—showers, drinking, everything," said RBSS activist Hussam Eesa. "But it isn't clean, particularly because of all the (mortar) shells and corpses that are in it," Eesa said.

RBSS says it has documented symptoms of water-borne diseases among those who are drinking the river water, including fever and loss of consciousness that the group fears could point to cholera. The World Health Organization has also documented one child who was paralyzed in Raqa by a strain of polio that originates from a vaccine carrying small amounts of weakened but live virus. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) replicates in the gut and can be passed to others through faecal-contaminated water—meaning it won't hurt the vaccinated individual, but could infect their neighbors in places where hygiene and immunization levels are low. —AFP



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

News

in brief

Al-Shabab beheads 9

NAIROBI: Al-Shabab extremists from neighboring Somalia beheaded nine civilians in an early-morning attack on a village in the southeast, Kenyan officials said yesterday, as concerns grew that the group had taken up a bloody new strategy. The attack occurred in Jima village in Lamu County, said James Ole Serian, who leads a task force of security agencies combating Al-Shabab. Beheadings by Al-Shabab have been rare in Kenya, where the extremist group has carried out dozens of deadly attacks over the years. The East African country has seen an increase in attacks claimed by Al-Shabab in recent weeks, posing a security threat ahead of next month's presidential election. The Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabab has vowed retribution on Kenya for sending troops in 2011 to Somalia to fight the group, which last year became the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa. Yesterday's attack occurred in the Pandaguo area, where Al-Shabab fighters engaged security agencies in a day-long battle three days ago.

Violence in Darjeeling

DARJEELING: Fresh violence erupted in Darjeeling yesterday after a separatist group accused police of killing a supporter, prompting forces to fire tear gas as the Indian hill resort reels from weeks-long unrest. Bouts of clashes and arson attacks have rattled the picturesque hill station for more than three weeks, causing schools and shops to shut down as thousands of mostly Indian tourists pack their bags and flee. The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) — a movement that has long called for a separate state for ethnic Gorkhas in West Bengal—accused police of shooting dead 31-year-old Tashi Bhutia late Friday. "He was shot dead by police at Sonada on the outskirts of Darjeeling town when he was returning home from a medicine shop," GJM's general secretary Roshan Giri said. But authorities, including West Bengal tourism minister Gautam Dev, have denied GJM's latest allegation, saying they were unaware of any death and that "police did not open fire".

American beaten to death

ATHENS: Greek police said yesterday that they had made eight arrests, including six Serbian nationals, after an American tourist was beaten to death in a bar on the island of Zante. Police said they detained the Serbians after viewing CCTV footage, having already arrested a Greek barman and a British bouncer of Serbian origin after a violent altercation Thursday night in the popular resort of Lagana. The eight are suspected of fatally battering Bakari Henderson, a 22-year-old Afro-American who was with a group of friends, following an argument. A police source said that both groups had been drinking heavily. Greek media reported that the parents of the victim, who suffered serious head injuries and was pronounced dead after being taken to hospital, were expected to arrive on Zante today. Alcohol-related violence also led to the 2011 death in Lagana of a 19-year-old British tourist following a fight with two Greek taxi drivers.

Japan floods kill 15

TOKYO: The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in southern Japan has risen to 15, a government official said yesterday, as rescuers continued work to evacuate isolated survivors. Raging rivers overflowing with water and mud have devastated swathes of Kyushu—the southernmost of Japan's four main islands—after heavy rainfall, sweeping away roads and houses and destroying schools. Thousands of rescuers have been fighting through thick mud and battling rain to search for missing and stranded people, with more than 500 believed to still be cut off, according to public broadcaster NHK. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters yesterday that the death toll "rose to 15" and 16 people were still missing. Local governments announced Friday that a total of eight people have died. "The region is expected to see a localized heavy rain today," Suga said, advising local residents to gather information from the governments and media.

POWER OUTAGES HIT CENTRAL PHILIPPINES

TACLOBAN: Large parts of the central Philippines remained without power days after a 6.5-magnitude quake shook the region and killed two people, authorities said yesterday. Power plant facilities in the central island of Leyte, which provide electricity for the island and neighboring regions, sustained damage when the quake struck on Thursday, an energy department statement said. The geothermal plants, near the quake's epicenter, were damaged by both the tremors and resulting landslides, the department said. Leyte, home to some 1.75 million people, bore the brunt of the quake, recording two deaths and 72 injuries.

Much of Leyte and the surrounding islands of Samar and Bohol were without power yesterday as repairs were still being conducted, energy undersecretary Wimpy Fuentabella said. — AFP

IS CLAIMS SINAI ATTACK

23 SOLDIERS PERISH IN DEADLIEST ATTACK

EL-ARISH: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for attacking a remote Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula with a suicide car bomb and heavy machine gun fire. The assault killed at least 23 soldiers in the deadliest attack in the turbulent region in two years. The IS made the claim after nightfall Friday, saying in an online statement that it had carried out the attack as the Egyptian army was preparing an assault on IS positions in Sinai.

The coordinated attack suggested the Sinai-based militants are among the region's most resilient, after IS in Iraq and Syria, where the so-called caliphate is now witnessing its demise. And it underscored the struggles Egyptian forces face in trying to rein in the insurgency. Egypt has for years battled militants in Sinai, where the jihadists have exploited the vast arid and underdeveloped region and its disgruntled Bedouin population as an ideal incubator for Islamic militancy even before the IS affiliate has emerged at the forefront of the insurgency.

Friday's assault began in the early morning, when a suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint at a military compound in the village of el-Barth, southwest of the border town of Rafah. Dozens of masked militants then descended on the site in 24 Land Cruiser SUVs and opened fire on the soldiers with machine guns, according to security officials. The shooting lasted nearly half an hour, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because of regulations. The troops at the compound were estimated to have numbered about 60.

Audio message

When the attack subsided, the militants apparently looted the checkpoint, snatching weapons and ammunition before fleeing, the officials said. A number of militants were killed in the shootout, indicating the soldiers had fought back, and some of their vehicles were abandoned at the scene. The suicide blast at the start of the attack likely disabled the checkpoint's military communications system, prompting one of the officers to use his own cellphone to record an audio message and send it to a colleague via WhatsApp, seeking help and asking for prayers.

The message was later widely circulated on social media. "This might be the last seconds in my life," a man's voice calmly says in the recording. "Quickly, oh men, anyone who knows how to reach the command center, notify them to use artillery as we are still alive." He then praises God and ends by saying "we will either avenge them or die," referring to his fallen colleagues.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the United States strongly condemns the Sinai attack and continues "to stand with Egypt as it confronts terrorism." The security officials initially put the death toll at 10 but later told The Associated Press that more bodies were pulled from under the rubble of a nearby building that was used as a rest house for troops.

According to the IS statement, a second car bomber was used in the attack to strike an army convoy sent as a reinforcement to the embattled soldiers. The authenticity of the IS claim could not be verified but it was circulated by IS supporters online and by the US-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites.

Earlier, Egyptian army spokesman Tamer El-Rifai confirmed the attack on his official Facebook page, saying that 26 army personnel were killed or wounded. He didn't provide a breakdown.



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

He said the army on Friday foiled attacks that targeted a number of other checkpoints in the Rafah area and that 40 militants were killed. Local Sinai residents, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for their safety, said they saw Apache helicopters carrying out airstrikes across Rafah after the attack. On his page, Al-Rifai posted photographs of allegedly slain militants, dressed in military uniforms, typically worn by IS extremists. The Defense Ministry posted a video on its official website showing aircraft taking off and striking vehicles and positions allegedly belonging to the militants who carried out Friday's attack.

Safe havens

The attacked checkpoint was set up two months ago to cut a key militant supply line between the outskirts of Rafah, where the district is known to have a heavy IS presence, and central Sinai, where militants have found safe havens in the mountains, according to tribal leader Hassan Khalaf of the Swaraka, one of Sinai's largest tribes. The security officials said some senior officers had expressed opposition to the location of the checkpoint, arguing that it provided no real cover for the troops. The nearest army compound was an hour's drive away, leaving the checkpoint with only the support of local armed tribesmen from the Tarabeen, with their own small checkpoints nearby.

The area was also the site of fierce battles in the spring between the tribesmen and militants. Despite the insurgency, IS has so far not succeeded in seizing territory in Sinai but maintains a strong presence in the western and southern areas of Rafah, on the outskirts of the town of

Sheikh Zuweid, and even inside the residential areas of Sinai's largest city, El-Arish. Over the past months, IS has focused its attacks on Egypt's Christian minority and carried out at least four deadly attacks that killed dozens, prompting army chief-turned-President Abdel-Fattah el Sissi to declare a state of emergency in the country.

The restive northern Sinai has been under a state of emergency since October 2014, after Islamic militants killed more than 30 soldiers in a single attack. There was a significant decline in attacks this year in Sinai, with the one major assault killing eight policemen in el-Arish in January. On July 1, 2015, IS carried series of attacks, killing over 50 soldiers in Sinai. IS said at the time that it attacked some 15 army and police positions and staged three suicide bombings.

However, the army denied the high death toll. The Sinai attack came as the Islamic State group is fast losing its once vast territory in Syria and Iraq. The group's offshoot in Libya has been uprooted in months-long battles in the central city of Sirte, while its branch in Yemen has failed to seize territories or compete with its Al-Qaeda rivals.

Faced with the challenge in Sinai, the Egyptian government has accused several Arab and Muslim countries of financing and providing safe haven to Islamic militants — including Qatar, Turkey, and the Hamas group in neighboring Gaza Strip. Hamas, which is seeking to improve relations with Cairo, quickly condemned Friday's attack. "We considers it a criminal, terrorist, and cowardly attack that doesn't target Egypt only, but the security and stability of the entire Arab nation," Hamas' spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said. — AP

VENEZUELA'S CATHOLIC CALLS GOVERNMENT 'DICTATORSHIP'

CARACAS: Venezuela's Catholic Church raised pressure on the leftist government Friday in a deadly political crisis, warning that its drive for constitutional reforms is turning the country into a "military dictatorship." The plan "will be imposed by force and its result will be that constitutional status will be given to a military, socialist, Marxist and communist dictatorship," the head of the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference, Diego Padrón, told a news conference.

An influential voice in Venezuela, the church has long had strained relations with President Nicolas Maduro, who is under mounting opposition and international pressure to hold early elections. The center-right opposition accuses Maduro of maneuvering to cling to power against its demands for a vote on removing him. It blames him for an economic crisis that has caused shortages of food and medicine. He says the crisis is a US-backed conspiracy.

Pope's concern

Catholic leaders tried last year to mediate negotiations between the government and opposition. The talks collapsed with the sides accusing each other of bad faith. Pope Francis called this month for "an end to violence and a peaceful and democratic

solution to the crisis." At least 91 people have died over the past three months in clashes with police during anti-government demonstrations, prosecutors say. On Thursday, police chased protesters into a shopping mall and fired tear gas, leaving dozens injured. The previous day, a pro-government mob wielding clubs burst into the grounds of the National Assembly legislature and beat lawmakers, leaving several bleeding. Maduro has meanwhile infuriated his opponents by launching a plan to form an assembly tasked with rewriting the constitution.

Opponents say he will pack this "constituent assembly" with allies in a bid to cling to power. Voting for members of the assembly is scheduled for July 30. The opposition MUD coalition plans to hold its own popular vote against the plan on July 16. Padrón said the church would make some of its premises available to carry out that vote. Maduro retains the public backing of the military high command—a key factor in keeping him in power, according to analysts. But the president last month said he was replacing four senior commanders of the armed forces.

Catholic country

The highest official to defy Maduro is



CARACAS: Bolivarian National Guard members shoot rubber bullets at Venezuelan opposition demonstrators blocking the avenue, during a protest against President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas. — AFP

chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega. She has launched legal challenges against the constitutional plan but the authorities responded by charging her with misconduct. The Supreme Court, which the opposition says is stacked with Maduro's allies, is due to rule in the coming days whether to suspend Ortega from office and put her on trial. A study by private polling firm Datanalysis indicated that 80 percent of Venezuelans disapproved of Maduro's lead-

ership and 70 percent opposed his constitutional reform plan.

According to the latest data by polling group Latinobarometro, 79 percent of Venezuelans described themselves as Roman Catholic in 2013. "There is no longer a conflict between left and right" in Venezuela, Padrón said. "There is a struggle between a government that has turned into a dictatorship and a whole people calling for liberty." — AFP

G20 STREET CHAOS PUTS POLITICAL HEAT ON MERKEL

HAMBURG: Raging street battles that marred Germany's G20 summit have sparked a political fight over how Hamburg could descend into "mob rule" and why Chancellor Angela Merkel chose a hotbed of leftist militancy as the venue. Germany's top-selling Bild daily was withering in its condemnation of the chaos that saw far-left and anarchist radicals torch rows of cars, loot shops and hurl rocks and bottles from burning barricades at riot police.

"One should use with caution the words 'failure of the state'. Sadly, it applies in Hamburg," the newspaper thundered Saturday, slamming the summit as a "debacle". "Of course the police did all it could. But the street belonged to the mob. The feeling of general security that the state must guarantee has ceased to exist in Hamburg over the last 48 hours."

The harsh criticism came as 20,000 police in the city where Merkel was born braced for a third day of protests against the meeting where she hosted US President Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin and other world leaders. Just behind the tightly-secured G20 summit venue, charred road barricades, trashed shops and stones, debris and shattered glass bore testimony to an anarchic night, when police commandos with semi-automatic weapons detained militants who hurled rocks from rooftops. "The terrible message of Hamburg is: When the mob wants to rule, it will," said Bild.

'Destruction across city'

One police union blamed Merkel and Hamburg mayor Olaf Scholz for allowing the chaos, which left over 200 police and as yet unknown numbers of protesters injured, and for choosing the city in the first place. "The politicians carry the sole responsibility for the many injured police officers and the destruction across the city," the union's Hamburg chairman Jan Reinecke told news weekly Der Spiegel.

Criticism also came from Merkel's conservative camp, with Bavarian CSU politician Hans-Peter Uhl charging that "the G20 summit should never have been held in a city of millions like Hamburg. Security is way too difficult to control there." Merkel's government had long argued that it chose the northern port city, which dubs itself Germany's cosmopolitan "Gateway to the world", because it symbolised G20 core values from open trade to an internationalist outlook. Rather than choose a remote rural location, as has been the norm in recent years, G20 leaders would show they are not a power elite that hides away from the people. Some also saw the G20 summit, years in the planning, as a dress-rehearsal as



HAMBURG: Protesters hold a banner reading "capitalism cannot be healed by people but battled" during the "solidarity without borders instead of G20" demonstration yesterday in Hamburg, northern Germany as world leaders meet during the G20 summit. — AFP

Hamburg bid for the 2024 Olympics—an effort the people of Hamburg later torpedoed in a referendum. Finally, there was the question of logistics, officials explained: no countryside retreat, island or cruise ship is big enough to host a mega-event with over 10,000 delegates.

'Worst fears come true'

Signs of looming trouble appeared late last year as stickers and posters went up on walls that vowed to "Smash G20" and prom-

ised a "Welcome to Hell"—the title of the first protest last Thursday that quickly deteriorated into street clashes. They point to Hamburg's dual identity, both a wealthy and leafy port city and a decades-old hotbed of leftist activists home to famous former squats like the Hafenstrasse and Rote Flora. Some 30 separate anti-G20 rallies have ranged from peaceful marches and street parties with thumping techno beats to non-violent road blockades and boat protests—to the ugliest violence that flared after night-

fall. The protest coalition BlockG20, which holds G20 leaders responsible for ills from war and poverty to climate change, hailed it all "a victory", having delayed delegations and trapped US First Lady Melania Trump in a lakeside residence for hours. They also accused police of excessive violence, with spokesman Christian Blank saying "police beat us, attacked us with pepper spray and water cannon, but despite the violence of state power, we did not give up."

"The streets belong to the protesters, not

the summit," declared the coalition's Jana Schneider. Spiegel Online judged that Merkel, who faces elections on September 24, "must realize that it is mostly pictures of burning cars and black-clad radicals that will be remembered from the G20 summit". "Many had warned against hosting such a huge event in a major city with a left-wing radical scene. Now the worst fears have come true and a dark shadow has been cast over the summit shortly before the national election." — AFP



HAMBURG: US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May shake hands during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg yesterday. — AFP

G20 SEES 3-WAY STEEL BATTLE BETWEEN EU, US AND CHINA

HAMBURG: While battles between police and protestors smoulder outside, leaders of the European Union, United States and China appear close to a trade war cliff edge at the G20 summit in Hamburg. "We are already hearing that some parties are considering introducing protective measures against steel imports in the near future. If this does happen, the European Union will know how to respond appropriately," European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said before talks began Friday.

US President Donald Trump has vowed to slap tariffs on steel imports to protect American industry, and Washington could start levying the charges as soon as July 13. Customs duties on certain steel pipes alone would affect imports to the US worth \$152.6 million last year. Germany (\$38.8 million) and China (\$29.4 million) accounted for the biggest shares, followed by Switzerland, India, South Korea and Italy. For its part, the EU has taken measures against some Chinese steel products, arguing that the government is providing unfair subsidies to manufacturers and distorting the market.

Revenge on the rocks?

Washington's steel threats have raised hackles in Europe, pushing trade disputes to the top of the agenda as heads of government from leading industrialized and emerging countries gather for the Germany-hosted G20. The event usually ends with a joint communique setting out how leaders will cooperate on issues including global free trade, but details of the wording remained under intense negotiation Friday.

"Europe can't be placed on the same level with unfair competition practices we don't engage in" like China's, the French president's office said, vowing a "very speedy" reaction if the US targets

the Old Continent's exports. EU leaders have quickly cobbled together a list of American products they could strike back at with sanctions, ranging from Kentucky bourbon to orange juice and dairy products, the Financial Times reported Friday.

Commission chief Juncker would not confirm the details, but insisted that Brussels was on high alert and would take only "days" to react to US measures. China, which produces around half the world's steel supply, has been less talkative on the subject in Hamburg. But Beijing raged against the European sanctions last month, accusing Brussels of failing to understand its loan system. "It is biased and unfair for Europe to blame China for its own industrial issues," said Wang Hejun, a senior official at the Chinese trade ministry.

Guessing game

Whatever text the G20 can agree on will come under a magnifying glass, as the steel row is only the most acute of a long list of complaints about trade. At last year's summit in Hangzhou, China, leaders agreed that "excess capacity in steel and other industries is a global issue which requires collective responses," setting up a mechanism for "increased information sharing and cooperation" to try and address the problem. Nevertheless, "the Chinese haven't really shared all the information" others were hoping for, a source close to the negotiations said recently. "The signal we have been giving is that we are absolutely ready to work with the US" to target Chinese steel, a senior EU official told the Financial Times on Friday. However, "it will be very hard politically to cooperate on those issues if we are not excluded" from the Americans' sanctions, they added. — AFP

POPE WARNS OF 'DANGEROUS ALLIANCES' AMONG POWERS

ROME: Pope Francis said yesterday that the G20 summit in Germany "worries" him because of the potential for "very dangerous alliances" among world leaders, with particularly dire consequences for migrants. "I worry about very dangerous alliances between powers which have a distorted vision of the world: America and Russia, China and North Korea, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Syria's Bashar Al-) Assad over the war in Syria," the pope said in an interview with Italy's La Repubblica newspaper. "The danger concerns immigration. Our main and unfortunately growing problem in the world today is that of the poor, the weak, the excluded, which includes migrants," he said, pointing to countries which "fear an invasion of migrants."

"This is why the G20 worries me: It mainly hits immigrants," he said. Concerning Europe, the "richest continent in the whole world" which has faced an influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees since 2015, the pope warned its leaders not to fall prey to the illusion that it is possible to seal its borders. On Friday, Francis had urged G20 leaders to work toward "more inclusive and sustainable global economic growth," while also highlighting the plight of some 30 million people trapped in conflict and famine, especially in Africa and Yemen. — AFP



HAMBURG: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) talks to Saudi Arabia's State Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf prior to a working session at the G-20 summit in Hamburg. — AP

FROM MELANIA TO MERKEL: 4 TELLTALE G20 MOMENTS

HAMBURG: From US First Lady Melania Trump's travails to the reserved German Chancellor Angela Merkel's facial twitches, here are some of the anecdotal moments that lived up to this year's G20 summit of world leaders in Hamburg.

Bad day for Melania

US First Lady Melania Trump was due to go on a cruise tour with other spouses of G20 leaders, but was instead trapped at her residence as anti-globalization demonstrators went on the rampage, smashing shop windows and burning cars. She finally emerged. But her husband Donald was locked in talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "There are so many issues on the table... Just about everything got touched upon... Neither one of them wanted to stop" talking, said US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. "I believe they even sent in the First Lady at one point to see if she could get us out of there, but that didn't work either... We did another hour. Clearly she failed!" he added.

Macron warms up to Trump

If a video of France's President Emmanuel Macron swerving away from Trump to greet other leaders was a key image trending on social media sites during the NATO summit earlier this year, at the G20, there appears to have been a clear rapprochement between the young leader and the US property tycoon.

Macron was firmly at Trump's side at key "family photo" sessions of the leaders. He even inserted himself to the far right of the entire group at one photography session, saving the US leader from being at the edge of the picture. At a morning session yesterday, Macron was seen greeting Trump enthusiastically. The French leader leaned towards the US leader at one point, sparking questions on whether he offered him a peck on the cheek. But journalists at the scene say it was a more of a hug.

Who were they clapping for?

Trump, among the last leaders to arrive at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie concert hall for a cultural evening, appeared to be greeted by a round of applause as he stepped out of his armored vehicle. The US leader gamely returned a big smile. It turned out that the applause was for Macron, who pulled up just behind Trump, German media reported.

Merkel rolling her eyes at Putin

An animated encounter between Merkel and Putin has been making the rounds on social media, with questions abuzz about what the two leaders discussed. Walking into the conference room, Merkel lifted a hand and traced what appeared to be a movement of a projectile. But Putin lifted a finger, appearing to then offer his version of the same gesture, prompting the usually poker-faced German chancellor to roll her eyes. — AFP



HAMBURG: Protesters carry a banner with the image of the imprisoned Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan at the 'Borderless Solidarity rather than G20' demonstration in Hamburg, Germany yesterday. — AP

US BOMBERS DRILL NEAR KOREA DMZ IN SHOW OF FORCE

SEOUL: US bombers carried out a rare live fire drill in South Korea yesterday, flying close to the DMZ in a show of force

after Pyongyang's latest missile test, the South's defense ministry said. The exercise by two B-1B Lancers, flown from

Andersen Air Base in Guam, was part of a 10-hour mission with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets in response to a "series of increasingly escalatory actions by North Korea including the intercontinental ballistic missile" on Tuesday, US Pacific Air Forces said. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the long-range heavy bombers flew close to the tense and heavily militarized land border with the North before turning back.

The exercise aimed to "sternly respond to the series of North Korea's ballistic missile launches," the South's air force said in a statement. Four US and South Korean jet fighters joined the live fire drill, which was conducted at a range in Yeongwol County, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the inter-Korean border, the South's air force said. The long-range heavy aircraft each dropped a 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) laser-guided bunker-busting smart bomb, Yonhap said. The US statement

said the B-1Bs released "inert" weapons at the Pilsung Range.

The drill simulated the two US bombers destroying enemy ballistic missile batteries and South Korean jets mounting precision strikes against underground enemy command posts, the South's air force said. "Through this drill, the South Korean and US air forces demonstrated strong determination to thoroughly punish the enemy for its provocative acts, and showed off their capability to pulverize enemy command posts," it said. Lieutenant General Thomas Bergeson, US Forces Korea deputy commander, said the mission demonstrated the allies remain "prepared to use the full range of capabilities to defend and to preserve the security of the Korean peninsula and region".

En route back to Guam, the B-1Bs flew and integrated with Japanese fighter jets over the East China Sea, US Pacific Air Forces said in a press statement. "The US-

Japan alliance and the relationship between our militaries are stronger than they have ever been," said Lieutenant General Jerry P. Martinez, US Forces Japan commander. "We continue to train with our Japanese allies to ensure we are ready to defend ourselves from attack," he said.

North Korea on Tuesday test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time, an apparent game-changer in its confrontation with Washington over its nuclear and missile programs. In response, US and South Korea soldiers fired ballistic missiles simultaneously in a drill Wednesday, simulating an attack on the North's leadership "as a strong message of warning," the South's military said at the time. The US Missile Defense Agency said Friday it would soon test an anti-ballistic missile system in Alaska, days after the North demonstrated its arsenal was capable of striking parts of Alaska with the ICBM test. — AFP



IN THE AIR: This handout photo shows B-1B Lancers (left and 2nd left) flying over South Korea during a South Korea-US joint live fire drill conducted at a range in Yeongwol County. — AFP

28 INMATES HACKED TO DEATH IN MEXICO'S JAIL

ACAPULCO: Shell-shocked relatives of Mexican inmates who had been decapitated and mutilated by their rivals behind bars condemned on Friday what they called a reign of terror inflicted by gangs that extort and torture fellow prisoners. Twenty-eight inmates were killed as rioters beheaded and hacked their rivals to death Thursday at the Las Cruces prison in Acapulco, the latest explosion of violence in Mexico's often lawless jails.

Brenda Lopez, a 23-year-old psychology student, waited with her 80-year-old grandmother outside the hulking concrete structure for news of her uncle. "They won't tell us anything," she said on the verge of tears. "We don't know how he is, where he is." Overnight, dozens of grieving relatives gathered outside the Pacific coast resort town's morgue, waiting to be called in to identify their loved ones' bodies.

As they stood in agony, with red and blue police lights flashing across their faces, they spoke in hushed tones about what they described as the abysmal conditions inside the jail, which holds nearly 2,200 inmates - 65 percent over capacity, according to official figures. "He didn't have to tell me how badly they treated him inside. You could see it a mile away," one 25-year-old woman said of her dead relative, fearful of giving her name. "The mafia ruled in there. The others lived in fear."

One man waiting outside, himself a former prisoner said the jail was effectively governed by gangs-like many in Mexico, where corruption abounds in the penitentiary system and the multi-billion-dollar narcotics business has fueled an explosion of powerful, ultra-violent drug cartels. "It's a time bomb," said the man, puffing nervously on a cigarette and asking to be identified only as Aviles for fear of reprisals by cartel lookouts he said were hovering nearby. He described a facility in which the jailers were on the payroll of the main prison gang, members of a drug cartel called the Independent Acapulco Cartel.

The gang smuggled in guns and drugs with impunity, extorting and torturing other inmates, said Aviles, who served five years at Las Cruces, three of them in the maximum-security wing where the riot erupted. "I was tortured, too. The guards were all on the take. The prison director, too," he said. Prisoners at Las Cruces "are criminals and all, but they shouldn't have to pay for it like that," he said. Authorities have announced that all staff at the prison are under investigation over the riot, including its director, Miguel Gomez Garduno. Aviles called the gangs' de facto rule "a plague." "It's impossible to end it," he said. "You kill 10, another 20 are born."

'Bodies piled like trash'

A morgue worker taking a cigarette break described a grisly scene at the prison. "As soon as you went inside, you could smell the blood," he said. "There were four beheaded bodies at the entrance. The rest were piled up on top of each other in the laundry area, like trash. It was manic in there." Forensic investigators found five bullet casings inside-apparently fired by prisoners, he said. The rest of the inmates were beaten and stabbed to death, he said. Three guards and 11 inmates are being investigated for possible involvement in the violence, the governor of the violent southern state of Guerrero, Hector Astudillo, said Friday.

Mexico's prisons are frequently hit by riots, killings and jailbreaks. This was the country's deadliest prison violence since 49 inmates were killed in February 2016 in a riot at the Topo Chico prison in Monterrey, in the northeast. "We're mad. We're furious... This can't keep happening," said Luciano Pelaez, a 66-year-old construction worker who was waiting to find out whether a loved one was dead or alive. But Hilario Salas, a lawyer who represented inmates at Las Cruces, was bleak on the prospects for change. "This is our daily bread in Mexican jails," he said. — AFP



ALBERTA: Omar Khadr walks out the front door of his lawyer Dennis Edney's home to speak to the media in Edmonton, Alberta. — AP



GUANTANAMO PROVINCE: This image shows the floor shackles within the solitary recreation room in Cell Block C in the 'Camp Five' detention facility of the US Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. — AFP

EX-GUANTANAMO PRISONER GETS APOLOGY, MILLIONS FROM CANADA

FORMER INMATE RECEIVES \$8 MILLION

TORONTO: A former Guantanamo Bay prisoner who pleaded guilty to killing a US soldier in Afghanistan received an apology and a multi-million-dollar payment from the Canadian government after a court ruling said his rights were abused. A government statement yesterday said details of the settlement with Omar Khadr were confidential, but an official familiar with the deal said previously that it was for 10.5 million Canadian dollars (\$8 million). A different official confirmed that the money had been given to Khadr.

Both insisted on speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss the deal publicly. The government and Khadr's lawyers negotiated the deal last month based on a 2010 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that Canadian officials violated his rights at Guantanamo. The government released a statement apologizing to Khadr. "On behalf of the government of Canada, we wish to apologize to Mr Khadr for any role Canadian officials may have played in relation to his ordeal abroad and any resulting harm," said the statement from Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland.

The Canadian-born Khadr was 15 when he was captured by US troops following a fire-fight at a suspected Al-Qaeda compound in Afghanistan that resulted in the death of an American Special Forces medic, US Army Sgt First Class Christopher Speer. Khadr, who was suspected of throwing the grenade that killed Speer, was taken to Guantanamo and ultimately charged with war crimes by a military commission.

He pleaded guilty in 2010 to charges that included murder and was sentenced to eight years plus the time he had already spent in custody. He returned to Canada two years later to serve the remainder of his sentence and was released in May 2015 pending an appeal of his guilty plea, which he said was made under

duress. Khadr lawyer Dennis Edney issued a statement lauding Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the settlement and criticizing the administration of his predecessor, Conservative former PM Stephen Harper.

'Disgusting' decision

"Omar Khadr was abandoned in a hellish place called Guantanamo Bay, for 10 years, a place internationally condemned as a torture chamber," Edney said. News that Khadr would receive millions first leaked earlier this week and sparked anger among many Canadians who consider him a terrorist. Opposition Conservative leader Andrew Scheer called the decision "disgusting" and said he would have avoided a settlement.

He accused Trudeau of rushing to give Khadr the money so Speer's widow would not have her claim for the money heard in court. Cameron Ahmad, a spokesman for the prime minister, vehemently denied the timing of the settlement had anything to do with efforts the widow to get Khadr's money. Khadr spent 10 years at Guantanamo, and his case received international attention after some dubbed him a child soldier. He was the youngest and last Western detainee held at the US military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada found that Canadian intelligence officials obtained evidence from Khadr under "oppressive circumstances," such as sleep deprivation, during interrogations at Guantanamo Bay in 2003, and then shared that evidence with US officials. Khadr's lawyers filed a 20 million Canadian dollars wrongful imprisonment lawsuit against the Canadian government, arguing it violated international law by not protecting its own citizen and conspired with the US in its abuse of Khadr.

Goodale said Friday the settlement is unrelated to what happened in Afghanistan. "It's about

the acts or the omissions of the Canadian government after Mr Khadr was captured and detained. Those are facts are not in dispute, and there is no doubt about how the Supreme Court views them. The government of Canada offended, quote, the most basic standards of the treatment of detained youth suspects," Goodale said. "Reaching a settlement was the only sensible course," he added, saying that not settling would surely have cost taxpayers far more. The Canadian government informed Trump administration officials of the settlement before it was announced.

The widow of Speer and another American soldier blinded by the grenade in Afghanistan filed a wrongful death and injury lawsuit against Khadr in 2014 fearing Khadr might get his hands on money from his wrongful imprisonment suit. A US judge granted them \$134.2 million in damages in 2015. Lawyers for the Speer family and the injured soldier, Sgt Layne Morris, filed an application in Canadian court last month with the hope that any money paid by the Canadian government to Khadr would go toward the widow and Morris. Morris and Don Winder, the lawyer for the Speer family and Morris, did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Khadr said in an interview with The Canadian Press that he hopes to fade into the background and become a nurse. "I have a lot of experience with pain, and I have an appreciation of pain. With my past, I don't know who's going to be comfortable with hiring me," he said. "I just want to be the next person on the road that you don't look twice at ...," Khadr added. His lawyers have long said he was pushed into war by his father, Ahmed Said Khadr, whose family stayed with Osama bin Laden briefly when Omar Khadr was a boy. Khadr's Egyptian-born father was killed in 2003 when a Pakistani military helicopter shelled the house where he was staying with senior Al-Qaeda operatives. — AP



ACAPULCO: A police helicopter flies over the state prison in Acapulco, Mexico. — AP

NEPALI GIRL DIES IN A 'MENSTRUATION HUT'

KATHMANDU: An 18-year-old girl has died in Nepal after she was bitten by a snake while banished to a shed because she was menstruating, part of a long-banned ancient Hindu practice, officials said yesterday. Many communities in Nepal view menstruating women as impure and in some remote areas they are forced to sleep in a hut away from the home during their periods, a practice known as chhaupadi.

Tulasi Shahi was bitten twice by a venomous snake and died on Friday morning in western Dailekh district, local mayor Surya Bahadur Shahi said. "She survived for seven hours after the snake bite but died because medical treatment was delayed," said Shahi. According to local media, her family took her to the village shaman, or witch doctor, for treatment instead of taking her to a hospital. Local police confirmed that a girl had died but were

unable to provide further details on the cause. Chhaupadi is linked to Hinduism and considers women untouchable when they menstruate, as well as after child birth.

They are banished from the home-barred from touching food, religious icons, cattle and men-and forced to sleep in basic huts known as chhaupadi. Two women died in late 2016 in separate incidents while following the ritual-one of smoke inhalation after she lit a fire for warmth, while the other death was unexplained. Rights activists say many other deaths likely go unreported. Chhaupadi was banned a decade ago but is still followed in parts of Nepal, particularly in remote western districts. Proposed legislation that would criminalize the practice and make it an imprisonable offence to force women to follow the ritual is currently pending in parliament. — AFP

ITALY STEPS UP RESCUE PLAN FOR 'MAFIA KIDS'

ROME: It is one of the most secretive organizations in the world, with power passed through blood ties and family loyalty. But Italy's ruthless 'Ndrangheta mafia may have met its match. Judges in the country's deep south have been placing the offspring from Italy's most powerful criminal organization into care in a bid to save them from following their grandfathers, fathers and uncles down the path to prison. Initially the project sparked controversy, with the Church in particular protesting the tearing of children from homes.

But four years after it launched in the crime-plagued Calabria region, the government has signed a protocol which will not only unlock fresh resources but could also see the scheme applied nationwide in other mafia strongholds. Dubbed "Liberi di Scegliere" (Free to Choose), the program has so far seen 40 youngsters sent to live with foster families or in communities in secret locations across the country where they learn about life beyond the clans.

"The issue is extremely delicate and we're walking a thin line,"

admitted Interior Minister Marco Minniti, as he presented the new protocol this weekend along with Justice Minister Andrea Orlando. "And yet there are situations in which a country's democratic institutions have to intervene in intra-family relations to guarantee the freedom of minors," he said.

'Extraordinary results'

The name 'Ndrangheta comes from the Greek for courage or loyalty and the organization's brutal enforcement of codes of silence make it very difficult to penetrate and equally as difficult to leave. Judge Roberto Di Bella, who launched the project at the juvenile court in Reggio when he realized the minors coming before him were the children of those he had put away in the 1990s said "the results have been extraordinary." "The kids go back to school, they take part in socially useful activities, they reveal talents and potential that had been repressed by their sphere of provenance," he said.

The youngsters who qualify are those considered to be on a fast-track to joining the family business,

whether they are arrested for smuggling Kalashnikovs or their parents are caught on wiretaps training them in mafia codes. Most are sent into the program when they are 15 or 16 years old and stay until they turn 18.

"The idea is to make them understand jail is not an obligatory step or a medal to be worn with pride," Di Bella said. There has been another unexpected consequence: a maternal rebellion. Mothers have approached the court in secret to request their children be sent away or ask to be sent away themselves. Others have turned informant. "We're undermining cultural models that seemed inviolable, and outlining psychological scenarios that are utterly uncharted," Di Bella said.

'Hard men'

The new protocol will see specialized teams of psychologists, social workers, tutors and foster families set up and financed by the region to transform the largely ad-hoc process into "an anti-mafia educational task force". Psychologist Enrico Interdonato, 33, has sup-

ported three of the teenagers during their placements and said the government's support was vital in ensuring more therapists are trained in the specialist area of mafia children. "They are emotionally rigid, raised to be 'hard men'. The important thing is to take them to a place where their surname has no resonance so they can stop being heirs to a dynasty and get to know themselves," he said.

Once he has earned their trust and feels they are ready he introduces the teenagers to people he has worked with who have been victims of organized crime. He also helps them get and hold down jobs. The 'Ndrangheta has surpassed Sicily's Cosa Nostra and the Naples-based Camorra thanks to its pivotal role in smuggling cocaine from South America into Europe, but the other historic crime groups are still powerful.

Justice Minister Orlando said the project was working so well it may be extended beyond mountainous Calabria to save children in their clutches too. "A path has been laid that should be followed," he said. — AFP

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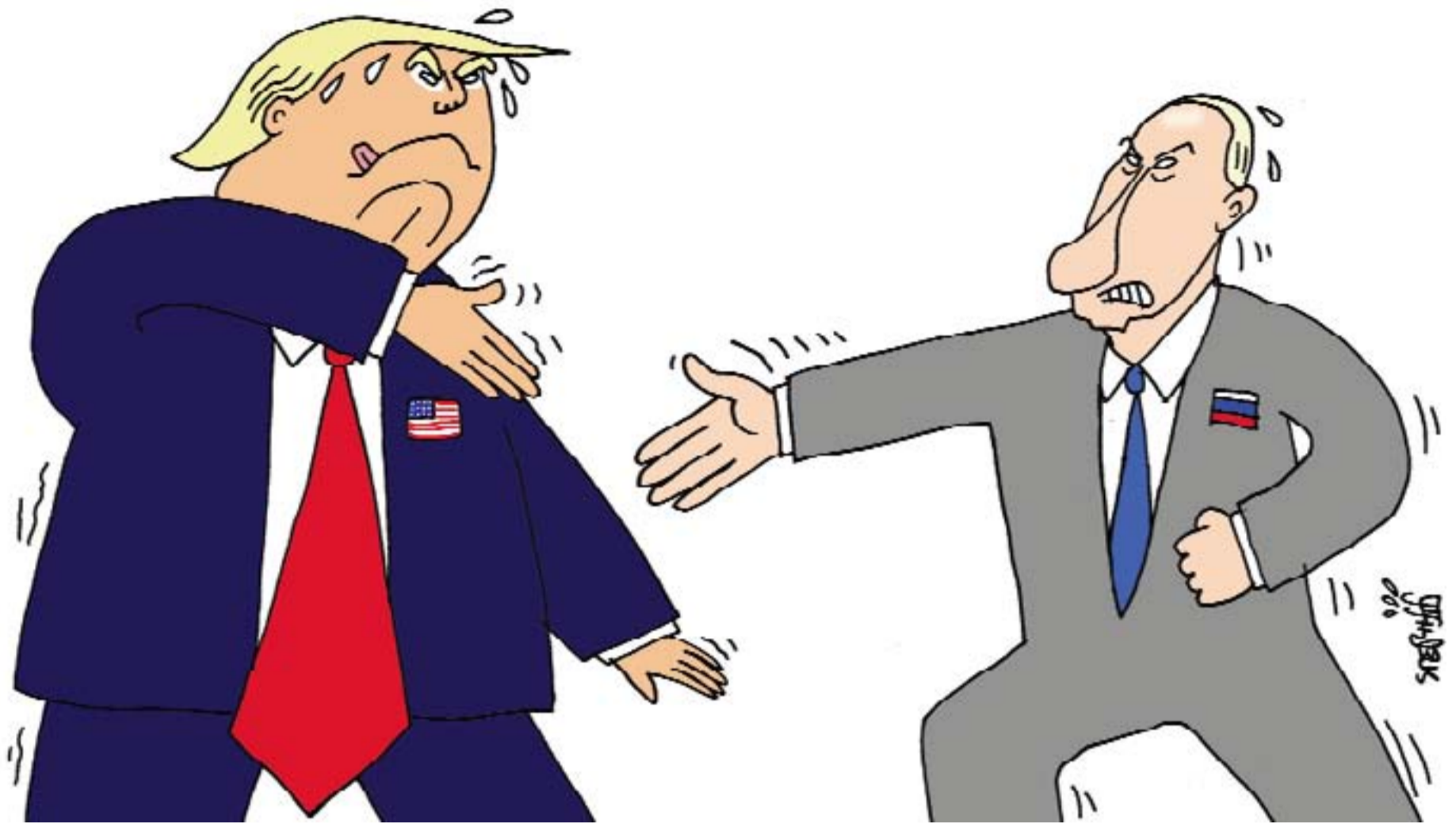
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HIGHLIGHT
 OF THE
 G20



TRUMP CHECKS BOX BUT QUESTIONS REMAIN

Washington Watch
**NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN
 AGAINST ARABS, MUSLIMS
 HAS CONSEQUENCES**

By Dr James J Zogby

While, as president, Donald Trump has worked to cultivate a relationship with Arab leaders, the antipathy towards Arabs and Muslims that he and his party have cultivated in recent years continues to have a worrisome impact on American public opinion and policy.

Recent polling conducted three weeks after Trump's summits in Saudi Arabia, establishes the persistence of a deep and disturbing partisan divide in American attitudes toward Arabs and Muslims. On many questions, the views of Democrats and Republicans are exactly the opposite of one another, with Republican attitudes toward the two communities being extremely negative and the views of Democrats being overwhelmingly positive. For example, even after Trump's visit, only 18 percent of Republicans have a favorable view of Muslims while only 20 percent have favorable views of Arabs. This stands in marked contrast to the 59 percent and 58 percent of Democrats who are favorably inclined toward Muslims and Arabs, respectively.

These are some of the observations that can be gleaned from the latest Zogby Analytics poll conducted for the Arab American Institute in mid-June of this year. The AAI/ZA poll surveyed 1,012 voters nationwide. AAI/ZA have annually examined US opinion on these issues for two decades in order to better understand attitudes toward Arabs and Muslims and the challenges faced by Arab Americans and American Muslims. As a result, it is possible to observe changes over time. It was during the 2010 congressional elections that the GOP first attempted to exploit fear of Muslims for partisan political purposes. While the effort did not have an appreciable impact on the election, itself, the continuation of this effort during the next two election cycles has resulted a sizable shift in Republican attitudes not only toward Arabs and Muslims, but Americans either of Arab ancestry or the Muslim faith.

AAI/ZA polling conducted in Dec 2015, after 6 years of anti-Muslim campaigning, shows the "mirror image" effect in place with Democrats recording 47 percent favorable/28 percent unfavorable attitudes toward American Muslims as compared with Republican's 25 percent favorable/53 percent unfavorable attitudes.

'Trump effect'

If there has been any "Trump effect" on attitudes, it has been to increase the favorable attitudes of Democrats toward Arabs and Muslims. For example, Democrats' favorable attitudes toward Arab Americans increased from 51 percent in 2015 to 58 percent this year, while the positive rating given to American Muslims jumped from 47 percent to 61 percent. Meanwhile, Republican favorable attitudes toward American Muslims remained at a low 25 percent, while dropping from 34 percent in 2015 to 31 percent for Arab Americans.

Even more pronounced are the differences in attitudes between those who identify as Trump voters versus those who say they voted for Hillary Clinton. Clinton supporters give a 62 percent favorable rating to Arab Americans and a 64 percent rating to American Muslims. Only 32 percent of Trump supporters view Arab Americans positively and only 28 percent rate American Muslims positively. This is not just a question of "liking or not liking" the two communities, these negative attitudes have consequences for government policy. With Republicans in control of the White House, Congress, and most state governments, the attitudes of the Republican voters matter to GOP officeholders.

What our polling shows is that on issues that affect the lives of Arab Americans and American Muslims ranging from immigration to civil liberties, the partisan divide is substantial and explains, in part, Republican support for policies hostile to both groups. For example, while a plurality of Americans (48 percent to 30 percent) oppose restricting rights in the name of security, Republicans and Trump voters are in favor of such policies. And while Americans are evenly divided on whether law enforcement are justified in using ethnic or religious profiling in dealing with Arab Americans and American Muslims, Republicans and Trump voters support such profiling by greater than four to one (in the case of Trump voters 63 percent in favor with only 14 percent opposed).

And while a significant majority of all Americans agree that there has been an increase in discrimination and hate against Arab Americans and American Muslims, breaking down the numbers we find a huge partisan divide.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

US President Donald Trump did what he had to do: He confronted Vladimir Putin about the issue of Russian interference in last year's US elections during his much-anticipated first meeting with the Russian president. Under intense pressure to do so from his Democratic opponents and even some fellow Republicans, Trump would have been pilloried even before he got home from his European trip had he not broached the subject. The president can now point to the Putin meeting when challenged on whether he's been tough enough on the Russians.

But it's still to be seen how forcefully Trump will deal with the issue going forward to prevent future meddling and to ensure consequences for what's already occurred. On Saturday, he didn't address specific questions about the meeting with Putin, describing it as "tremendous." "If anything, we've seen Russia continue to pursue similar tactics in the French election. If anything, it feels to be intensifying, and if we now say we're done with this, we are not adequately protecting our country," said Heather Conley, a Europe expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after the meeting that Trump accepted Putin's assurances that Moscow didn't meddle in the 2016 US presidential election - an account that appeared at odds with that of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Without knowing exactly what Trump said to Putin on the issue during their two-hours-plus meeting, it's hard to know whether Trump's approach toward the matter has shifted significantly.

Tillerson, who sat in on the meeting and briefed journalists afterward, said Trump opened the session by "raising the concerns of the American people regarding Russian interference in the 2016 election." Trump pressed Putin on the matter more than once, Tillerson said. Putin, in turn, denied involvement and asked for proof. "The fact that the issue came up should not be a surprise," said Derek Chollet, a former

Obama administration official and senior adviser for security and defense policy at the German Marshall Fund in Washington, adding that it "would have been a shock had the issue not come up".

Mixed signals

What matters, Chollet said, are the specifics of what the two presidents discussed about election meddling, the points Trump agreed or disagreed with, and how much Putin dominated the conversation. Tillerson said the leaders agreed to work together on staying out of each other's elections processes. But Trump has sent mixed signals about how seriously he regards the matter. Deeply frustrated by the suggestion that his 2016 victory may have been tainted, Trump has held back from fully endorsing the findings of multiple US intelligence agencies that Russia meddled in last year's presidential election to help him win.

Just Thursday, the day before he and Putin met, Trump leveled his latest critique of America's intelligence apparatus while standing on Polish soil, waffling on whether Russia was involved and saying that Moscow was probably behind the meddling but that other countries may be guilty, too. "Nobody really knows," he said.

Trump has tried to shift the focus away from what steps he will take to safeguard US elections to what then-President Barack Obama did after he was briefed before the election about what Russia was up to. Trump has alleged that Obama didn't do anything to stop Russia because he expected Democrat Hillary Clinton to win anyway. Obama, for his part, has said that he confronted Putin about the issue when they were at an international conference last year and told the Russian to knock it off.

Tillerson said Trump and Putin are "rightly" focused on moving relations between their countries forward from what he called an "intractable disagreement". But US Sen Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat and vice chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said that whatever Trump told Putin would have carried more weight if the pres-

ident hadn't "equivocated" about who was behind the election interference. "It would also have had more force if he had not again criticized the integrity of our intelligence agencies, among whom there is unwavering agreement about Russia's active interference in the 2016 US presidential election," Warner said.

Thomas Wright, a senior fellow and director of the US-Europe center at the Brookings Institution, said the Trump administration hasn't shown itself to be sin-

cere about wanting to prevent future attacks and has shown a determination to build a partnership with Russia, despite the worries of some European allies who fear Moscow's aggressive tactics. "They're basically checking the box on certain things they feel like they'll get in trouble if they don't do," Wright said. Trump will get some credit for raising the elections issue with Putin. But he still has plenty of convincing to do regarding his resolve in standing up to the Russians. — Reuters

TRUMP SHOWS WILLINGNESS
 ANEW TO BREAKING NORMS

Most US presidents use their foreign trips to promote the virtues of American democracy. President Donald Trump did some of that, too. But he didn't hesitate to use his quick visit to Poland to air some pointed grievances, blasting his predecessor, casting doubt on his own spy agencies and unloading on news outlets by name. Trump's news conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda on Thursday offered a fresh window into how a new president, not yet six months in office, has shown a penchant for changing the unwritten rules of the White House.

Trump thumped former President Barack Obama for failing to do more to address allegations that Russia meddled in the 2016 election. At one point, Trump asserted that Obama had stayed silent because he expected his Democratic heir apparent to win. "I think he thought Hillary Clinton was going to win the election, and he said, let's not do anything about it," Trump said. "Had he thought the other way he would have done something about it."

Trump was pressed about the conclusion by the US national intelligence director last year that Russia was behind the hack of Democratic Party email systems and otherwise attempted to influence the 2016 election to aid Trump. Trump

volunteered that US spy agencies had once been confident that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. "They were wrong and it led to a mess," he said, meaning the Iraq war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin often makes the same argument about faulty US intelligence when criticizing US military action, most recently in response to Trump's decision to bomb a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack blamed on the Syrian government. Russia disputed that finding. All of it came on the eve of Trump's meeting with Putin and as investigators look into contacts between Trump's associates and Moscow during the 2016 campaign and transition.

Rep Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said Trump's comments in Poland "continue to directly undermine US interests. This is not putting America first, but continuing to propagate his own personal fiction at the country's expense". While many US presidents have pointed to a free and independent press as a pillar of democracy, Trump repeated his longstanding critique of CNN and singled out NBC News, complaining it was "equally as bad despite the fact that I made them a fortune with 'The Apprentice' but they forgot that." — AP

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT DEFINING TERRORISM

A diplomatic standoff between Qatar and four other Arab nations that accuse it of sponsoring terrorism has turned a spotlight on an opaque network of charities and prominent figures freely operating in the tiny Gulf country. It also raises questions about what constitutes a "terrorist" in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain have released a list of two dozen groups and nearly 60 individuals that they allege have been involved in financing terrorism and are linked to Qatar.

Qatar insists it condemns terrorism and that it does not support extremist groups. The crisis began last month when the four Arab countries cut ties to Qatar. They demanded it end the alleged support of terrorism, and also that it cut its relations with Shiite power Iran and stop meddling in their affairs through support of Islamist opposition groups. The energy rich nation is an important US ally in a volatile region. It hosts about 10,000 US troops at an air base used to launch coalition airstrikes against Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq.

The list of the groups and individuals released by Qatar's neighbors reflects longstanding concerns raised by US officials. At the same time, it also includes political dissenters and opposition voices. "The allegation that Qatar supports terrorism was clearly designed to generate anti-Qatar sentiment in the West," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said Wednesday in a speech in London.

As he spoke, foreign ministers from the Arab quartet met in Cairo to review Qatar's response to their demands. At the top of those demands is that Qatar end support for the Muslim Brotherhood, which briefly held power in Egypt

and whose offshoots are active across the Middle East. Though Qatar has cracked down on dissent at home, it views the Brotherhood as a legitimate political force. This has put it at odds with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, which have branded the Brotherhood a terrorist organization and see it as a threat to political stability and security.

In his speech, Sheikh Mohammed said there is a danger in "labeling political opponents as terrorists merely to silence them". "Our neighbors see change - those advocating for it and those reporting on it - as a threat, and they are quick to label anyone who opposes their governments as a 'terrorist,'" he said. The Brotherhood's spiritual guide, Sheikh Youssef Al-Qaradawi, was among those accused by Qatar's neighbors of having ties with terrorism. The 90-year-old Egyptian cleric, who has lived in Qatar for decades, previously was embraced by Gulf leaders and was seen alongside Saudi Arabia's top cleric, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdelaziz Al-Sheikh, and the UAE's rulers.

In 2013, he joined a chorus of preachers in the Gulf urging young men to defend Sunni Muslims in Syria, calls that coincided with official backing of rebels fighting to oust Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. Qaradawi differed from other Gulf preachers in that he strongly criticized Egypt's government when it ousted the Brotherhood from power. He also was critical of Gulf countries that backed the lethal crackdown.

Outlier

Qatar's support of the Brotherhood has made it an outlier, as has its unique role as a mediator in hostage negotiations, helping to free Western captives held by Al-Qaeda in Syria and Yemen. Christopher Mellon, a researcher with the

New America Foundation who co-authored a report about ransom payments, said these negotiations have often involved paying extremist groups. He said European governments have similarly gone to extreme lengths to keep these transactions private. "They're very deliberately non-transparent. They don't want anyone to know that they've paid," he said.

Reports emerged earlier this year that Qatar paid hundreds of millions of dollars to release members of its ruling family who were kidnapped in Iraq. Allegations were raised that the complex deal included Qatari payments to an Al-Qaeda-linked group in Syria, as well as to an Iranian-backed militia in Iraq. Qatar said reports of ransom payments to these groups are false and that it provided Iraq's government with financial aid to support the release of the Qataris.

The Arab quartet's list names a number of Qatari nationals, including Khalifa Al-Subaie, Saad bin Saad Al-Kabi, Abdelrahman Al-Nuaymi, Abdel-Latif Al-Kuwari and Ibrahim Al-Bakr. All have been sanctioned by the US Treasury Department as material supporters of Al-Qaeda. Four of the five appear to be living in Qatar - their assets are frozen, they are under surveillance and are barred from traveling abroad - but they are not imprisoned.

The US Treasury said in the case of Bakr, he was detained in Qatar in the early 2000s for his role in a jihadist network but that he was released from prison after promising not to conduct terrorist activity in Qatar. Treasury alleged that in 2006, he played a key role in a terrorist cell plotting to attack US military bases in Qatar, and as of mid-2012 was serving as a link between Gulf-based Al-Qaeda financiers and Afghanistan. — AP

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TRUMP, PUTIN IN 'ROBUST' FIRST MEETING AT...

Continued from Page 1

On the presidential election campaign trail last year, Trump said he hoped relations with Putin could be rebuilt after Russia's acrimonious ties with his predecessor Barack Obama. But the billionaire had faced increasing pressure to take a tough line on Russia after allegations it interfered in the vote. In the talks on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Trump pressed Putin on the issue, "and then... felt like at this point, let's talk about how do we go forward," said Tillerson. "I think that was the right place to spend our time, rather than spending a lot of time having a disagreement that everybody knows we have a disagreement," added the secretary of state.

But Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer ripped into Tillerson over the case. "For Secretary Tillerson to say that this issue will remain unresolved is disgraceful - to give equal credence to the findings of the American intelligence community and the assertion by Mr Putin is a grave dereliction of duty and will only encourage Russia to further interfere in our elections in the future," he warned.

Yesterday, Trump said that the tete-a-tete was "tremendous", while Putin told reporters he expects Russian-US cooperation will improve under Trump and that the American is "very different" in real life. "The Trump that you see on TV is very different than the real Trump," Putin said. "He perfectly understands whom he is talking to and answers questions quickly. I think personal relations were established."

Putin said he was positive about repairing US-Russian relations, which plunged during the era of president Barack Obama. "There is every reason to believe that we will be able to at least partially re-establish the level of cooperation that we need," Putin told a news conference. "I very much hope (for an improvement in relations) and it seems to me that some basis for this has already been created," Putin said.

Putin said that in particular the US appeared to be less rigid on the war on Syria, where Moscow backs President Bashar Al-Assad and Washington has sided with rebel groups. "It seems to me that the US position (on Syria) has become more pragmatic. There is a comprehension that if we combine our efforts, we can achieve a lot," the Russian president said. — Agencies

SYRIA TRUCE TO ALLAY ISRAEL, JORDAN FEAR...

Continued from Page 1

The truce is to be monitored through satellite and drone images as well as observers on the ground, a senior Jordanian official said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details with reporters. Syria ally Russia is to deploy military police in the area.

Information on truce compliance could be shared and discussed in different locations, including Jordan, the official said. Israel did not participate in the truce talks, but was presumably briefed by the US, the Jordanian official said. Ceasefires have repeatedly collapsed in Syria's six-year-old civil war, and it's not clear if this one will last. The southern Syria truce is separate from so far unsuccessful efforts by Russia, Turkey and Iran to set up "de-escalation zones" in Syria, including in the south.

Israel is expected to watch for truce violations. Israel has repeatedly said it will not allow Iran to set up a permanent presence in Syria. Israel has carried out a number of airstrikes in Syria against suspected shipments of "game-changing" weapons bound for Hezbollah. "The question and concern is of course if it will be exploited by the Syrian regime, Hezbollah and Iran to create new facts on the ground," said Chagai Tzurriel, the director general of Israel's Intelligence Ministry.

Ahead of Friday's truce announcement, Jordanian and Israeli officials expressed concerns about Iranian ambitions. The Jordanian official said the international community, regional powers and Jordan would not tolerate the creation of a "land line all the way from Tehran to Beirut". Such a "Shiite crescent" would disrupt the regional balance and be considered a "super red line," he said, referring to rival Sunni and Shiite Muslim political camps led by Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively.

Conflicts between the camps have escalated in recent years, including in proxy wars in Syria and Yemen. Predominantly Sunni Jordan is a US ally and maintains discrete security ties with Israel. Jordan previously raised concerns about Iran in talks with Russia, the official said. The Assad government surely

received the message, he said, adding that it's unclear how much influence the Syrian president has over his allies.

A successful truce could pave the way for talks about Syria retaking control of border crossings with Jordan that it lost to rebels during the war, the Jordanian official said. Israel is also worried about the recent movements of Iranian-backed forces. Israel controls the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau in southwestern Syria that it captured in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel has fought cross-border wars with Hezbollah from Lebanon.

In comments earlier this week, Tzurriel raised three points of concern, including the Hezbollah presence near the Golan and efforts by Iran in Lebanon to build what he said is an "indigenous missile production and upgrade capability". He also noted last month's linkup of forces belonging to the Iranian axis, including Shiite militias, coming from both sides of the Syrian-Iraqi border, near Jordan. This raises concern that control of parts of the border will allow Tehran "to realize its strategic aim of completing an overland continuum from Iran through Iraq and Syria to Lebanon," he said. "These are threats which should concern all parties who are interested in stabilizing Syria and the region, including the United States and Russia," he said.

The truce deal, the first such agreement between the Trump administration and Russia, could help the US retain more of a say over who fills the power vacuum left behind as Islamic State is routed from additional territory in Syria. Washington has been resistant to letting Iranian forces and their proxies gain strength in Syria's south. In recent weeks, US forces have shot down a Syrian aircraft that got too close to American forces as well as Iranian-made drones.

The British ambassador to Jordan, Edward Oakden, said Russia has an important role to play. "It's obviously incumbent on the Russians to bring pressure to bear on both the (Syrian) regime and the Iranians, and on the regime's Hezbollah allies, to respect the spirit and the letter of this cease-fire and to contribute actively to the establishment of a de-escalation zone, rather than, as it appears, seeking to undermine it," he said. — AP

UNESCO PUTS HEBRON ON ENDANGERED LIST

Continued from Page 1

dating back to the Chalcolithic period - more than 3,000 years BC. At various times it has been conquered by Romans, Jews, Crusaders and Mamluks.

It is also a stark symbol of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The few hundred Israelis live closed off in several small, interconnected settlements that most of the world consider as illegal, with Palestinians largely banned from entering and using nearby streets. Israel seized the West Bank in the 1967 war in a move considered illegal by the United Nations.

The UNESCO committee usually votes via a show of hands but this time, Croatia, Jamaica and Poland requested the secret ballot, prompting a heated discussion which required the chairman to call in security. There was another

moment of intrigue when Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Carmel Shama Hacoen, took the floor after the vote but kept being interrupted by his cell phone. "Mr Chairman, it's my plumber in my apartment in Paris. There is a huge problem in my toilet," he eventually said. "And it's much (more) important than the decision that you just adopted," he said.

Israel's UN ambassador Danny Danon also weighed in on the vote, describing it as "shameful & offensive". "This is an ugly display of discrimination & an act of aggression against the Jewish people. No @UN agency can disassociate our people from the burial grounds of our patriarchs & matriarchs." By listing sites on its World Heritage in Danger list, UNESCO seeks to mobilize the international community to protect them. It also allows for the allocation of immediate World Heritage Fund assistance to the property. — AFP

122 NATIONS ADOPT TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR...

Continued from Page 1

Nuclear powers argue their arsenals serve as a deterrent against a nuclear attack and say they remain committed to gradual approach to disarmament outlined in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The decades-old NPT seeks to prevent the spread of atomic weapons but also puts the onus on nuclear states to reduce their stockpiles. Impatience however is growing among many non-nuclear states over the slow pace of disarmament as are worries that weapons of mass destruction will fall into the wrong hands.

Led by Austria, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and New Zealand, 141 countries joined in drafting the treaty that they hope will increase pressure on nuclear states to take disarmament more seriously. Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland voted in favor as did Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Kazakhstan and many African and Latin American countries. "We have managed to sow the first seeds of a world free of nuclear weapons," said Costa Rica's ambassador, Elayne Whyte Gomez, the president of the

UN conference that negotiated the treaty.

The International Committee of the Red Cross hailed it as a "historic step towards delegitimizing" nuclear weapons and declared the adoption "an important victory for our shared humanity". Welcoming "an important step" towards a nuclear-free world, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the treaty reflects growing "awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences" of a nuclear war.

Disarmament campaigners say the treaty will increase the stigma associated with nuclear weapons and have an impact on public opinion. "The key thing is that it changes the legal landscape," said Richard Moyes, director of the British-based organization Article 36. "It stops states with nuclear weapons from being able to hide behind the idea that they are not illegal. It is beyond question that nuclear weapons violate the laws of war and pose a clear danger to global security," said Beatrice Fihn, director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The treaty will be open for signatures as of Sept 20 and will enter into force when 50 countries have ratified it. —AFP

TRUMP VS THE REST AT VIOLENT G20

Continued from Page 1

"Where there is no consensus, the communique spelt out the discord," said host Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was praised by Russian President Vladimir Putin for finding an "optimal compromise" on the touchiest issue of climate.

French President Emmanuel Macron also hailed the approach, saying that the club found an "indispensable balance" through the text and halted any backsliding on fighting climate change, which is blamed for melting ice caps, rising seas and severe weather events. The French leader, at his first G20 gathering, also took the opportunity to announce a new climate summit for Dec 12, which he said would focus on climate financing.

If the meetings within the tightly secured G20 summit venue were anything but harmonious, outside, chaos and violence gripped Germany's second city. Ten minutes' walk from the summit venue, charred road barricades, trashed shops, debris and shattered glass bore testimony to an anarchic Friday night of street clashes between protesters and police, when commandoes chased militants who hurled rocks from rooftops.

The clashes had blocked US First Lady Melania Trump at

her residence on Friday, forcing her to miss a tour of Hamburg harbor, and for G20 organizers to completely alter a program for spouses of visiting leaders. Yesterday, thousands of anti-riot cops were again on guard, as helicopters hovered overhead, with at least 20,000 demonstrators on the march again.

Within the summit walls, world leaders were dancing a delicate diplomatic waltz, with discord not only dogging the main G20 conferences, but also adding tension to the atmosphere in bilateral asides. Host Merkel herself admitted that "deep differences" remain with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after they met on the sidelines of the summit.

But it was Trump's first head-to-head with Russia's leader President Vladimir Putin that stole the show. After scoring at his Russian encounter, Trump turned to another thorny meeting, this time with Chinese President Xi Jinping. North Korea's first intercontinental ballistic missile test announced this week was the key issue, with Trump warning Thursday that Pyongyang's military sabre-rattling would bear "consequences". Entering into talks, Trump told his Chinese counterpart that "something has to be done" on North Korea. "It may take longer than I'd like, it may take longer that you'd like," Trump said, "but there will be success in the end, one way or the other." — Agencies

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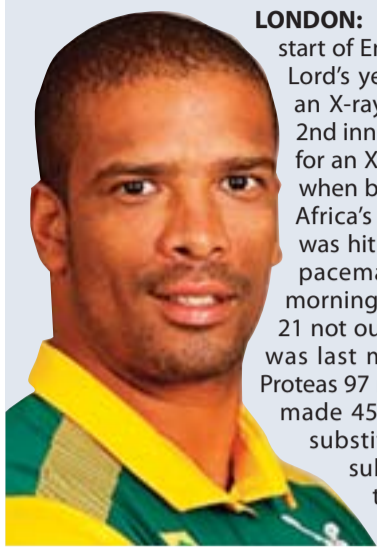
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S AFRICA'S PHILANDER HAS X-RAY ON HAND INJURY



LONDON: South Africa were a bowler down at the start of England's second innings in the first Test at Lord's yesterday after Vernon Philander went for an X-ray on a hand injury. "England begin their 2nd innings. Bad news for SA, Philander has gone for an X-ray after he was hit on his bowling hand when batting," said a statement on Cricket South Africa's Twitter feed. The 32-year-old Philander was hit on his right, bowling, hand by opposing paceman James Anderson during yesterday's morning session. Despite the blow Philander — 21 not out at lunch-went on to make 52 before he was last man out in a total of 361. That left the Proteas 97 runs behind on first innings after England made 458. Although South Africa can deploy a substitute fielder in Philander's absence, the substitute is not permitted to bowl under the Laws of Cricket. — AFP

COCKPIT 'SHIELD' SET FOR BRITISH GP TEST

SPIELBERG: A new cockpit head protection system will be tested for the first time during next week's British Grand Prix, Formula One chiefs announced yesterday. Governing body the FIA are weighing up the merits of installing a "shield" or "halo" on the front of cars for next year. "In an effort to get initial feedback from drivers at the earliest possible stage of development, a short track will be conducted at next weekend's British Grand Prix, in the first free practice session. The test will be conducted with Ferrari," the FIA said in a statement. A first model of the shield, which encircles the cockpit from three sides front, left and right has been unveiled but the FIA said they are "currently working with teams in Formula One on further defining its geometry." "A transparent open canopy system constructed using polycarbonate, the Shield is aimed at providing significant protection from debris, while ensuring unrestricted forward vision for the driver," the FIA added. A full test will be conducted at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza in early September. "A number of indoor and outdoor tests are currently being conducted and the Federation's target is to carry out a first full track test at Monza," added the FIA, who want the system to be in place by 2018. — AFP

RONALDINHO, GIGGS ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Ronaldinho and Ryan Giggs were among soccer stars to arrive in Pakistan yesterday to play exhibition matches which organizers hope will boost the sport in the country. Dutchman George Boateng, former France players Robert Pires and Nicolas Anelka, former England goalkeeper David James and Portugal's Luis Boa Morte flew in via private jet to the capital Islamabad. Brazilian Roberto Carlos was expected to arrive later for the first seven-a-side exhibition match in Karachi. The tour has been organized by a private company, World Group, aiming to promote football in Pakistan, which is No. 200 out of 211 in FIFA rankings. Lahore will host the second exhibition today. Pakistan has not hosted a major foreign team in any sports since an attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team's bus in Lahore in 2009. "For us it's a big moment," Pakistan football captain Kaleemullah said. "We didn't ever dream that such big stars will come to Pakistan." — AFP



BUSCH EARNS KENTUCKY POLE WITH TRACK-RECORD SPEED

SPARTA: Kyle Busch set a track record to earn his first Kentucky Speedway pole before thunderstorms shortened NASCAR Cup Series qualifying on Friday. Busch, a two-time winner of Saturday night's 400-mile race, clocked 190.282 mph in the No. 18 Toyota for his third pole this season and 22nd of his career. Third in points, the Joe Gibbs Racing driver seeks his first Cup victory since last summer at Indianapolis.

Martin Truex Jr. will start second with Busch's JGR teammate Matt Kenseth third as Toyotas claimed four of the top five spots in the 40-car field. Jamie McMurray (189.713) starts fourth in a Chevy with JGR's Denny Hamlin (189.687) next.

The pole was the second of two Busch claimed on Friday; he also earned the top spot for the Xfinity Series race. Busch was preparing for the third and final round of qualifying before NASCAR officials abruptly cancelled the segment and postponed the Xfinity Series race today at noon because of the threatening weather system. He smiled as he climbed out of his car to a suddenly-free evening, rest that will certainly be needed to handle a double-duty Saturday for the second weekend in a row.

The good news is he'll have a prime starting spot for both events in the latest chapter of his Kentucky dominance. "The guys have done an amazing job this year at building faster race cars as we've gone on this year," Busch said of his JGR team. "We started out a little behind. Just right there, so close having an opportunity to win each and every week, we just need to bust through and get it to happen."

Contrasting Kyle Busch's good day was one that series points leader Kyle Larson would like to forget. After having one of the fastest cars during both rounds of practice, Larson didn't get to prove it in qualifying after his No. 42 Chevy failed inspection. He didn't know what the issue was and is left to prepare to start last in 40th.

"We will be fine from the back," Larson said. "Obviously, it will be hard to pass, but we also thought the same thing at Texas and we didn't get to qualify there and I cruised right to the front no problem. So, we will see."

OTHER QUALIFYING NOTES

FORD'S FOURSOME: Ford placed four cars in the top 11 with Ryan Blaney and Kevin Harvick starting sixth and seventh respectively while defending race winner Brad Keselowski and Clint Bowyer are 10-11. Though Keselowski's spot is his lowest in seven starts, the three-time Kentucky winner gained his first win here from the eighth position in 2012. That might provide

some hope after an effort he felt could have been better.

"It was just OK today, Keselowski said. "We really worked hard to get the most we could out of it. The guys did a nice job chasing it but we just needed some more. Unfortunately we didn't get a chance to get that last round in."

BETTER THAN EXPECTED

Dale Earnhardt Jr. qualified 13th for his final Kentucky start and seemed fine with that after struggling early on.

"I didn't anticipate doing well," he said. "But they worked on the car and they made a lot of adjustments, and we kept going out there and making runs and ended up in the top 15. So, I'm pretty happy with that. We almost made it into the top 12 without even making a mock run in practice."

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The rain came fast and furious, flooding parts of the garage area with several inches of water. One surprise casualty was the Toyota Camry pace car, which had water lapping at the bottom of the doors. A track media representative quickly moved the car to higher ground and suggested that it would be ready for tonight. Crew members and spectators meanwhile waded through the area either by rolling up pants or just dealing with wet clothes. — AP



SPARTA: Kyle Busch, driver of the #18 Snickers Toyota, poses for a photo after winning the pole award during qualifying for the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Quaker State 400 presented by Advance Auto Parts at Kentucky Speedway on Friday in Sparta, Kentucky. — AFP



SPIELBERG: (From L) Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel, Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas and Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton attend a drivers' press conference after the qualifying session of the Formula One Austria Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, yesterday. — AFP

MOTOR RACING

BOTTAS BEATS VETTEL TO CLAIM AUSTRIAN GP POLE

SPIELBERG: Valtteri Bottas upstaged both title protagonists yesterday by claiming his second pole position for Mercedes in a tense qualifying session for today's Austrian Grand Prix. The Finn clocked a best lap of one minute and 4.251 seconds to outpace championship leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari by four hundredths of a second. Briton Lewis Hamilton, who trails Vettel by 14 points in the title race, was third fastest in the second Mercedes, but will start the race from eighth on the grid due to a five-place penalty for an unscheduled gearbox change. The session ended in some disarray when Frenchman Romain Grosjean stopped his Haas out on the track to bring out a series of yellow flags that prevented any final fast laps.

"I enjoyed it today and the car was getting better and better," said Bottas. "I had a decent lap and I am looking forward to Sunday - and hope Lewis and I can do a great job for the team." Vettel said: "I was hoping for the last run, but then it was a bit of an anti-climax with the yellow flags."

Hamilton said he was happy enough with third: "Of course, I would have loved to improve my lap, but it just wasn't meant to be today." When asked after the session to shake hands, Hamilton and Vettel turned and walked away - having done so earlier without television cam-

eras. It was Mercedes' 80th pole position and the 51st pole by a Finnish driver. For Hamilton, from eighth, it is a major challenge as he has never won from below sixth on the grid - a feat he achieved at the 2014 British Grand Prix. Finn Kimi Raikkonen, the 2007 world champion, will start from third in the second Ferrari ahead of Australian Daniel Ricciardo and his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen, backed by a crowd including 10,000 Dutch fans at the Red Bull Ring. Grosjean was seventh ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez and his Force India team-mate Esteban Ocon, with Spaniard Carlos Sainz 10th for Toro Rosso.

HAMILTON'S BRIGHT START

The session began in balmy, but cloudy, conditions with a track temperature of 45 degrees, as Hamilton soon stamped his speed and authority on proceedings. Eight minutes in, he clocked 1:05.238, three-tenths clear of Vettel. Hamilton improved his time to 1:05.064, when Dane Kevin Magnussen had what appeared to be a suspension failure at turn three and drove his Haas gingerly back to the pits.

The first session ended with Hamilton on top ahead of Raikkonen and Vettel, with Bottas pushed back to fifth by a flying Sainz. Out went Briton Jolyon Palmer of Renault, Brazilian Felipe

Massa and his Williams team-mate Lance Stroll, Swede Marcus Ericsson and his Sauber team-mate Pascal Wehrlein.

For Williams, it was a huge disappointment after the introduction of an upgrade package that has brought no instant success. Hamilton was out immediately for second qualifying on super-softs, a switch that signalled he may intend to run a long first stint in Sunday's race. His first lap was 1:04.800, trimmed by Bottas in 1:04.640 as the Mercedes topped the pile.

Vettel, on ultra-softs, grabbed second in the closing minutes as Hamilton warmed up a set of super-softs for his race starts, with the top three separated by only 0.160sec.

German Nico Hulkenberg of Renault, two-time champion Fernando Alonso and his McLaren team-mate Stoffel Vandoorne, Russian Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso and the luckless Magnussen, who did not run, were the five to bow out. As the top-ten shootout began, Verstappen was first out. He went top, only to be supplanted by Ricciardo and Hamilton, the only driver who will start the race on super-softs, before Bottas took control in 1:04.251. Vettel then slotted into second again, and Grosjean's car failure ensured that Bottas took pole and his team-mate was to start eighth. — AFP

LEXUS LC 500 TAKES THREE WINS IN A ROW IN 2017 SUPER GT500

OKAYAMA: Having dominated the first two rounds of the 2017 AUTOBACS SUPER GT500 series in Okayama and Fuji Speedway, the new Lexus LC 500 displayed its prowess once again at the Autopolis racing circuit to make it three wins in a row. This time, it was the turn of the #36 au TOM'S LC500 driven by Kazuki Nakajima and James Rossiter to keep the Lexus flag flying as they raced to victory in the third round of the championship.

In a race held under clear bright skies and fought over a challenging 300-km distance, the au TOM'S LC500 battled its way from seventh on the grid to the top step of the podium to continue Lexus' scintillating start to the season and consolidate the team's position on top of the manufacturer's standings.

"This has been another excellent performance from the team, and I congratulate au TOM'S LC500 for maintaining Lexus' domi-

nance in the 2017 season," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "Participating in motorsports events allows us to gather a variety of data which in turn help us while developing production vehicles. The level of support we received from our fans has been one of the highlights of our 2017 activities so far, and I express my gratitude to them for their constant encouragement of our motorsports initiatives."

The SUPER GT qualifying employs a unique two-stage knockout format, meaning both drivers of each team must be quick enough to get into higher position. Everyone makes a desperate attempt to clock the fastest lap in qualifying within the given time limit to get a better position at the actual race, making it a breathtaking battle well worth watching.

Besides, since races tend to get boring if a single car dominates the season, weight handicaps (success ballast), which are calculated according to accumulated points the drivers have acquired in all previous races, are assigned to the cars in the next race. Heavier cars have poorer acceleration and braking, meaning the championship battle is expected to go down to the wire. That looked to be a real disadvantage initially, since Lexus teams dominated the previous two rounds and this meant the LC 500 cars had to carry extra weight into the race. Despite the weight handicap, five of the six Lexus LC 500s made it through to the second stage of qualifying.

As the race started, the pole-starting competitor car secured the fastest lap of the entire race on lap two and generated a runaway lead of over six seconds by lap four. However, a major incident on lap five took two cars out of contention and immediately deleted any advantages during the safety car's deployment.

Following the restart on lap 14, the front-runners found themselves caught up with back markers in the GT300 class (SUPER GT is a mixed-class racing competition combining GT500 and GT300 classes, with the two classes of different levels of performance racing together to make the event all the more exciting for fans). This momentary hold-up allowed Heikki Kovalainen to join the chase in the #1 LC 500, eventually pushing into second place by the halfway point.

By lap 30 the teams began to make routine driver changes. In a calculated move, the #1 LC 500 entered the pits at the same time as the lead car, but managed to emerge in front as the DENSO KOBELCO SARD team pulled off a lightning fast pit stop. During this period, the #36 LC 500 of James Rossiter pushed incredibly hard and took the lead until lap 35, creating valuable headway that allowed fellow driver Kazuki Nakajima to leapfrog into the overall



lead after their own super-speedy pit stop, ahead of the #1 LC 500.

With the #36 and #1 LC 500s now in first and second position and gaining distance on the rest of the pack, a six-car scrap ensued for third place. However, the two lead cars had their own battle, an intense rivalry that ended in an unavoidable collision on lap 51. The #1 car spun off and was unfortunately hit from behind by a GT300 car as it tried to return to the track, forcing both cars out of contention.

Now unchallenged, Nakajima led his #36 car to the chequered flag with an outstanding lead of 26 seconds - team au TOM'S first win of the 2017 season and the third consecutive victory for the Lexus LC 500.

"After the qualifying, I was starting to lose my confidence, so I decided to race

calmly," Kazuki Nakajima said. "But, James did a magnificent job at the wheel and got us to where we could take the lead. That was more than I ever expected. I had a bad time getting through the traffic (of back markers) and it allowed the No. 1 car to catch up with me. There was nothing I could do about the ensuing collision and that was unfortunate. There was some damage to my machine, but fortunately I was somehow able to get to the finish first." James Rossiter said, "It was truly a day full of action. At first, I was running behind the two lead cars and that was the toughest part. But after the safety car came out, I thought that the real race would be from that point on, so I pushed hard. I kept running in full-attack mode, and I really enjoyed it. We got the win, so I am satisfied."



BASKETBALL

LAVAR BALL ON LONZO'S DEBUT: 'HIS WORST GAME EVER'

LAS VEGAS: It took basketball prospect Lonzo Ball 20 seconds to get a near-capacity crowd off its feet in his first summer league game. Just like LaVar taught him, Ball's highly anticipated Los Angeles Lakers debut on Friday night started with a flourish on a perfectly timed lob pass to Brandon Ingram. But that was one of the few bright spots for a player Magic Johnson has dubbed as the new face of the Lakers in a 96-93 overtime loss to the Los Angeles

Clippers. The No. 2 overall draft pick scored just five points and missed 13 of his 15 shots, to the disappointment of a near-capacity crowd that came out to see him. Leave it to his father to sum up the night with some of his trademark straight talk.

"He don't be discouraged because that's the worst he can do," LaVar Ball said. "He can't go but up. And he still kept them in the game playing his worst game ever. That's what I like about it."

Lonzo Ball was 1 for 11 from 3-point range, including a bad miss from well beyond the line - the kind of daring pull-up the Ball family is known for - with 1:16 to play in regulation.

He was also a little slow to react on defense, including when Brice Johnson made a quick spin past him for a dunk. The Clippers posted the highlight on their Twitter account, calling it a "pretty baller move." That's the kind of target that LaVar's antics have painted on his

son's back. And it's much bigger than the purple No. 2 under his name.

"Tough game. We didn't get the job done," Lonzo Ball said. "I need to be better." Scouts do wonder how that unorthodox shooting stroke will translate to the NBA game. What is not up for debate is the Lakers' return to must-see status with the pass-first point guard on the trigger and his carnival barker father on the mic.

While LaVar Ball has dropped hints

that he could tone down the bombastic comments and unending marketing of his Big Baller Brand apparel that turned him into an internet villain of sorts during Lonzo's lone season at UCLA, he was totally in character for his son's debut.

"The Lakers fans are coming and my boy is gonna bring 'em out," LaVar Ball crowed at halftime. "Because there's excitement for the game. It's entertainment. That boy is going to entertain. He's been doing it all his life." —AP

JAGUARES SINK WARATAHS IN FIRST MATCH IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Argentina's Jaguares ambushed the New South Wales Waratahs 40-27 to win on their first Super Rugby appearance in Australia yesterday. The Jaguares outscored the inconsistent Waratahs five tries to three after getting the early jump on the 2014 Super Rugby champions at 15-0 in the opening 13 minutes.

The Argentines led 25-10 at half-time and although they were reduced to 13 men with yellow cards to Guido Petti Pagadizaval and Benjamin Macome just before the interval and were pulled back to 24-25 five minutes after the resumption, they finished full of running.

It was the most points scored by the Jaguares outside of Buenos Aires in their second season in Super Rugby where they have won six of their 14 games. The Jaguares dominated territory through their kicking game and pierced the shaky Waratahs defence with their skilful offloads. "We had a tough week in Argentina last week losing by one point to the Southern Kings and we had a good week in Sydney and got the win tonight," scrum-half Martin Landajo said. "The travel is very

tough for us, so it's our first time in Australia and our first win, so we are very happy. "This is new for us, this is our second year in the tournament so we are learning a lot, so it's good for us to have another week in Australia and play the Melbourne Rebels next week."

The Jaguares played fast direct rugby and crossed for five tries to Pablo Matera, Matias Orlando, Benjamin Macome, Agustin Creevy and Matias Moroni. Fly-half Nicolas Sanchez landed three conversions and three penalties. It was another roller-coaster match for the troubled Waratahs, who have now conceded 130 points in their last three games and with one game left in the season away to the Western Force next game they have won just four games out of 14 this year.

"It's really a shape of our year, it was really disappointing, really good, then really bad and letting teams get so far in front at the start of the game," Waratahs skipper Michael Hooper said. "It's a hit to our pride, but we'll get back up, we're just not getting it right on the field at the moment and it's just so frustrating." — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Michael Johnson, left, is hit by Justin Gaethje in a UFC lightweight mixed martial arts bout in Las Vegas, Friday. Gaethje won the bout. —AP

RUGBY

LIONS, ALL BLACKS SERIES ENDS IN SENSATIONAL DRAW

AUCKLAND: Owen Farrell scored a long-range penalty three minutes from time as the British and Irish Lions drew 15-15 with the All Blacks to tie a series for only the second time in their history yesterday. New Zealand, who haven't lost at Eden Park for 23 years, were aggrieved when a last-minute penalty for offside within kicking range was overruled after a video review.

All Blacks fullback Jordie Barrett, in his first Test start, set up one try and scored another in the opening half, in what were to be the third and final Test's only tries. It was 12-12 with 20 minutes left before a Beauden Barrett penalty restored the All Blacks' lead-only for Farrell to knock one over from 48 metres to make it 15-15 on 77 minutes.

Farrell finished the night with 12 points from four penalty kicks, while Elliott Daly also booted a huge effort from his own half for the Lions just after half-time. Warren Gatland's Lions, who were given no chance against the world champions early in their tour, can feel vindicated with the series result, although neither side was entirely happy.

In 129 years of touring, it was the Lions' first drawn series against New Zealand, and only the second in their history after they finished 2-2 against South Africa in 1955.

"It's come down to the wire and we've ended up with one hand on the trophy each which is a bit like kissing your sister," said All Blacks coach Steve Hansen. "As little kids we are told to take the good with the bad and we have to do that," he added, referring to the late penalty reversal.

"It's a decision the ref has made and we will live with it."

'READY FOR EXTRA TIME'

Lions captain Sam Warburton, who lifted the trophy with his opposite number Kieran Read, said: "I'm not sure what to make of that really—I was getting ready for extra time." The All Blacks bossed the first half and they led 12-6 at the break, but the Lions struck back with two penalties from Daly and Farrell to level the scores at 12-12.

In a frantic final 20 minutes, the All Blacks regained the lead after Wyatt Crockett forced a scrum collapse, allowing Beauden Barrett to put them ahead 15-12 with the penalty. But their slim lead evaporated on 77 minutes when Farrell, also the

Lions' hero in last week's 24-21 victory when he kicked the winning points, landed another crucial penalty.

The All Blacks, 30-15 winners in the first Test, were clearly stung by losing the second Test last week in Wellington, and they began the match at a furious pace. After a helter-skelter opening 10 minutes, Daly beat Israel Dagg in the air to take the Lions up to the New Zealand line, only for the two rookie All Blacks to turn defence into points. An intercept by Jordie Barrett set Laumape racing 80 metres before he was cut down from behind by Jonathan Davies. From a resulting scrum, Beauden Barrett kicked across field for his brother Jordie to leap high and instinctively palm the ball back to Laumape for the opening try.

'IT'S A FUNNY ONE'

The Lions replied with a penalty to Farrell, but their time in All Blacks territory was limited and it was only poor handling by the New Zealanders that eased the pressure on the tourists. When the Lions did get within striking range they made it count, with Farrell adding a second penalty to close within one point before Jordie Barrett scored the All Blacks' second try.

In the countdown to half-time, Brodie Retallick won an untidy lineout and the All Blacks went wide for Barrett to score in space on the right. A third penalty to the Lions, this time a 52-metre shot from Daly, lifted the Lions at the start of the second half, and Farrell's third successful kick, also from distance, put them level with 20 minutes remaining. Barrett stroked the All Blacks back in front 15-12 with 13 minutes left, before Farrell levelled the scores for the final time, ultimately squaring what was a riveting series.

In the final minute, the All Blacks won a penalty within range for a Ken Owens offside, only for referee Romain Poite to rule the offence accidental and reduce the punishment to a scrum. The All Blacks said they would question the match officials over their controversial change of heart, while Gatland praised his captain Sam Warburton for helping persuade Poite to look at the video replay. "We're accepting of whatever decisions were made and whether we agree with them or not is something we'll do our talking to the referees about," said Hansen. — AFP



AUCKLAND: New Zealand second row forward Sam Whitelock takes lineup ball during the third and final rugby Test between the British and Irish Lions and the All Blacks at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

BOXING

GAETHJE STOPS JOHNSON IN SECOND ROUND OF SPECTACULAR UFC DEBUT

LAS VEGAS: Justin Gaethje finished battering Michael Johnson and ran off to climb the cage in celebration of his debut UFC victory. He briefly stood atop the fence, but slipped, hitting his head while falling 6 feet back to the canvas.

He fell again on his second attempt, but Gaethje found his balance on his third try. He returned to Earth with a joyous, graceful backflip. "I'm not a quitter. I proved it," the lightweight said with a grin. "Hey, it was really slippery up there. I was tired. But I can nail (the backflip) 10 out of 10 times once I get up there and plant my feet. I only (do it) when I get a sweet knockout, and that was sweet."

Gaethje has spent years working to reach the biggest stage in mixed martial arts. When the former college wrestler finally hit the big-time Friday night, he showed why he could be the UFC's next big thing. Gaethje (18-0) stopped Johnson in the second round of a savage fight that encapsulated his entire style. From the opening minute to the final flurry, he lived up to his reputation as a fighter with punishing skills, athletic brilliance and a reckless disregard for his own safety. "I've got the biggest heart, and I'm the most violent guy in the division," Gaethje said. "I'll prove it time and time again. I'll take the most boring fighter and have Fight of the Year. That's what I do. I'm an entertainer."

The UFC agrees: Dana White awarded Gaethje two bonuses totaling \$100,000 after the bout. Gaethje got wobbled and hurt by Johnson during a frenetic first round and again in the second, but the UFC newcomer took control of the fight after staggering Johnson midway through the round with a knee to the body. Gaethje finished the veteran Johnson (18-12) with primal punches and knees that elicited gasps from the T-Mobile Arena crowd.

BACKFLIPS

After two aborted backflips and one beauty, Gaethje went to work on the microphone to make sure everyone knows he can sell a fight as well. "Who's next?" Gaethje asked the crowd. "Where is my equal? Where is he?" That might be lightweight powerhouses Tony Ferguson or Khabib Nurmagomedov, although Gaethje doesn't have their pedigree just yet. It might even be lightweight champion Conor McGregor, who took time out during his training for Floyd Mayweather to catch Gaethje's performance.

"That was a good contest," McGregor tweeted. "Two fighters, fighting." "I'm in his weight class, (so) he'd better be watching," Gaethje replied. "He has a big target on his back, and I'm aiming for it. Real recognizes real. That dude is a warrior. I'm a warrior. If I get the interim belt around my waist ... I'm not going to ask for the money fight. I'm going to be the money fight."

Despite his wrestling background, Gaethje gained his fame as a willing brawler with potent fists and a reckless approach to the sport. He has stopped 16 of his first 18 MMA opponents after finishing Johnson, a respected veteran who infuriated Gaethje with pre-fight trash talk.

Earlier, welterweight Jesse Taylor stopped Dhiego Lima with a second-round choke to win the finale of "The Ultimate Fighter," the UFC's long-running reality competition show. In the culmination of a remarkable redemption story, the 34-year-old Taylor earned a spot back in the UFC nine years after he was dropped from the promotion. White removed Taylor from the finale of the seventh season of "The Ultimate Fighter" in 2008 after his erratic behavior. Taylor

embarked on an MMA odyssey encompassing 36 pro fights in a dozen countries before he earned another spot on the reality show.

"It's been a crazy, long journey, and this is the goal at the end," Taylor said. "But this chapter is closed, and I want to make a run for (the title). I want to see how far I can take this ride." Taylor dominated the first round against Lima with superior wrestling, but was knocked down by a

punch early in the second. Taylor turned it to his advantage, clamping down on Lima from the ground and eventually working into position for the finishing choke.

With his victory, Taylor earned \$290,000 and a second chance. "This goes out to all the people that have messed up in life and never given up," an emotional Taylor said in the cage. "Just keep going. Keep going. Don't stop." — AP

ALL BLACKS TO APPROACH OFFICIALS OVER LATE CALL

AUCKLAND: The All Blacks said they would question match officials over a controversial late refereeing decision after a 15-15 draw left their series with the British and Irish Lions tied yesterday. While Lions coach Warren Gatland praised his captain Sam Warburton as "astute" over the pivotal incident, All Blacks boss Steve Hansen said there would be discussions in private.

With the third-Test scores tied at the death, referee Romain Poite awarded the All Blacks a kickable penalty for offside, but downgraded the punishment to a scrum after a plea by Warburton. "We all know what happened and we all know probably what should have happened but at the end of the day it's a game and as little kids we were taught to take the good with the bad," Hansen said.

"We're accepting of whatever decisions were made and whether we agree with them or not is something we'll do our talking to the referees about." Lions hooker Ken Owens was initially penalised for illegally playing the ball in front of Liam Williams, who spilled the kick-off after Owen Farrell had levelled the scores with 180 seconds left.

But after conferring with his assistants, Poite decided Owens' offence was accidental and downgraded the punishment to a scrum. "There's no point asking me about it. I told you I'm not going to talk about it. It's a decision the ref's made and we'll live with it,"

Hansen said.

Lions coach Warren Gatland deflected questions about whether it should have been a penalty, instead praising the quick-thinking Warburton. "He's been quite smart and astute in being able to talk the referee from a penalty into an accidental offside," said Gatland.

But not even Warburton was sure he was right. "It's a shot to nothing at that point. He awarded the penalty and it's worth asking the question to be fair," the Lions skipper said.

"When you think back to the (2015) World Cup and that happened to Scotland against Australia, and they kicked the penalty and the Scots were angry with that, I remember thinking 'There's got to be an alternative to that.'"

It was an incident that lit up social media, with even former Lions saying it should have been a penalty to New Zealand.

"It should have been a penalty to the All Blacks at the death. Romain Poite has done the Lions a huge favour there," said former Lions and Wales flanker Martyn Williams. "Whether he's bottled it, only he knows. You very rarely see a referee change his decision."

Former England and Lions scrum-half Matt Dawson said: "Ken Owens was in front of Liam Williams, he had plenty of time to skirt out the way and not touch the ball."

"He went to play the ball, then took his hands away. That was a sign he'd made a massive error, that was a penalty." — AFP



AUCKLAND: British and Irish Lions head coach Warren Gatland watches play during the third and final rugby test between the British and Irish Lions and the All Blacks at Eden Park in Auckland. —AP

PITCH CLOCK, LIMITS ON MOUND VISITS LOOMING FOR MLB IN 2018

NEW YORK: Count CC Sabathia as a fan who wants to speed up baseball games. When the six-time All-Star tunes in at home, he quickly changes the channel. "It's slow. It's boring," the New York Yankees pitcher said. "Man, it's so hard to watch if you have no interest in it."

The average time of a nine-inning game this season is a record 3 hours, 5 minutes - up from an even 3 hours last year and 2:56 in 2015. Management proposed three changes last offseason the union didn't accept, and MLB has the right to start them next year without player approval: restricting catchers to one trip to the mound per pitcher each inning, employing a 20-second pitch clock and raising the bottom of the strike zone from just beneath the kneecap to its pre-1996 level - at the top of the kneecap.

Union head Tony Clark has said information was being gathered from players and he expects to discuss the proposals with management this summer. "I don't like the fact of somebody else telling me when I can go out and when I can't go out, but I understand the point," said Washington catcher Matt Wieters, a four-time All-Star. "There actually is an advantage to catchers and pitchers who

can get on the same page without having to take the mound visit. So I like that side of it, of both people will have to put their homework in as opposed to one kind of walking the other one through the game."

The 20-second clock is now in its third season in the high minors. It would reset when a pitcher steps off under MLB's proposal last offseason, but now the league is considering asking that it merely stop and resume. If a pitch isn't thrown within 20 seconds, a ball would be called. If the hitter isn't in the batter's box with 5 seconds remaining, a strike would be called.

Catchers head to the mound for a variety of reasons: discussing what pitch to throw, giving a pitcher a breather during a difficult inning or switching signals in an era where many are paranoid about opponents scrutinizing high-definition video to steal signs.

"There are some times we watch, we're like, man, they just talk. Especially when it's happening multiple times during an at-bat," said New York Mets outfielder Curtis Granderson, a three-time All-Star.

Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia, a two-time All-Star catcher for

the Dodgers, thinks the mound conferences can be vital. "In some games, the catcher doesn't even go out there. But when it's needed, sometimes you're out there twice in a situation because it's going to help the execution and the decision-making process that a pitcher/catcher go through," he said. "I don't think anyone abuses it. ... If you have to go out there and change your signs in a key situation, you should be able to do that." San Francisco's Buster Posey, a five-time All-Star who starts at catcher for the NL on Tuesday in Miami, said his mound trips depend on the individual. "There might be more later in the game where you're in a crucial spot of maybe you have a young pitcher on the mound and you need to give him some reassurance or strategize a little bit more," he said. "Sometimes I'll run out and make sure we're on the same page with the signals if the runner gets on second. I'll usually do that and be back at the plate before the batter's even ready. So I wouldn't even consider that a trip."

Detroit's Daniel Norris is the slowest-paced in the majors among qualified starters, averaging 27 seconds between pitches, according to Fangraphs. Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb is second at 26.6, fol-

lowed by Kansas City's Jason Hammel and Philadelphia's Jeremy Hellickson at 26.5 each.

Kansas City's Jason Vargas is the best at 19.8 seconds, with Michael Wacha (20.0) and Carlos Martinez (20.2) of St. Louis just behind. "If you talk about like 20 seconds to release the ball or something, I don't like that," Cobb said. "There's so much that goes on, thinking as a pitcher. It takes time to weigh your options." Countdown clocks were installed in big league stadiums after Rob Manfred became commissioner in 2015, ticking down 2:25 between innings (2:45 for nationally televised games). Hitters were required to keep at least one foot in the batter's box, with several exceptions.

The 20-second pitch clocks were implemented at Triple-A and Double-A, where agreement with the players' association is not needed. The leagues with the clocks cut 12 minutes from their average game time from 2014 to 2015, double the 6-minute overall drop in the minors. But times have crept back up. After dropping from 2:56 in 2014 to 2:40 in the International League in the first year, the average rose to 2:42 last year and 2:49 this season. The Pacific Coast

League fell from 2:58 in 2014 to 2:45, then rose to 2:48 and 2:53.

Part of the rise may be attributable to an increased number of pitches - and pitchers. In the major leagues, teams have added hard-throwing relievers and subtracted bench players. Teams combined to use 830 pitchers per game last year, up from 7.26 in 2002. This year's average is 8.21 - and it climbs during the second half, especially after active rosters expand from 25 to 40 on Sept. 1.

Sabathia remembered how frustrated he got when he switched to a Red Sox game on television this year. "I was watching between a commercial break of a basketball game," he said, "and I only saw two pitches." Others think no tinkering is needed.

"The rhetoric needs to change from, 'How do you speed the game up?' to 'Let's just go back to enjoying the game for what it is,'" San Francisco pitcher Jeff Samardzija said. "If we can cut out a little bit of the commercial break, then so be it. Put some ads on the scoreboard on the TV in the top left corner, cut a minute out from commercials and I think we'll be all right. But other than that, just buy another beer and enjoy the game." — AP



ST PETERSBURG: Brad Miller #13 of the Tampa Bay Rays can't make the tag on Tzu-Wei Lin #73 of the Boston Red Sox at second base during the eighth inning at Tropicana Field on Friday in St Petersburg, Florida. —AFP

BASEBALL

IMMACULATE CARRASCO LEADS INDIANS OVER TIGERS

CLEVELAND: Carlos Carrasco handled Detroit's lineup for the second time in a week - striking out a season-high 11 and pulling off a rare nine-pitch, three-strikeout inning - and Lonnie Chisenhall hit a two-run homer, leading the Cleveland Indians to an 11-2 win over the Detroit Tigers in Major League Baseball on Friday night. Carrasco (10-3) allowed two runs in seven innings to win his fifth straight decision. He limited the Tigers to one run in seven innings on July 1. The right-hander also recorded an "immaculate inning" by striking out the side in the fifth on nine pitches. Carrasco is just the second pitcher in Cleveland history to do it, joining Justin Masterson (2014). Chisenhall connected in Cleveland's five-run third off Jordan Zimmerman (5-7), who remains winless since June 3. Michael Brantley had four RBIs, Francisco Lindor drove in three and rookie Bradley Zimmer homered for the Indians, who played their fourth straight game without manager Terry Francona. He remains in the Cleveland Clinic following a heart procedure.

ASTROS 12, BLUE JAYS 2

George Springer homered twice and tied a career high with five RBIs as Houston rocked Aaron Sanchez in his return from the disabled list, propelling the Astros over Toronto. Springer hit his 26th and 27th homers of the season, including a two-run shot off Sanchez (0-2) in the second inning. The All-Star outfielder had four hits, and the Astros improved their major league-leading record to 59-28. Making his first appear-

ance since May because of a blister on his pitching hand, Sanchez allowed a career-high eight runs in 1 2/3 innings. Houston's Carlos Correa extended the longest active hitting streak in the majors to a career-high 15 with his 18th homer in the first inning. Evan Gattis added his seventh homer in the seventh. The support eased Charlie Morton's (6-3) return to action. The right-hander, sidelined since May 24 with a right lat strain, gave Houston one-run ball over six innings, surrendering four hits to tie his season low.

BREWERS 9, YANKEES 4

Jesus Aguilar homered twice and matched a Brewers record with seven RBIs, including a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh inning that sent Milwaukee past skidding New York for its fifth straight victory. The surprising NL Central leaders overcame a season-high five errors and a record-breaking homer by Aaron Judge to win at Yankee Stadium for the first time in exactly 21 years. Back then, the Brewers were still in the American League - they switched to the NL in 1998 and had dropped 14 of their last 15 in the Bronx, including a 10-game losing streak they snapped in this interleague series opener. Rookie left-hander Josh Hader (1-0) struck out seven over three innings of effective relief for his first major league win. The highlight for New York was Judge's major league-leading 30th home run, which broke Joe DiMaggio's record for most by a Yankees rookie set in 1936. Struggling reliever Tyler Clippard (1-5) gave up Aguilar's first career slam on a full-count fastball that gave

Milwaukee an 8-4 advantage.

CUBS 6, PIRATES 1

Kris Bryant hit two homers and drove in four runs and Anthony Rizzo went deep as Chicago beat Pittsburgh. Rizzo chased Trevor Williams (3-4) with a two-run drive in the fourth that made it 3-0. Bryant hit a solo shot against Jhan Marinez in the sixth that cleared the left-field bleachers and added a two-run drive in the eighth off Antonio Bastardo. He also had an RBI triple and finished with four hits, helping Chicago start the weekend series on a winning note after dropping six of nine. Carl Edwards Jr. (3-1) threw 1 2/3 innings. Pedro Strop gave up an RBI single to Josh Bell in the seventh. But Koji Uehara retired the side in the eighth, and Wade Davis worked the ninth.

RED SOX 8, RAYS 3

Dustin Pedroia, Jackie Bradley Jr. and Hanley Ramirez each homered while Drew Pomeranz won his third consecutive start as Boston beat Tampa Bay. Pedroia hit a two-run shot during a four-run third, and Bradley had a fourth-inning solo drive off Jake Odorizzi (5-4) as Boston took a 5-0 lead. Pomeranz (9-4) limited Tampa Bay to two runs over six innings despite allowing six hits and five walks. Steven Souza Jr. hit a solo homer in the seventh for the Rays, who beat Chris Sale and the AL East-leading Red Sox 4-1 in the opener of a four-game series Thursday night. The Rays, third in the division, trail Boston by 5 1/2 games.

NATIONALS 5, BRAVES 4, 10 INNINGS

Daniel Murphy's one-out RBI single in the 10th inning capped Washington's comeback victory over Atlanta. Adrian Sanchez led off the 10th against Ian Krol (1-2) with his first major league hit and two batters later moved to third on Ryan Zimmerman's single. Murphy lofted an opposite-field single over left fielder Matt Kemp's head to win it. Matt Albers (5-1) induced Kemp's double play grounder to end the 10th to help the Nationals escape a two-on jam.

TWINS 9, ORIOLES 6

Kennys Vargas had three hits, including a big two-run double in the fifth inning, hours after being recalled from the minors to help lead Minnesota over Baltimore. Trevor Hildenberger (1-0) pitched 2 1/3 innings of scoreless relief for his first major league win as the Twins rallied from a 6-0 hole to send Baltimore to its fifth straight defeat. Vargas' two-run double off reliever Miguel Castro (1-1) tied the score in the fifth, and Chris Gimenez's RBI single completed the impressive comeback one batter later. Manny Machado homered twice and had his second four-hit game

of the year. Seth Smith also homered as he and Machado went deep back-to-back to lead off the game against Twins rookie Felix Jorge.

DODGERS 4, ROYALS 1

Yasiel Puig homered and Chase Utley notched his 1,000th career RBI as NL West-leading Los Angeles beat Kansas City in the opener of the Royals' first visit to Dodger Stadium since 2003. The Dodgers won their fourth in a row behind Kenta Maeda (7-4). The Japanese right-hander gave up one run and four hits in five innings, struck out five and walked two while bouncing back from a poor outing. Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth to earn his 21st save in 21 chances. The Dodgers improved to a major league-best 37-11 at home. Puig hit his 16th homer off Jason Hammel (4-8) in the sixth to make it 3-1.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, REDS 3

Zack Greinke threw seven scoreless innings and Paul Goldschmidt hit his 20th homer to help Arizona beat Cincinnati. Arizona rebounded from a crushing 5-4 loss in Los Angeles a night earlier when closer Fernando Rodney blew a three-run lead in the ninth. The Dodgers swept the Diamondbacks, winning all three games by a run. Greinke (11-4) allowed four hits, struck out seven and walked one. The right-hander is 9-0 at home, and the Diamondbacks are 33-13 - matching their victory total from last season. Rodney got Tucker Barnhart to ground out to second for his 22nd save. Joey Votto and Schebler homered in the ninth for Cincinnati. Tim Adleman (5-6) took the loss.

ROCKIES 12, WHITE SOX 4

Nolan Arenado homered and drove in five runs while German Marquez tossed seven strong innings and had two hits as Colorado's slumbering offense awoke in a win over Chicago. Charlie Blackmon and DJ LeMahieu also went deep as Colorado broke out of prolonged slump. The Rockies banged out a season-high 17 hits and were 7 of 14 with runners in scoring position. They hit just .226 and .216 with runners in scoring position while losing 12 of their previous 15. Marquez (6-4) cruised through six innings before allowing Tim Anderson's 451-foot two-run homer in the seventh. He allowed three runs and nine hits, struck out five and didn't walk a batter while tossing a season-high 102 pitches. Chicago's Derek Holland (5-9) gave up seven runs and eight hits in just four innings in his first career start at Coors Field.

METS 6, CARDINALS 5

Jose Reyes and Jay Bruce hit solo home runs to help Jacob deGrom win his fifth straight decision, leading New York over St. Louis. Bruce's

homer in the fifth broke a 4-4 tie. It was his 11th home run in 61 career games at Busch Stadium. DeGrom (9-3) gave up four runs, all on solo homers, in seven innings. It was the first time in his career that deGrom gave up four home runs in a game, but it was good enough to tie his career-best winning streak set in 2014. Addison Reed earned his 15th save in 17 chances.

RANGERS 10, ANGELS 0

Cole Hamels threw 7 2/3 innings and Adrian Beltre's three-run homer highlighted a five-run second inning as Texas beat Los Angeles. Hamels (4-0) allowed three singles, two to Albert Pujols, and one walk. He struck out six, matching his season high, in his third start since returning from the disabled list on June 26. Ricky Nolasco (4-10) was rocked for eight earned runs in 1 2/3 innings and gave up back-to-back homers to Beltre and Rowned Odor. He entered the game with 15 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings that included his sixth career shutout.

MARINERS 7, ATHLETICS 2

Nelson Cruz hit his 300th home run and drove in five while James Paxton allowed two hits over seven innings as Seattle beat Oakland. Paxton (7-3) did not allow a hit after Marcus Semien's two-run double in the second. The left-hander matched a season high with nine strikeouts while walking three and hitting a batter. Sean Manaea (7-5) gave up three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

MARLINS 6, GIANTS 1

Giancarlo Stanton hit his 24th home run to back another strong start by Dan Straily (7-4) as Miami beat San Francisco. J.T. Realmuto also homered and had three hits, Dee Gordon added four hits and JT Riddle drove in two runs to help the Marlins win the opener of their final series before the All-Star break. The Marlins batted around during a four-run first inning highlighted by Stanton's opposite field two-run homer off starter Matt Moore (3-9).

PADRES 4, PHILLIES 3

Austin Hedges hit a pair of solo homers and had a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth, while Jose Pirela also went deep as San Diego beat Philadelphia. After Cory Spangenberg and Carlos Asuaje hit singles off Hector Neris (2-3), Hedges fouled off a safety squeeze before hitting a fly ball to right-center that drove in the go-ahead run. Padres starter Clayton Richard allowed one run and five hits in six innings before a 94-minute rain delay forced him out. Brad Hand (2-4) got four outs for the win and Brandon Maurer finished for his 18th save. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Miami 6, San Francisco 1; LA Dodgers 4, Kansas City 1; Seattle 7, Oakland 2; Arizona 6, Cincinnati 3; Colorado 12, Chicago White Sox 4; NY Mets 6, St. Louis 5; Minnesota 9, Baltimore 6; Texas 10, LA Angels 0; Boston 8, Tampa Bay 3; Cleveland 11, Detroit 2; Houston 12, Toronto 2; Washington 5, Atlanta 4 (10 innings); Milwaukee 9, NY Yankees 4; San Diego 4, Philadelphia 3; Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 1.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	50	37	.575	-	Washington	51	35	.593	-
NY Yankees	44	40	.524	4.5	Atlanta	41	44	.482	9.5
Tampa Bay	45	43	.511	5.5	NY Mets	39	45	.464	11
Toronto	40	46	.465	9.5	Miami	39	46	.459	11.5
Baltimore	40	46	.465	9.5	Philadelphia	28	57	.329	22.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	46	39	.541	-	Milwaukee	49	40	.551	-
Minnesota	45	41	.523	1.5	Chicago Cubs	43	43	.500	4.5
Kansas City	44	41	.518	2	St. Louis	41	45	.477	6.5
Detroit	38	47	.447	8	Pittsburgh	40	47	.460	8
Chicago White Sox	37	48	.435	9	Cincinnati	37	49	.430	10.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	59	28	.678	-	LA Dodgers	59	29	.670	-
LA Angels	44	46	.489	16.5	Arizona	53	34	.609	5.5
Texas	42	44	.488	16.5	Colorado	51	38	.573	8.5
Seattle	42	46	.477	17.5	San Diego	37	49	.430	21
Oakland	38	49	.437	21	San Francisco	34	54	.386	25

PALACE BOSS DE BOER PROUD TO BE PART OF PREMIER LEAGUE

LONDON: New Crystal Palace manager Frank de Boer believes his disappointing spell as Inter Milan coach has prepared him ideally for the ultra-competitive Premier League. The 47-year-old Dutch footballing great—who was capped 112 times and won the 1995 Champions League with the outstanding Ajax side under Louis van Gaal—told 'The Times' he is proud to be crossing swords with the likes of Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola, both of whom he knew when he played for Barcelona.

"With the coaches here, you want to be here, and that's why I'm very proud," said de Boer, who was at the Catalan

giants from 1999-2003. "A friend of mine congratulated me, saying, 'You can be very proud, you're one of the 20 managers of the Premier League, the best league in the world, the most watched of the world.'"

De Boer—who along with twin brother Ronald were mainstays of a sublimely-talented Dutch national side in the 1990's and early 2000's—says he is looking forward to working with Palace chairman Steve Parish and his team as unlike the Chinese owners of Inter they know their football.

"They have a lot of punishment and reward in China. That's the culture," said de Boer. "The owners wanted the play-

ers (locked) in the training ground for one week because they lost a game. They did-and lost the next game." However, de Boer—who suffered the heartbreak of losing on penalties in both the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 semi-finals—says the Inter experience made him better at his job.

'INVENTIVE, EXPLORERS'

"When you come to training grounds, you see words, messaging that 'If You Didn't Fail, You Didn't Learn Anything,'" said de Boer, who with Ajax became the first coach in Dutch club history to guide a side to four successive league titles (2011-14). "First you have to

fail to be better. I did. It was a good experience. I came out as a better manager." De Boer, who like Ronald ended his playing career in Qatar, has been chosen to fill the vacuum left by Sam Allardyce, who stepped down after last season having accomplished his task of preserving Palace's Premier League status. He has been particularly taken by Ivory Coast international wing Wilfried Zaha but insists he is not going to overhaul immediately the 'Eagles' counter-attacking style with his more cerebral passing game. "That kind of player (Zaha) is the one you come to visit the stadium for," purred de Boer.

"He can make the difference. With

the Robbens, Messis and Ronaldos, you have to get those players in their best position so they can show their qualities. "We want to try that with Zaha because he can be decisive. He's shown that already; he's still young (24), can still improve. "We're not going to go suddenly totally the opposite (to counter-attacking) that's suicide. "We do it step by step. To play possession because it's fun to have the ball has no purpose." De Boer says being Dutch there will be no problem to slipping into the new way of life and football style that is the Premier League. "We (the Dutch) are inventive, we were explorers. We adapt well," he said. — AFP

ATHLETICS

FARAH SEEKS TO END TRYING WEEK ON A HIGH NOTE

LONDON: British athletics legend Mo Farah will be looking for a morale-boosting performance in today's Diamond League meet at the same London Stadium where he will bring down the curtain on his stellar track career in August. The 34-year-old quadruple Olympic gold medalist—who will focus on the marathon after the world championships which run from August 4th to 13th—goes into the 3000 metres after a week in which documents leaked by Russian hackers Fancy Bears claim a sample he gave in 2015 had to be re-examined before being cleared in 2016.

Farah—who is also a quadruple world champion at 5000 and 10000 metres—hit back by saying he will never fail a test but the claims will cast a shadow over his appearance at the stadium where he lit up the London Olympic Games in 2012 with his triumphs in both the 5000 and 10000m. "The meet is only four weeks before the World Championships so it will be a good chance to see where I am at and what fine tuning needs to be done," said Farah.

"A lot of the world's best athletes come to London for the meeting and it will be like a mini-World Championships in one day." Certainly with more than 10 Olympic championships down to compete there is an air of a championships about it although aside from the men's 110 metres hurdles—which features among others world record holder and 2012 Olympic champion Aries Merritt—it is the women's events that are the more eye-catching. Jamaica may be about to bid farewell to superstar Usain Bolt but in 2016 Olympic 100m and 200m gold medalist champion Elaine

Thompson they look to have someone who will dominate the women's event as he has done the men's. However, 2015 200m world champion Dafne Schippers—who had to settle for silver in the 200m behind the Jamaican last year in Rio—is hoping she can provide stiff opposition.

The 25-year-old Dutch athlete is keen to throw down the gauntlet over the shorter sprint distance and Sunday will give the 100m 2015 world silver medalist a chance to strike a psychological blow when she clashes with Thompson. "Competing in the 100m at this event will be an important part of my preparation for the World Championships," said Schippers, who could finish only fifth in the Olympic 100m final.

"Looking at the names in the field, I think it will be a really exciting race." Kendra Harrison will hope too to bring the crowd to their feet like she did last year when she set aside the disappointment of failing to make the American Olympic team by timing 12.20sec to break the 100m hurdles world record that had stood for nearly three decades.

This year she comes into the meeting having exorcised the demons of the American championships after winning the title and she believes she can go on and improve her record. "This year I definitely think I can run another personal best, and that's what I plan on doing by the time the season ends," she told the Daily Telegraph. Aside from the Diamond League events there will be an emotional farewell for Paralympian legend David Weir who won three golds in the stadium in 2012.—AFP



LIVERPOOL: This file photo taken on March 18, 2017 shows Everton's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku runs with the ball during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Hull City at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England. Belgian international striker Romelu Lukaku is set to join Manchester United for a reported £75million (\$97m, 85.5m euros), a record fee between British clubs. — AFP

SOCCER

MANCHESTER UNITED AGREE FEE FOR LUKAKU

LONDON: Belgian international striker Romelu Lukaku is set to join Manchester United for a reported £75million (\$97m, 85.5m euros), a record fee between British clubs, after the buying club announced yesterday they had reached agreement with Everton. The 24-year-old's signing represents a coup for United and their manager Jose Mourinho as the latter's former club champions Chelsea had earmarked him as their top striking target for the close season.

Going in the opposite direction could well be United and England record goalscorer Wayne Rooney, who according to press reports is willing to take a cut in his £13million a year wages to return to his first club, but with the promise of more first team football than at United last year. It brings Mourinho and Lukaku back together again as the Portuguese manager in his second spell as Chelsea manager had sold him to Everton in 2014 for £28million.

United said in a statement on its website it was "delighted to announce a fee has been agreed with Everton for the transfer of Romelu Lukaku, subject to a medical & personal terms. "A further announcement will be made in due

course," added United. Lukaku, who is reported to have been offered wages of over £200,000 a week by United, should have returned to England on Thursday for pre-season training with Everton but instead was pictured training with his close friend and the most expensive player in the world, United midfielder Paul Pogba, who he is on holiday with in Los Angeles.

United are due in Los Angeles this weekend for a pre-season tour. According to British media reports the decisive factor in Lukaku's head being turned towards United and not a return to the club he idolised as a schoolboy Chelsea was Pogba and their agent Mino Raiola.

'MOST LUCRATIVE CONTRACT OFFER'

Raiola did extremely well out of United last year making an estimated £40m from Pogba's transfer from Juventus alone while stablemates Henrykh Mkhitaryan and Zlatan Ibrahimovic also joined the 'Red Devils'. Chelsea, according to the British media, balked at paying Raiola's fee for Lukaku's transfer.

Ibrahimovic's long-term injury suffered in a Europa League match last season and the fading

powers of Rooney have made the capture of a top striker imperative for Mourinho. Apparent efforts to sign Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata came to nothing leading United to switch their attention to Lukaku. Ironically Chelsea may now need to beat a path to Real's door to try and secure Morata's services.

Everton—who have spent freely in the close season—are believed to have hoped to sell Lukaku for closer to £100m which would have made him the world's most expensive player bettering the £89m that United spent on Pogba last year. As it is, the deal could smash the record for a transfer fee between British clubs—the record is the £50m paid by Chelsea to Liverpool for Fernando Torres in 2011 — and register as the joint-fifth most expensive player of all time. The deal would also see Everton make a tidy profit on what they spent on Lukaku after he had impressed during a loan spell. Lukaku, who scored 53 Premier League goals in 110 appearances for the club since his permanent move, declined the most lucrative contract offer in Everton's history at the end of last season, declaring he wished to play at a higher level. —AFP

CRICKET

COOK PUNISHES DEPLETED S AFRICA IN FIRST TEST

LONDON: Alastair Cook's unbeaten fifty strengthened England's grip on the first Test at Lord's after South Africa had to toil in the field without Vernon Philander yesterday. England were 119 for one in their second innings at stumps on the third day, a lead of 216 runs in this opening match of a four-Test series. Former captain Cook was 59 not out, after more than three hours of typically painstaking effort, with fellow left-hander Gary Ballance unbeaten on 22.

Experienced paceman Philander did not bowl a single one of the 51 overs the Proteas sent down yesterday, after going for an X-ray on a hand injury suffered when he was hit by James Anderson while making 52 in South Africa's first innings 361 earlier in the day.

It was a worrying absence for the Proteas given they are already without Kagiso Rabada, another member of their pace attack, for next week's second Test at Trent Bridge after he was banned for verbally abusing England all-rounder Ben Stokes on Thursday's first day at Lord's.

South Africa, with Dean Elgar leading the side for the first time in the absence of Faf du Plessis on paternity leave, wasted their two reviews in the first 80 overs on Cook. Both times they challenged what seemed, even with the naked eye, sound not out decisions by umpires Paul Reiffel and S Ravi in response to lbw appeals. But Cook was still on his tea score of 31 when partly unsighted wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock missed a stumping chance off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj.

Keaton Jennings, born in South Africa but England qualified through his mother and residence, helped Cook put on 80 for the first wicket. But he fell for 33 when, try-

ing to cut a Morne Morkel ball that was too close to him, he was caught behind by de Kock—who played in the same XI as Jennings when they were both pupils at Johannesburg's King Edward VII school. Jennings' exit brought in Ballance, under pressure in what was now his third chance at Test cricket and out for just 20 in the first innings. Cook's three on another sun-drenched day at Lord's saw him to a 127-ball fifty including eight fours of which a cover-drive off Maharaj was the pick.

DASHING DE KOCK

South Africa resumed on 214 for five-still 244 runs behind England's first innings 458 which featured Joe Root's 190 in his first Test as England captain as well as fifties from Moeen Ali (87), Stuart Broad (57 not out) and Stokes (56).

Temba Bavuma was 48 not out and nightwatchman Rabada unbeaten on nine. Both Rabada (27) and Bavuma (59) fell to spinners Liam Dawson and Ali respectively. But after Root took the new ball, de Kock twice struck fast-medium bowler Broad for three successive fours—the best a whipped drive through mid-on from a ball pitching outside off stump. It was a typically dashing display by the left-hander, who completed the second-fastest Test fifty at Lord's in a mere 36 balls, including 10 boundaries. But his next ball proved his last, de Kock slicing James Anderson to square cover where Stokes took an excellent low catch.

Philander made a fine fifty of his own before he was last man out slugging at off-spinner Ali, who finished with fine figures of four for 59 in 20 overs after he completed both halves of the Test 'double' of 2,000 runs and 100 wickets on Thursday. — AFP

ERVINE BLITZ HELPS ZIMBABWE DRAW LEVEL IN ODI SERIES

HAMBANTOTA: Batsman Craig Ervine hit a quickfire 69 to help Zimbabwe pull off a four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the rain-shortened fourth one-day international and level the five-match series at 2-2 in Hambantota yesterday.

Chasing a Duckworth-Lewis revised target of 219 in 31 overs, Zimbabwe rode on Ervine's 55-ball unbeaten knock to win with 10 balls to spare at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium. Earlier, openers Niroshan Dickwella (116) and Danushka Gunathilaka (87) put together 209 runs in Sri Lanka's 300-6 — becoming the first pair in ODI history to score back-to-back double century partnerships. The left-handed batting duo had put on a 229-run match-winning stand in the previous ODI on Thursday at the same venue but their efforts went in vain the second time around.

Solomon Mire (43) and Hamilton Masakadza (28) set up the Zimbabwe chase before teenage leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who took three wickets, got the openers trudging back to the pavilion.

But Ervine and Malcolm Waller (20) made sure the chase remained on track with their 43-run sixth-wicket partnership after rain interrupted play for over one-and-a-half-hours. "We knew we were ahead (of the rate) and we were always in the game and the way we batted was excellent," Zimbabwe skipper Graeme Cremer said in the post-match presentation.

"We have seen we can chase down a score and set a score and our batting has come right," Cremer said on the prospect of his side eyeing a major series win in over eight years. Ervine, a left-handed batsman and a right-arm spinner, smashed eight fours and a six to get the man of the match award.

'TURNING POINT'

For the hosts, Dickwella hit his second successive century with a commanding knock, while

Gunathilaka was bowled 13 short of what could have been his second ODI ton. Wicketkeeper-batsman Dickwella, who scored 102 in the third ODI, played a patient 118-ball knock laced with eight boundaries before being trapped lbw. Zimbabwe off-spinner Waller got the two prized wickets in successive overs to pull things back for the visitors.

Paceman Chris Mpofu also got two wickets to rattle the Sri Lankan middle-order as the hosts slipped from 216-1 to 263-5. "The turning point was when we pulled it back in the last ten overs. Sri Lanka looked like getting 340-350, so the way the bowlers pulled it back was excellent," said Cremer.

Meanwhile Cremer was docked 20 per cent of his match fee for his team's slow over rate while the rest of the side was slapped with a 10 per cent penalty. Zimbabwe were found to be one over short of their target after time allowances were taken into consideration by the International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Chris Broad.

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews, who lifted his side's total with his 40-ball 42, said that even though he felt "300 was enough", the batsmen's shot selection was not up to the mark.

The fifth and deciding ODI is scheduled on Monday at the same venue. The two sides will also play a one-off Test starting July 14. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

LONDON: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the first Test between England and South Africa yesterday in London, England.

England 1st innings 458 (J. Root 190, M. Ali 87, S. Broad 57no, B. Stokes 56; M. Morkel 4-115)	K. Maharaj, 10-361 V. Philander.
South Africa 1st innings (Overnight: 214-5)	Bowling:
D. Elgar c Ballance b Ali 54	J. Anderson 19-6-44-2, S. Broad 18-5-62-2, M. Wood 20-5-65-0, L. Dawson 15-2-67-2, M. Ali 20-7-59-4, B. Stokes 13-2-53-0 (nb-3).
H. Kuhn c Cook b Broad 1	
H. Amla lbw b Ali 29	
J. Duminy lbw b Broad 15	England 2nd innings
T. Bavuma c Stokes b Ali 59	A. Cook not out 59
T. de Bruyn c Bairstow b Anderson 48	K. Jennings c de Kock b M. Morkel 33
K. Rabada c Bairstow b Broad 27	G. Ballance not out 22
Q. de Kock c Stokes b Anderson 51	Extras (lb-4 nb-1) 5
V. Philander b Ali 52	Total (for 1 wickets, 51 overs) 119
K. Maharaj lbw b Dawson 9	Fall of wickets: 1-80 K. Jennings
M. Morkel not out 2	To bat: J. Root, J. Bairstow, B. Stokes, M. Ali, L. Dawson, S. Broad, M. Wood, J. Anderson
Extras (b-4 lb-7 nb-3) 14	Bowling:
Total (all out, 105 overs) 361	M. Morkel 10-5-25-1, K. Rabada 13-5-35-0 (nb-1), K. Maharaj 19-8-34-0, J. Duminy 9-2-21-0.
Fall of wickets: 1-10 H. Kuhn, 2-82 H. Amla, 3-98 D. Elgar, 4-104 J. Duminy, 5-203 T. de Bruyn, 6-244 K. Rabada, 7-248 T. Bavuma, 8-314 Q. de Kock, 9-337	

SCOREBOARD

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka: Scoreboard of the rain-shortened fourth one-day international between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Hambantota yesterday.

Sri Lanka	S. Mire c mathews b Hasaranga 43
N. Dickwella lbw b Waller 116	T. Musakanda c Dickwella b Chameera 30
D. Gunathilaka b Waller 87	C. Ervine not out 69
A. Mathews c Masakadza b Chatara 42	S. Williams st Dickwella b Gunaratne 6
U. Tharanga b Raza 22	S. Raza c & b Hasaranga 10
A. Gunaratne c Williams b Mpofu 1	M. Waller c Gunathilaka b Sandakan 20
K. Mendis c Waller b Mpofu 0	P. Moor not out 0
W. Hasaranga not out 19	Extras (b4, lb1, w8) 13
Extras (b1, lb1, w11) 13	Total (6 wickets, 29.2 overs) 219
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs) 300	Did not bat: G. Cremer, C. Mpofu, T. Chatara
Did not bat: L. Malinga, A. Fernando, D. Chameera, L. Sandakan	Fall of wickets: 1-67 (Masakadza), 2-82 (Mire), 3-128 (Musakanda), 4-145 (Williams), 5-172 (Raza), 6-215 (Waller)
Bowling: Malinga 4-1-18-0, Fernando 2-0-22-0, Chameera 5-0-32-1, Gunaratne 7-0-41-1, Hasaranga 6-0-40-3, Sandakan 3.2-0-45-1, Gunathilaka 2-0-16-0.	Bowling: Malinga 4-1-18-0, Fernando 2-0-22-0, Chameera 5-0-32-1, Gunaratne 7-0-41-1, Hasaranga 6-0-40-3, Sandakan 3.2-0-45-1, Gunathilaka 2-0-16-0.
Zimbabwe (Duckworth-Lewis revised target: 219 in 31 overs)	Result: Zimbabwe won by 4 wickets via Duckworth-Lewis method
H. Masakadza b Hasaranga 28	Series: The five-match series is level at 2-2.

Sports

Bottas beats Vettel to claim Austrian GP pole



Gaethje stops Johnson in second round



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MANCHESTER UNITED AGREE FEE FOR LUKAKU

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WIMBLEDON: Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns against Latvia's Ernests Gulbis during their men's singles third round match on the sixth day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. —AFP

DJOKOVIC INTO WIMBLEDON LAST-16 FOR 10TH TIME

LONDON: Three-time champion Novak Djokovic reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the 10th time yesterday with a 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7/2) win over Ernests Gulbis of Latvia. Second seed Djokovic will play France's Adrian Panatta in a place in the quarter-finals.

"I'm delighted with the performance today. I thought I raised the level of tennis," said Djokovic after making the second week without dropping a set. "Comparing to the first couple of matches and the last couple of weeks I think this was the most focused I was on the court."

Gulbis, now ranked at a lowly 589 after once reaching 10 in the world in 2014 when he defeated Roger Federer on his way to the French Open semi-finals, fired 37 unforced errors to Djokovic's meagre 12. "It's not easy obviously playing on grass against a big server like that," said Djokovic of his childhood friend Gulbis. "I'm very pleased with the way I've felt, the way I've played."

Top seed Angelique Kerber scraped into the Wimbledon last 16 yesterday as Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic hoped for an easier ride

into the business end of the championships. Kerber looked mightily relieved after saving her world number one status in a tense 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 win over US world number 70 Shelby Rogers.

The German star was a break down in the second set but did just enough to claw her way into Monday's fourth round where she will face Garbine Muguruza. Agnieszka Radwanska, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Coco Vandeweghe, Magdalena Rybarikova and qualifier Petra Martic also won their third round ties.

In the men's draw, Federer was to take on Mischa Zverev. Sam Querrey took one game to beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in a match suspended Friday due to bad light, while Grigor Dimitrov made it through after opponent Dudi Sela pulled out—the 11th retirement at the championships.

ONE-GAME WONDER

Querrey and Tsonga's match was called off at 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 1-6, 6-5, with the French 12th seed not wanting to serve as the light faded,

though Querrey was happy to receive. They returned to finish the contest on Saturday but it was all over in a matter of minutes as the US 24th seed broke serve. "My opponent was good today. He did three, four good shots, and yeah, that's it," said Tsonga.

Querrey said: "It's really the most anti-climactic way to finish a match." He faces South Africa's Kevin Anderson for a quarter-final spot. Bulgarian 13th seed Dimitrov had an easy ride into the last 16 when Israeli Sela was forced to pull out at 6-1, 6-1 down after struggling with a right thigh injury that required treatment during the match.

The 2008 Wimbledon junior champion will next face meet either Federer or Mischa Zverev. Canadian sixth seed Milos Raonic, last year's beaten finalist, downed Spain's 25th seed Albert Ramos-Vinolas 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 7-5 to book a fourth round spot against either Alexander Zverev or qualifier Sebastian Ofner.

MATTEK-SANDS RELIVES HORROR

Muguruza stepped up her bid to return to

the Wimbledon final with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Romania's Sorana Cirstea.

The world number 15 became the first Spanish woman to reach the All England Club title match in 19 years when she was beaten by Serena Williams in the 2015 final. "Every time I start the grass season, I'm like, 'How the hell did I reach that final?'" the 2016 French Open winner said. An off-sorts Cirstea had witnessed the horrific knee injury suffered by her opponent Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the previous round on Thursday. Mattek-Sands broke down in tears as she relived the sickening injury which has left her facing surgery to repair a dislocated kneecap.

"I remember I heard a pop in my leg and everything went slow after that," the American said Saturday from her hospital room in Wimbledon. "I have had lots of injuries in my career but this is definitely the worst. 'I will be out for a while but I will get through this.'"

RADWANSKA DIGS DEEP

The deft Radwanska, who lost the 2012 final

to Serena Williams, came back from a set down to beat Swiss 19th seed Timea Bacinszky 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 on Centre Court. "I expected a lot of tricky shots from her and a lot of entertaining rallies," said the Polish ninth seed.

Radwanska next faces Russian eighth seed Kuznetsova, the 2004 US and 2009 French Open champion, who cruised through with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Slovenian qualifier Polona Hercog. "I am a little disappointed as I didn't keep my level up throughout the whole match but if you had said I would make the third round of the main draw I would have been happy," Hercog told AFP.

Vandeweghe, considered by some as a dark horse for the title, beat compatriot Alison Riske 6-2, 6-4. She next faces Caroline Wozniacki or Anett Kontaveit. Croatia's Martic is the last qualifier still going at Wimbledon after beating Kazakhstani wild card Zarina Diyas 7-6 (8/6), 6-1. The world number 135 is the lowest-ranked woman left in the tournament.

She next faces Rybarikova, who eased into the last 16 of a major for the first time with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine. —AFP

CYCLING

CALMEJANE AVOIDS 'CATASTROPHE' TO WIN MAIDEN TOUR STAGE

STATION DES ROUSSES: Frenchman Lilian Calmejane came close to "catastrophe" before winning his maiden Tour de France stage yesterday. The 24-year-old suffered cramps over the last four kilometres of the 187.5km eighth stage from Dole to Station des Rouses, but kept his nerve to finish 37 seconds clear of Dutchman Robert Gesink.

"It's huge, I can barely believe it, it's pretty much everything I was dreaming of at the start," said Calmejane, who is riding his first Tour and only second Grand Tour having also won a stage at last year's Vuelta a Espana.

"Last year at the Vuelta I won in a similar manner; it's my first Tour, the eighth stage: a wonderful victory. Four kilometres from the end and at the finish I had cramps every time I straightened my leg and I wasn't far away from a catastrophe."

"But today was my day." The Direct Energie rider also claimed the polkadot king of the mountains jersey for his efforts on the hilly stage, taking it off Italy's Fabio Aru, winner of

Wednesday's fifth stage. After a break-neck start to the stage that saw numerous attacks fail to stay away as a fluid race situation reigned, eventually a group of 46 riders were able to get clear of the peloton before that then splintered.

A group of nine riders made it to the bottom of the first category climb 24km from the finish but by the summit, 12km from the line, Calmejane was alone with only Gesink able to give chase. Calmejane had a 30-second lead by then and he increased it on the plateau to the finish despite easing up at one point to stretch his legs due to cramp, to win by 37sec.

The Team Sky-led peloton mopped up the remnants of the breakaway as Guillaume Martin took third at 50sec. But all the top challengers were in that group, meaning there was no change in the standings as Froome maintained his 12sec lead over compatriot and Sky team-mate Geraint Thomas and 14sec to Aru.

Froome had his own scare when he

briefly went off piste a little over 50km from the finish but he stayed upright and quickly rejoined the road. "There was a little moment, there was a right-hand bend, myself and my team-mate Geraint Thomas didn't take the right trajectory, but sometimes it's like that," said a smiling Froome on French television. He had claimed on Friday that Saturday's stage wouldn't see much in the way of a battle amongst the top contenders and it proved the case as the favourites opted to keep the powder dry ahead of Sunday's gruelling mountain stage that includes three hors category climbs.

"I think after today's tough stage, tomorrow (Sunday) will be very, very hard and very selective for the overall contenders," added Froome. "And definitely there will be riders who gain time and others who lose time." Today's ninth stage is 181.5km long from Nantua with seven categorised climbs, including the three steepest of this year's race, and a technical descent to the finish in Chambéry. —AFP



DOLE: France's Lilian Calmejane celebrates on the podium after winning the eighth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 187.5 kilometers (116.5 miles) with start in Dole and finish in Station des Rouses, France, yesterday. —AP



Trump bullish on economy but whose recovery is it?

DOLLAR RISES AS INVESTORS PLACE FED BETS



SHANGHAI: This picture taken on July 3, 2017 in Shanghai shows two men (centre) riding bicycles from a sharing company. Authorities in Shanghai and Tianjin will impose regulations on the rapidly growing bike-sharing sector following mounting complaints over an accumulation of millions of the rentable two-wheelers on city streets, state media reported. —AFP

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS GET BOOST AT G20

WORLD BANK LAUNCHES LOAN PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

HAMBURG: The World Bank yesterday launched a public-private loan program aimed at providing over \$1 billion to support women entrepreneurs in developing countries, a project first initiated by US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump. The event put a spotlight on the powerful political role Ivanka Trump plays in the White House, where she has a formal job as an adviser to her father, and has frequently met with world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The World Bank said initial funding of \$325 million was coming from donors including Germany, the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and would be matched by hundreds of millions of dollars in additional private capital. "This is going to be what we hope will be a multi-billion dollar fund to support women entrepreneurs," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said at a launch attended by six of the 20 world leaders meeting at the G20 summit in Hamburg and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde. "This is not a cute little project. This is going to be a major driver of economic growth in the future ... and it's going to drive gender equality at the same time," he said.

The program, which aims to start awarding loans before year end, will work with governments "to improve laws and regulations that are stifling women entrepreneurs" and push banks to free up funds for female-owned businesses. It will also create an online mentoring tool to match women business owners in developing countries with

advisers such as Ivanka Trump, Kim said. Women business owners at the event said it was important to tackle legal barriers that prevent women from owning property and limit their access to funds.

"The empowerment of women is absolutely essential," United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres told participants, decrying what he called regression in women's rights even in industrialized countries. Merkel said she was impressed how quickly the bank had realized the project, which was first initiated five months ago. "If everything went as quickly at the World Bank ... then we would be much more efficient," she said.

Trump pledges 50 million

President Donald Trump said yesterday the US would contribute \$50 million to the new World Bank fund conceived by his daughter. He said the fund would help eliminate barriers for women to launch businesses, help transform "millions and millions of lives," and "provide new hope to these women from countless communities all across the world." "The critical investments we're announcing today will help advance the economic empowerment of women around the world," he said.

The president has been criticized for crude remarks he's made about women over the years, including a recent tweet focusing on a television news host's appearance. Trump's senior staff is dominated by men, despite the considerable influence of Ivanka Trump, who serves as a senior White House adviser. In addition



HAMBURG: The daughter of the US President, Ivanka Trump (C-L), looks on as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde (C-R) speaks during the panel discussion "Launch Event Women's Entrepreneur Finance Initiative" on the second day of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, yesterday. —AFP

tion to the US, Germany and Canada, the new fund has also received contributions from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Japan,

Australia, China, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, and South Korea. During his 2016 campaign, Trump frequently

criticized rival Hillary Clinton's ties to her family's Clinton Foundation, which received millions in donations from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and several other Mideast nations for charitable work. During an October general election debate in Las Vegas, Trump demanded that Clinton "give back the money you've taken from certain countries that treat certain groups of people so terrible."

He said then: "Saudi Arabia giving \$25 million, Qatar, all of these countries. You talk about women and women's rights? So these are people that push gays off ... buildings. These are people that kill women and treat women horribly. And yet you take their money." Officials stressed that Ivanka Trump will not have an operational or fundraising role with the fund, which will be run by a governing committee of contributors. Trump also took the opportunity to praise Ivanka Trump, who at one point Saturday was spotted sitting in her father's seat at an official G-20 event.

Trump said he'd been proud of her since "day one," and offered a rare, self-deprecating assessment of the challenges he's added to her life. "If she weren't my daughter, it would be so much easier for her," he said with a laugh, adding: "That might be the only bad thing she has going, if you want to know the truth." Ivanka Trump has faced sustained criticism from opponents of her father who'd hoped she would be able to push him to adopt more moderate policies. Many have labeled her "complicit" in his agenda. —Agencies

PARIS ROLLS OUT MEASURES FOR POST-BREXIT FINANCE

PARIS: French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on Friday laid out a raft of measures aimed at boosting Paris's attractiveness to high finance to cash in on Britain's exit from the European Union. Among them are scrapping a plan to widen a current 0.3 percent tax on financial transactions, eliminating the top income tax bracket, and keeping bonuses out of the calculation of severance pay for "risk-takers" such as stockbrokers.

"You can regret this (Brexit) decision or welcome it, but it's a fact," said Philippe, speaking on the roof of the Monnaie de Paris—the national mint—with the city's glass-and-steel La Defense financial district visible in the distance. "You have to deal with it." Paris regional president Valerie Pécresse said, for her part: "To investors, and to those disappointed by Brexit, I want to say that we are ready to roll out the blue, white and red carpet for you."

Switching to English, she added: "Welcome back to Europe." In another step aimed at attracting foreign businesses, the Paris area is to open three new international high schools by 2022 in addition to the existing six. Philippe also announced that work had begun to establish an international tribunal in Paris to handle financial cases in English. Most international financial contracts are written in English and make reference to British law.

Also in the pipeline is the "CDG Express", a rail line linking Charles de Gaulle airport to the city.



HAMBURG: French President Emmanuel Macron (L) and Russia's President Vladimir Putin shake hands during a bilateral meeting on the second day of the G20 summit. —AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron has pledged to relax France's rigid labor laws to free its economy from red tape and excessive taxation. The French financial sector currently represents about 4.5 percent of national output and

employs around 800,000 people.

Paris is competing with Dublin, Frankfurt and other centers for an expected shift in finance jobs out of London as a result of Brexit. Several banks, especially Asian institutions, have recent-

ly announced that they would move European headquarters from London to Frankfurt in response to Britain's departure from the EU. Bloomberg News reported Thursday that Deutsche Bank was moving investment banking activities from London to its Frankfurt headquarters. So far Brexit has had a limited impact in Paris, apart from banking giant HSBC's decision to relocate 1,000 employees from London to the French capital. JP Morgan Chase, for its part, is moving to Dublin, Frankfurt and Luxembourg.

'Not easily replicable'

"At this stage there are no commitments besides HSBC's," said junior finance minister Benjamin Griveaux. "We're working on it. Today is an important signal to investors." With Britain at risk of losing the "passporting rights" financial firms use to deal with clients in the rest of the bloc, employees in direct contact with customers may need to be based on EU territory in future.

Other jobs will need to move to deal with business that must be booked in the EU, as will risk management workers, who must be based in the bloc to satisfy banking supervisors' requirements. Reacting to Philippe's announcement on Friday, Miles Celic, head of Britain's main financial lobby, TheCityUK, said the British financial sector cannot be "quickly or easily replicable in other centres." —AFP

BRAZIL PRICES FALL FOR FIRST TIME SINCE '06

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian consumer prices fell last month for the first time in more than a decade, a potential boost for President Michel Temer as he faces bribery charges. The inflation rate turned negative, with consumer prices contracting by 0.23 percent in June compared to May, the state statistics institute IBGE said. That was the first overall price drop since 2006, and followed a steady monthly decline in inflation this year.

The trend has raised hopes that Latin America's biggest economy is emerging from the worst recession in its history. The central bank has been cutting interest rates for several months to spur economic activity. Analysts said Friday's data may prompt it to speed up rate cuts. June's fall was driven by lower food, housing and transport prices, the institute said.

Brazilian inflation had hit 10.67 percent at the end of 2015 and 6.29 percent last year. Analyst Alex Agostini of consultancy Austin Rating said Friday's data gave a mixed signal about the country's economic health. He judged it good news for the prospect of lower interest rates but cautioned it was also "bad news in that it reinforces the sense of lethargy in the economy." Temer, a conservative, has launched austerity reforms that he says will strengthen public finances and the economy. But he now risks being put on trial on bribery charges. —AFP

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	6,359,113	2.62%	348,302	0.75%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,964,711	0.81%	934,429	2.01%
INDUSTRIALS	11,257,380	4.64%	7,583,511	16.35%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,475,231	1.02%	1,743,672	3.76%
HEALTH CARE	111,756	0.05%	34,917	0.0753%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,764,214	0.73%	474,486	1.02%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	15,871,179	6.55%	4,180,868	9.01%
BANKS	45,805,107	18.90%	14,916,639	32.16%
INSURANCE	506,387	0.21%	56,293	0.12%
REAL ESTATE	61,676,430	25.45%	6,546,525	14.11%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	94,480,472	38.98%	9,546,125	20.58%
TECHNOLOGY	102,023	0.04%	16,335	0.04%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	1,011.55	968.80	4.41%	29.58%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,224.77	1,256.49	-2.52%	21.89%
INDUSTRIALS	1,890.11	1,901.65	-0.61%	40.63%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,069.25	1,084.21	-1.38%	-4.96%
HEALTH CARE	1,718.45	1,605.16	7.06%	38.09%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,022.59	1,055.63	-3.13%	10.60%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	568.78	603.50	-5.75%	-10.59%
BANKS	910.74	916.62	-0.64%	8.78%
INSURANCE	1,009.91	1,071.21	-5.72%	1.57%
REAL ESTATE	922.72	943.59	-2.21%	6.04%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	667.06	675.99	-1.32%	11.73%
TECHNOLOGY	661.83	660.92	0.14%	9.01%

MARKET RECORDING LOSSES AS ISSUES HEAT UP

BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,680.13 points, down by 1.22% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.53% after closing at 397.21 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 907.32 points declining by 0.31%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 32.29%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D. 9.28 billion, whereas trading volume average was 48.51 million shares, recording an increase of 34.56%.

The market continued recording losses as the political issues are getting hotter in the area during this period, which negatively affected on the fluctuation of the region's markets, including Bursa Kuwait, to end the last week's trading in the red zone. Also, the market was subject to pressures arising from the selling operations on many listed stocks of different sectors, especially the idle and small-cap stocks that been traded below its par and book values, which noticeably affected the Price Index in particular, the most losing index compared to its peers, the Weighted and KSX-15.

Bursa Kuwait recorded more than K.D. 245 million in losses of its market value in the last five sessions, whereas the market cap reached by the end of last week K.D. 26.24 billion, down by 0.93% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was K.D. 26.48 billion. On an annual level, the market cap gains for the listed companies in the market contracted to reach 3.26% compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then K.D. 25.41 billion.

During this period, the market is witnessing a state of watch and caution waiting for the listed companies to disclose its first half financial results of the current year, ended by the end of the month of June, which could push some investors to refrain from trading in the market temporarily waiting for announcing such results to define their investment priorities for the coming period, where it is expected to be disclosed in the few coming weeks.

As per the daily trading activity, the market witnessed

in the first session of the week a mixed performance for the three indices, whereas the Price Index witnessed a negative performance that pushed it to record strong losses considered the highest in around two months, as it dropped by more than 150 point, or 2.22% of its value, and was accompanied by the Weighted Index in the red zone, which declined by 0.42%, as a result to the large decrease witnessed by many small-cap stocks, especially the ones considered idle and did not witness active trading during the last period, while the KSX-15 Index ended the session's trading with an increase by 0.55%, supported by the random purchasing operations that concentrated on some heavy and leading stocks.

The second session of last week was ended with noticeable losses for the three indices due to the selling pressures that many listed stocks were subject to, headed by the leading and heavy stocks that witnessed quick profit collection operations, which pushed the three market indices to close in the red zone.

The market was able to record different gains for its three indices in the mid-week session, as the three market indices were able to compensate a small portion of its losses recorded since the beginning of the week, supported by the purchasing operations executed on many listed stocks of different sectors, especially in the Oil & Gas sector, the most growing sector among the twelve sectors of the market. In addition, on Wednesday's session, the market continued its increase supported by the continued purchasing operations on many listed stocks, headed by the leading ones, especially in the Banks sector. However, the three Bursa indices returned in the last session of the week to fluctuate once again, whereas the Price Index realized some gain but did not exceed more than 0.14% only, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices returned to the red zone once again by recording different losses, which added to its weekly losses. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 16.21% annual gain compared

to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 4.50%, and the KSX-15 recorded 2.52% growth.

Sectors' Indices

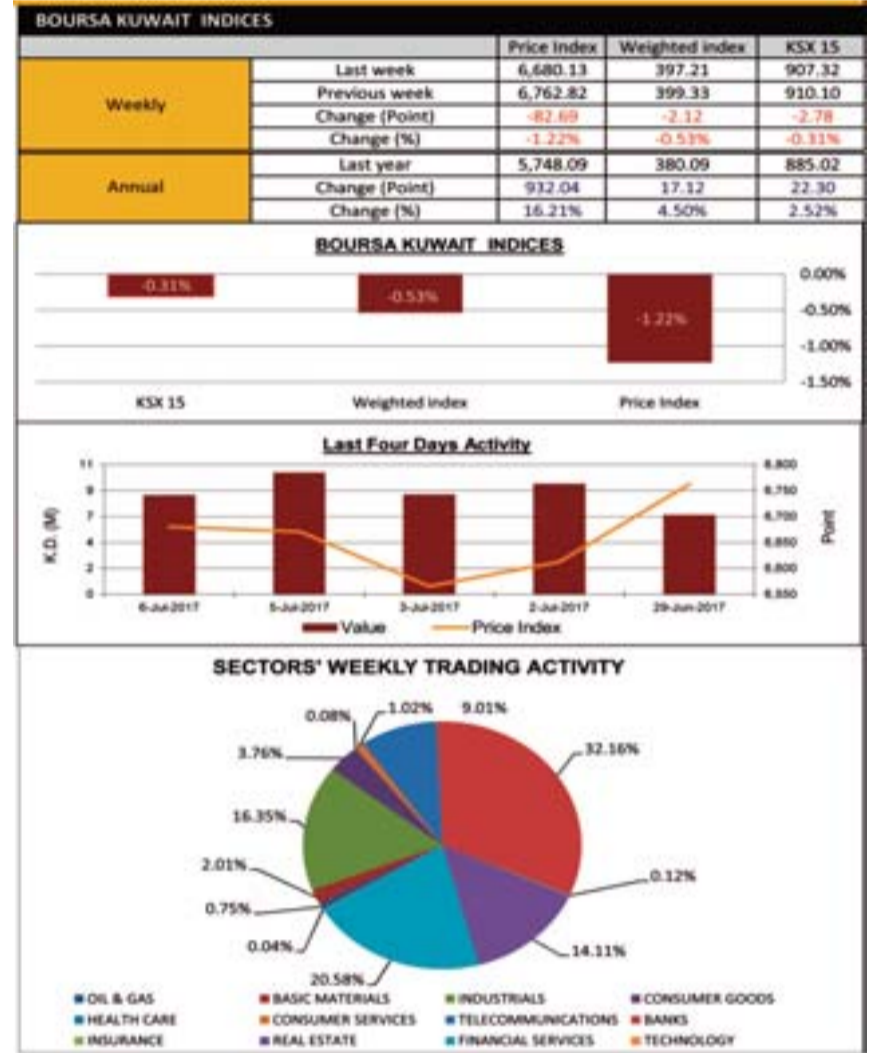
Nine of Bursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other three recorded increases. The Telecommunications sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 5.75% to end the week's activity at 568.78 points. The Insurance sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 5.72%, closing at 1,009.91 points, followed by the Consumer Services sector, as its index closed at 1,022.59 points at a loss of 3.13%. The Industrial sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,890.11 points with a 0.61% decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 7.06% growth rate as its index closed at 1,718.45 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 1,011.55 points recording 4.41% increase. The Technology sector came in third as its index achieved 0.14% growth, ending the week at 661.83 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 94.48 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 38.98% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 25.45% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 61.68 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D. 14.92 million or 32.16% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D. 9.55 million representing 20.58% of the total market trading value.



RENZI URGES END TO 'DO GOODER' MENTALITY ON MIGRANT INFLUX

ROME: Former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, the head of the ruling Democratic Party (PD), said on Friday Italy did not have any moral duty to take in migrants, sharply toughening his stance over surging numbers of asylum seekers. Critics accused Renzi of adopting the language of rightist opponents less than a year before national elections, where the growing migration crisis is likely to dominate campaigning.

"We need to free ourselves from a sense of guilt. We do not have the moral duty to welcome into Italy people who are worse off than ourselves," Renzi wrote in new book, excerpts of which were released ahead of publication on the PD website. "There has to be a fixed number of arrivals,"

he said, adding that Italy should help migrants in their home countries. Underscoring the sensitivity of the issue, the comments were swiftly removed from the website, but not before they had generated a backlash among some PD supporters, and glee in the right-wing camp. Matteo Salvini, the leader of the anti-immigrant Northern League party, posted the deleted text on his own Twitter account. "Thanks for all the work. We will take it," Salvini wrote. "They (the PD) chatter and get embarrassed about it, while we can't wait to actually do it."

Rising numbers

More than 600,000 migrants have reached Italy over the

past four years, the vast majority arriving by boat from Libya. About 85,000 have come ashore this year alone, roughly 20 percent up on the same period in 2016. The upsurge in new arrivals, most of them from sub-Saharan Africa, has unsettled the Italian government, which has urged greater help from European allies in resettling the refugees.

Its requests have fallen largely on deaf ears and Renzi warned on Friday that Rome would look to curb funding to EU nations that had refused to offer help. "They are shutting their doors. We will block their funds," he said. Renzi's PD party fared badly in local elections last month, losing control of 30 municipalities, including the traditional leftist stronghold of Genoa in northern Italy, with the migrant cri-

sis increasingly weighing on the government. Former European Commissioner for humanitarian affairs, Emma Bonino, caused embarrassment in PD ranks this week when she said that Renzi's government had requested in 2014 that all the migrants leaving Libya be brought to Italy.

"At the beginning, we didn't realise that this was a structural problem and not a passing phase. We shot ourselves in the foot," said Bonino, a former Italian foreign minister. Renzi denied her assertion on Friday, but said that in future, Italy should do more to encourage migrants to stay at home and develop their own economies. "We need to escape from our 'do gooder' mentality," he said. —Reuters

Al Mulla Exchange's latest travel promotion a huge success



Jenelyn Casauay



Atef Salah Ahmad



Bhaskar Raju Chamarthi



Marvin Erguza

Al Mulla Exchange, Kuwait's leading money exchange company, successfully completed its Ramadan special offer titled 'Travel Around the World with Al Mulla Exchange' on June 25, 2017. The offer done in conjunction with Al Mulla Travels gave away travel vouchers worth different amounts to 12 lucky winners every week. A total of 48 winners were selected during the month of Ramadan.

The promotion was conducted electronically and customers conducting a transaction on a particular day were entered into the draw automatically. This saved the customers the trouble of filling out paper forms and making it easier for them to participate. In addition online customers were also part of the draw. The travel voucher is valid for one year from the draw date and the winners can use it to purchase air tickets to any destination of their choice.

"The company's strategy is based on a customer-centric approach where the customers' satisfaction is put before everything else. This drives us to deliver the best every time with innovative products and services, in addition to regular promotions to strengthen customer loyalty and expand our customer base."

Further, he noted that promotions of this kind help to be a value addition to customers who seek an efficient and secure transaction. Al Mulla Exchange which established in 2001 lays great emphasis in providing excellence beyond expectations thereby setting a new benchmark in the market. Among the company's many unique services are free insurance, loyalty points and programs, SMS confirmations on all transactions along with fast and secure transactions from home or office through the website www.amxrem.it.com.

The winners were excited and expressed their gratitude to Al Mulla Exchange for the promotion. Speaking to the media one of

the winners said that he sees it as a special blessing in the month of Ramadan. Coinciding with the summer holidays, the offer couldn't have been timed more perfectly as this is the time that people travel the most.

Below are the winners of the 4 weeks

The 1st week winners list includes: Mohammad Rafique, Ateyah Redha Ali Hasanain Albayoumi, Mohamed Rafeek Abubacker, Imthiyas Sulaiman Lebbe, Ameen Hamed Mahmoud Ahmad, Kinattukara Antony Voseph, Gazi Mohd Badsha Meah, Catherine B Gastanes, Hamdi Abdulaziz Abdulaziz Al-sayed, Marvin Oliva Erguza, Md Abdur Rashid, Mohammed Emran Chepa

The 2nd week winners list include: Abdul Jummasa Fakir, Ehab Abdulfattah Abdulaal Mohammad, Chesyll Asuncion Reynoso, Ashik Solaman, Deva Peddi Raju, Ahmed Lotfe Darwesh Soluman, Arul Jothi Mahalingam, Maher Alsabahi Mohammad Bader, Bhaskar Raju Chamarthi Chamarthi,

Abu Shahama Mohammad Hasibur Rahman, Abbas Sulaiman Sulaiman, Dianah Zurbito Retodo.

The 3rd week winners list include: Amr Mohammad Naji Abdullbadeea, Abdulaheem Radhi Hamdullah Ali, Jayachandran Manari Q, Adel Obaid Abdulkhakeem Mahmoud, Atef Salah Ahmad Mohammad, Emiliana Pinto, Abbas Abdul Rahim, Mohammad Kh A Alali, Lot Kutin Sulaiman, Mohamed Ahmed Elkaber Tibo, Jenelyn De Castro Usasay.

The 4th week winners list include: Fawzy Zahir Mohamed Hegazy, Flavia Juliet, Sequire, Abdulhad Mohamed Mogibul Hoque, Chittaranganie Wijesinghe Welagedara, Khaled Shehtah Altukhi Habashi, Ellen Joy Flores Baqurqurain, Esam Ibrahim Hasan Shadeed, Mahesh George Mahesh, Hannan Miah Farid Miah, Jkdf P G Keerthi Rathna, Mav Ji Patidar Hakar Ji Patidar, Katakonda Anjalal.



Emiliana Pinto

DOLLAR RISES AS INVESTORS PLACE FED BETS

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks rose on Friday along with the US dollar and Treasury yields as investors bet that Federal Reserve policy tightening would stay on track after data showed stronger-than-expected US jobs growth with wage increases that lagged forecasts. Oil prices tumbled after a report showed US crude production rose last week just as OPEC exports hit a 2017 high, casting doubt on efforts to curb persistent oversupply. US Treasury debt yields and the dollar rose as investors analyzed how the mix of strong jobs and weak wage growth would influence the Fed's plans for an interest rate hike or balance-sheet reduction.

"There is certainly no reason given the data we saw this morning to knock the Fed off the track of probably one more raise this year and maybe an announcement in September about reducing the bond purchase," said Sean Lynch, co-head of global equity strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute

in Omaha, Nebraska. Wall Street's S&P 500 stock index closed higher after a selloff on Thursday as investors, while reassured by the strong jobs number, but weak wage growth would limit the extent of Fed hawkishness. "The fears of rates rising too quickly have dissipated and market participants are looking for bargains," said Andrew Frankel, co-president of Stuart Frankel & Co in New York.

"Maybe there was just enough bad news in a great jobs number to keep the Fed off the gas pedal," he said. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 94.3 points, or 0.44 percent, to 21,414.34, the S&P 500 gained 15.43 points, or 0.64 percent, to 2,425.18 and the Nasdaq Composite added 63.62 points, or 1.04 percent, to 6,153.08. The US dollar was up 0.2 percent against a basket of currencies. The greenback hit two-month highs against the yen and was on pace to post its biggest weekly percentage gain against Japan's currency since late April

after the jobs data. "On balance, the labor market continues to be solid and despite the softer inflation data as of late, the solid employment data should keep the Fed on course for policy normalization," said Charlie Ripley, investment strategist at Allianz Investment Management in Minneapolis.

In Treasuries, longer dated yields briefly hit multi-week highs. Benchmark 10-year notes were last down 5/32 in price to yield 2.3874 percent, from 2.369 percent late on Thursday. The 30-year bond fell 16/32 in price to yield 2.9289 percent, from 2.904 percent late on Thursday. Bets that some of the world's major central banks are moving closer to unwinding ultra-loose monetary policies affected stocks this week as European Central Bank minutes showed policymakers are open to tightening.

In Europe, German government bond yields had risen to 18-month highs, weighing on stocks there. The pan-European FTS Eurofirst 300 index lost 0.12

percent but MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe gained 0.19 percent. US crude fell 2.61 percent to \$44.33 per barrel and Brent was last at \$46.82, down 2.68 percent.

The week ahead

Technology shares surrendered their leadership in the US stock market over the past month, but the fast-growing group may soon resume its outperformance and maneuver back into pole position. Upcoming earnings reports for the technology sector, whose profits are expected to outpace the overall S&P 500 for the 11th consecutive quarter, could lure back investors who have been concerned about expensive valuations and that too many people may have piled into the big names.

The sector has slumped 4 percent since the first week of June, while financials have climbed more than 5 percent and healthcare has gained 3 percent. This has prompted speculation that investors may have been cashing out their tech profits to move into those groups. "Technology has taken a rest, but it's going to heat up again, and I see tech returning to favor the second half of the year," said portfolio manager J. Bryant Evans of Cozad Asset Management in Champaign, Illinois.

For the first five months of 2017, tech was the talk of the stock market, far outperforming the other 10 major S&P 500 sectors and sparking the Nasdaq Composite to its strongest first half since 2009. "I think of (tech's recent swoon) as profit-taking rather than driven by change in the fundamental factors," said John Praveen, managing director of Prudential

International Investments Advisers in Newark, New Jersey. "The fundamentals are still positive for the sector."

Analysts estimate tech's second-quarter earnings rose 11.2 percent, with semiconductor companies accounting for much of the gain, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. The increase tops the estimated 7.9 percent rise for the overall S&P 500 and is well above every sector except for energy, whose performance will be skewed because of negative year-earlier results. "The tech sector has the highest growth expectations and only moderate uncertainty," Morgan Stanley equity strategists said in a research note.

Given tech's outsized position - 22 percent of the market value of the S&P 500 - the sector's growth is critical to overall US corporate profit gains. For the second quarter, tech profit growth alone is expected to account for nearly 28 percent of the S&P 500's overall increase in earnings, or nearly half if energy were excluded. "In an economy that still seems to have some growing pains, consistent growth is worth paying up for," said Peter Tuz, president of Chase Investment Counsel in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Tech's second-quarter revenue growth is projected at 7.2 percent, faster than 4.6 percent for S&P 500 companies overall, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. There is "growth on the top line, which is more important at this point in the cycle, than in the bottom line only," said Kim Forrest, senior equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group in Pittsburgh. This earnings season, she will focus on companies' comments about sales activity.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Thursday 07 July 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	+ 9.20	6,080.13	6,070.93
Weighted Index	+ 1.44	387.21	385.85
KSE 100	+ 2.08	907.52	905.58

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
47,480,735	6,471,140	2,073

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MAPEN	96	96	1,000,000	13,301	26	96	+ 0.6
IFD	300	300	20	0	1	300	+ 0.0
NP/ESCO	1,540	1,375	4,347	6,312	9	1,400	+ 68.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	+ 0.0
GIPI	41.0	37.9	3,000,101	152,580	130	39.8	+ 1.6
ABAH	87	83	300,000	16,871	10	87	+ 4.3
Oil & Gas	4,380,112	485,188	175	10,112.25	1	10,112.25	+ 1.48

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KIPRO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	+ 0.0
KPI	99	99	100,000	1,480	2	99	+ 0.0
UPC	99	91	200	19	2	99	+ 3.0
NR	108	107	202,484	21,887	13	108	+ 0.0
SPR	360	370	42,000	15,170	3	360	+ 1.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	+ 0.0
AR/EC	138	124	31,204	3,680	3	138	+ 0.0
WASSALEH	44.0	44.0	90	0	1	44.0	+ 0.1

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Dow Jones	21,320.04	21,414.34	94.30	▲	0.44	8.36
NASDAQ	6,089.46	6,153.08	63.62	▲	1.04	14.03
S&P 500	2,409.75	2,425.18	15.43	▲	0.64	8.32

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Kuwait	6,070.93	6,080.13	9.20	▲	0.14	13.83
Saudi Arabia	7,266.43	7,203.99	-62.44	▼	-0.86	0.78
Dubai	3,177.34	3,401.15	223.81	▲	7.05	-3.22

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar	12.2516	3.2808	2.8774	2.5443	3.1621	373.62	4.3129	
Saudi Riyal	0.08162	0.2678	0.2776	0.2581	0.2581	30.50	3.3520	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar	0.30480	3.7343	0.3748	3.6265	0.3837	3.6572	17.7900	
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2808	12.2516	1.2288	11.8900	1.2587	11.9937	58.3661	

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.13	1.50	1.75	1.94	2.25
US Dollar	1.19	1.22	1.30	1.46	1.75

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	1.40	1.95	2.38	2.93
Europe	-0.62	-0.10	0.57	1.36

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Kuwaiti Oil	44.02	44.03	0.01	▲	0.02	-20.88
Brent	46.73	46.71	-0.02	▼	-0.04	-16.97
West Texas	44.30	44.20	-0.10	▼	-0.23	-21.33

THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY HTC U11 SMARTPHONE ARRIVES IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Following an upbeat reception at its global unveiling last month, HTC, a pioneer in innovative smart technologies, has announced the availability of its flagship HTC U11 smartphone in the Kuwait. The much-awaited smartphone is now available at KWD 219 at leading retailers in Kuwait and across the Middle East.

The device sets a new standard by combining Edge Sense technology, the highest-ever ranked smartphone camera, intelligent personal audio with noise cancellation ability, superior performance powered by the Qualcomm(r) Snapdragon(tm) 835 Mobile Platform, 6GB RAM/128GB storage, an IP67 dust and water resistant rating, and multiple AI assistants for a smarter smartphone experience. The HTC U11 is available in Amazing Silver, Sapphire Blue, Brilliant Black, Ice White, and Solar Red.

Nikitas Glykas, President, HTC Middle East and Africa, said, "For HTC, it's all about innova-

tion with purpose, and the beautiful HTC U11 ushers in a new era that defines a more natural way to interact with your smartphone. The powerful device packs in market-leading specifications including vibrant audio, an award-winning camera and smart digital AI companions. We have already seen keen interest from our Kuwaiti fans and customers in the pre-booking phase, and we look forward to bringing this new smartphone experience to even more consumers across the Kuwait."

The device introduces HTC Edge Sense which dramatically expands the functionality of your phone where the phone can now launch the camera and other preferred applications with just a squeeze of your hand. It also allows for increased mobility with Voice to Text where you can send texts on the go with a light squeeze gesture and activates advanced touch options with customizable actions such as a "short

squeeze" as well as a "squeeze and hold" for additional functionality.

In addition, the HTC U11 camera has achieved the highest ever rating for a smartphone camera of 90 for both photo and video by independent metric DxOMark. The new camera features more dynamic exposure range with HDR Boost, new white balance enhancement, a major reduction in noise, and excellent detail preservation. The new front camera combines high-resolution 16MP detail and UltraPixel light sensitivity for brilliant selfies day or night and utilizes the same powerful HDR Boost and noise reduction as the main camera.

The flagship smartphone also introduces the latest version of HTC USonic, which now combines active noise cancellation. When it comes to intelligence, the HTC Sense Companion learns from you to offer you more convenience every day. The AI assistant optimizes battery use and informs you of weather conditions, your fitness progress relative to your goals, recommendations of great nearby restaurants at mealtime, and much more.

The HTC U11 is further designed to impress with a liquid glass surface that layers highly-refractive precious minerals across the phone's back cover using Optical Spectrum Hybrid Deposition. The water-resistant device sports a seamless, curved look with a 5.5" Quad HD 3D glass screen designed for vivid, crisp images and text in any light. HTC U11 is the first smartphone to be commercially released worldwide that is exclusively powered by the Qualcomm(r) Snapdragon(tm) 835 Mobile Platform with octa-core processor for breakthrough speeds, jaw-dropping graphics, impressively smooth performance and outstanding battery life.



RYAN: FOXCONN COULD LOCATE IN HIS DISTRICT

MADISON: House Speaker Paul Ryan said Friday he met with officials from the Taiwanese company Foxconn as it considers building a plant in Wisconsin that could employ up to 10,000 people. Ryan told reporters that his southeast Wisconsin congressional district "still could be" in the running for the plant, even though the city manager of his hometown Janesville said the factory would not be going there.

Ryan said he met with Foxconn officials at the request of Gov Scott Walker and he's working closely with the state's congressional delegation to find a "good fit" for a factory. Other southeastern Wisconsin cities in Ryan's district that are close to Chicago, including Racine and Kenosha, are considered possible contenders for a large factory.

Foxconn plans to announce by early August its plans for locating a display panel factory in the U.S. that could cost up to \$7 billion. The company assembles smartphones and other devices for Apple, Sony, Blackberry and other brands - mostly in China, where its plants employ about 1 million people. Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou has mentioned Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana and Texas as manufacturing states with which the company hopes to work.

"There is great potential there for a lot of great jobs to come to Wisconsin," Ryan said. "We're having those kinds of conversations with Foxconn to do that." Hopes that Wisconsin may win the plant were buoyed last month when President Donald Trump said his administration was negotiating a US expansion with "a major, major, incredible manufacturer of phones and computers and televisions." Trump, who made the comments while in Wisconsin, said that Walker could be getting a "very happy surprise very soon."

Earlier this week, state Assembly Republican leaders said that Foxconn is considering a plant in southeastern Wisconsin that could employ 10,000 people. Walker and state economic development officials have refused to discuss any potential deal while talks are ongoing. Ryan declined to discuss details about where Foxconn may locate after being asked about comments made by the city manager of Janesville, Ryan's hometown, indicating it was out of the running.

The Janesville Gazette reported that City Manager Mark Freitag said Foxconn had ruled out Janesville because there weren't enough available workers in the area. A 10,000-job employer would account for about 15 percent of Janesville's total current workforce. "This was a big ask, for sure," Freitag told the newspaper. —AP

KFH NAMES CARDS SUMMER CAMPAIGN DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the fourth draw of the new banking cards summer campaign themed "Get Back Double the Value of your Purchases". The campaign was launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. The winners are: Omar Saed, Fahad Almas, Khaled Alajmi, Mouaz Almezaini, Fatemah Haydar, Nabeel Boursly, and Mohammad Alkhdari.

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

This campaign is part of KFH efforts to reward its clients and grant them addition-

al value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

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

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

OOREDOO OFFERING THE LATEST DEVICES IN SUMMER FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced the launch of its summer festival yesterday, giving customers the latest devices ranging from the price of KD 6,900 to KD 22 a month. All offers come with Shamel postpaid plans, which include free minutes, internet, and SMS.

Included in the offer are the latest Android and iOS devices: Samsung S8 and iPhone 7. The offer stems from Ooredoo's core values of caring, connecting and challenging, as the company aims to enrich customers' lives through telecommunication technology. Ooredoo's plans aim to complement the lifestyle of customers based on their usage and needs. The devices that come with this offer are: iPhone 6s, iPhone 7, Samsung A5, Samsung Note 5, Samsung S7, Samsung S7 Edge, and Samsung S8.

The plans additionally include a number of Shamel's exclusive features, such as the privilege of freezing their contract for up to 3 months a year when they travel, without worrying about paying bills for months that they don't use. Additionally, Ooredoo now allows customers to transfer contracts to other customers even during the contract period, with no penalties or extra fees. All Shamel subscribers in the plans included in the offer can enjoy unlimited calls,



and customers with plans that have limited internet can enjoy data rollover, to ensure that they are making full use of their internet package.

BB OFFERS FREE MEMBERSHIP AT AQUA TOTS SWIM SCHOOL

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently announced an exciting summer offer for its BuBa customers in which the first 50 customers will be granted a free one month membership at Aqua Tots Swim School. Aqua Tots is a certified swim school for kids of ages from 4 months to 12 years and was established to teach the importance of water safety by certified professionals in a safe and comfortable environment as well as inculcate a lifelong love for the sport.

To avail of the free membership that will be beneficial in their overall wellbeing, cus-

tomers are required to present their BuBa ATM card to the Aqua Tots staff to start the sessions, noting that the offer is valid until August 30, 2017. The BuBa Kids Account is a savings account targeting kids up to 14 years old and is the perfect solution for parents who want to earn more from their savings for their children.

With only a minimum opening balance of KD 10, the benefits further include a branded ATM Card which offers discounts at selected merchants and free monthly transfers to BuBa account.



FLYDUBAI TO ROLL OUT NEW UNIFORM

DUBAI: Dubai-based flydubai is excited to announce today the roll out of a new uniform as it enters its ninth year of operation. The new design will be worn by more than 2,500 uniformed staff across the flydubai network; including Pilots, Cabin Crew, Training, Engineering and Maintenance staff as well as members of staff at the airport and flydubai Travel Shops.

This is the carrier's first uniform redesign since its first flight took to the sky on 01 June 2009. The rollout of this new look is scheduled to coincide with the introduction of the airline's first Boeing 737 MAX 8, which will join the flydubai fleet later this year. For an exclusive look at the new uniform before it's rolled out, check out the video below. Commenting on the launch of the new uniform, Ghaiith Al Ghaiith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "flydubai has evolved continuously since its inception; we've continued to push boundaries and change the way people travel around the region."

"Our desire to meet the varying travel needs of our passengers with affordable, reliable travel services still lies at the heart of our proposition; however, we have come a long way from being a start-up airline and this maturity needs to be reflected through multiple touchpoints across the airline, undoubtedly the uniform is the most visible of all," added Al

Ghaiith. flydubai has teamed up with A Ronai LLC, a Dubai based hospitality supplier, to create the new look for the carrier: one that exudes the spirit of the brand but also meets the operational and practical demands of the roles our uniformed staff perform every day.

"The line 'Look good. Feel better. Perform best.' captures the essence of the new uniform", said Jilly Sims, Senior Vice President of Inflight Service at flydubai, and continued: "The design takes into consideration the various working environments of the flydubai staff including varied climates, cultural and religious sensitivities, durability and practicality, versatility, cost-efficiency, as well as security, health and safety regulations."

Commenting on the design elements of the new uniform, Laura Newman, Senior Manager Brand Strategy, who worked on the launch project, said: "flydubai staff, especially the customer-facing employees, are our ambassadors and the very embodiment of our brand and its values, and as such, they are an important point of brand engagement with our passengers on the ground and in the air. When we started working on the new uniform, we were clear that we are not only looking to make a fashion statement but to come up with a design that represents who we are as a company: Dynamic, Efficient,



Reliable and Human." The carrier operates a fleet of 58 Next-Generation Boeing 737- 800 and created a network of 94 destinations in 44 countries, spanning from

Prague to Bangkok. flydubai is set to take delivery of 100 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft ordered at the 2013 Dubai International Airshow by the end of 2023.

CBK RECEIVES SECOND WINNER IN AL-TEJARI CAMPAIGN DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the second winner in the second quarter of the "Transfer Your Salary and Win with Al-Tejari" campaign aimed at Kuwaiti employees in the government, Oil and private sectors. The winner was Salem Falah Al Balloud who won the Mercedes C-Class Coupe in the draw held in the presence of the representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In this context, Sahar Al-Rumaih, General Manager of the Commercial Credit Sector and Director General of Retail Banking, received the winner, who expressed his happiness with winning this award, which brought joy and pleasure to his heart. He was always satisfied with the services provided by the bank and the distinguished handling by the employees.

It is worth mentioning that all Kuwaiti customers who transfer their salaries to Commercial Bank during the period of the campaign until the end of the year will receive an immediate gift starting from KD 200 or obtaining an interest-free loan with a maximum value of KD 10,000, as well as access to quarterly withdrawals Remaining on luxury Mercedes cars.

Any employee with a salary of more than 500 KD, whether newly appointed or in active service from years can transfer his salary to the bank

and benefit from the advantages of this campaign, which is specifically designed to suit Kuwaiti employees working in the government and private sector and provide them

access to many The additional benefits offered by Al-Tejari to its customers include banking solutions and services and offers that meet their needs and meet their expectations.



FROM MOZARD TO BOTZARD: WHEN MACHINES WRITE OUR MUSIC

PARIS: Machines are already taking our jobs, will they soon be writing our music too? Swiss researchers said Thursday they have developed a computer algorithm that can generate brand-new tunes in different musical genres. The deep artificial composer, or DAC, "can produce complete melodies, with a beginning and an end, that are completely original," said co-developer Florian Colombo of the EPFL research university in Lausanne, Switzerland.

And the melodies are "quite agreeable to listen to," he said. The DAC program uses a form of artificial intelligence known as "deep learning" that works in a similar way to the human brain in memorizing experiences and learning from them. It is a fast-growing field, with more and more possibilities opening up as

computers grow stronger and databases larger. The DAC system is trained to "listen" to existing tunes to learn what works and what does not.

It teaches itself to predict the pitch and duration of every note following another. Once it is accurate at predicting 50 percent of note pitches and 80 percent of note durations in existing songs, the machine's training is complete. Then starts the creation. "The deep artificial composer builds a string of notes from beginning to end, including the very first note," said an EPFL statement. It picks a follow-up note for each note played, based on the range of probabilities it memorized. But the program is taught not to pick the single-most probable note—rather one of the many between least and most probable.

Cannot fool them

"An algorithm that always opts for most probable note will just keep repeating the same thing," said Colombo. Instead, the program was designed to produce "an infinity of different tunes". It may be versatile, but the DAC is no Mozart. Experts asked to listen to DAC- and human-composed melodies can still tell the difference. "It will be a while before an algorithm will fool connoisseurs of Irish folk music," said Colombo.

The researchers tested their program on Irish and Ashkenazi Jewish folk music. The DAC was able to identify the genre, and avoid mixing the two. Any musical style can be used, said the team. For the moment, the DAC is limited to single-instrument compositions. Eventually, its

developers hope it will create a full orchestra score. The goal, however, is not to replace flesh-and-blood human composers. "It is more a tool that can be used to stimulate creativity, to aid the process of composing" in periods of writer's block, said Colombo.

He cited Mozart, who is rumored to have thrown dice to pick notes. DAC-composed music may eventually be used for jingles, but probably never as "serious music," said Colombo. "A good composer, with innovative ideas, will never be supplanted by an algorithm," he said. "A composer puts something of himself in what he creates, and that a machine cannot do." Several companies, including Google, Sony and IBM are working on similar projects. —AFP

TESLA TO BUILD THE WORLD'S LARGEST LITHIUM BATTERY

BILLIONAIRE MUSK OFFERS TO BUILD A BATTERY FARM

SYDNEY: Elon Musk's Tesla will build what the maverick entrepreneur claims is the world's largest lithium ion battery within 100 days, making good on a Twitter promise to ease South Australia's energy woes. Billionaire Musk tweeted an offer to help build a battery farm in March after South Australia was hit with a total black-

came online in California in December, Musk said, adding that the South Australian battery would be 100 megawatts-enough to power 30,000 homes. "This is not a minor foray into the frontier... I'm pretty darn impressed with South Australia willing to do a project of this magnitude that is beyond anything else in the world,"

company, South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill said. Experts said the battery could help transform the renewable energy landscape by addressing the intermittent nature of sources such as wind and solar by pairing them with a large-scale electricity storage system.

"Variability is one of the key challenges in integrating large amounts of renewables into power systems as we try and get towards 100 percent renewables," Ariel Liebman of Monash University's MEMSI energy institute said. "So we need a balancing mechanism that helps take some excess production when these things are producing a lot and then distribute it into the system when it's needed and there's not so much production." Battery 'common sense'-Musk said it was "common sense that if you have solar you must have battery because otherwise your power is going to be proportionate to how sunny it is".

"I specifically think that the consistently lowering cost of batteries, coupled with renewables, is going to fundamentally reshape the energy landscape much faster than anyone thinks it will," Cal Lankton, Tesla's vice president of global infrastructure operations, added. Musk acknowledged his company had to overcome the technical risks associated with building a project at such a large scale, but said Tesla was confident of its success. The high-flying firm, known for producing electric cars, has agreed to deliver the battery "within 100 days or it is free", Weatherill added.

No figures were given for the cost of the contract. Neoen, which has built major projects around the world since being set up in 2008, operates Europe's biggest solar energy park in southwest France, which can produce the equivalent annual electricity to supply a town of 300,000 people. South Africa-born Musk has envisaged Tesla as a company that can help reduce emissions by not only selling people electric cars, but also generating and storing the renewable energy that powers them. Australia is one of the world's worst per capita greenhouse gas polluters due to heavy use of coal-fired power. —AFP



ADELAIDE: South Australia's Premier Jay Weatherill (left) and Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk are pictured in this photo in Adelaide. Elon Musk's Tesla said it will build what the maverick entrepreneur claims is the world's largest lithium ion battery within 100 days, making good on a Twitter promise to ease South Australia's energy woes. —AFP

out when an "unprecedented" storm wrecked power transmission towers in 2016.

"This system will be three times more powerful than any system on Earth," Musk told reporters in the state capital Adelaide. Tesla has built the world's current largest battery, which

Musk said. "That takes a lot of gumption... I do see this as something that the world will look at as an example." The battery will be built in Jamestown, 230 kilometers (143 miles) north of Adelaide and will be paired with a nearby wind farm run by Neoen, a French renewable energy

STUDY SAYS MARS SURFACE 'MORE UNINHABITABLE' THAN THOUGHT

PARIS: Hopes of finding life on Mars, at least on the surface, were dealt a blow yesterday by a study revealing that salt minerals present on the Red Planet kill bacteria. In lab tests on Earth, the compounds known as perchlorates killed cultures of the bacteria *Bacillus subtilis*, a basic life form, a research duo from the University of Edinburgh's School of Physics and Astronomy reported.

Perchlorates, stable at room temperature, become active at high heat. Mars is very cold. In the new study, Jennifer Wadsworth and Charles Cockell showed the compound can also be activated by UV light, without heat, in conditions mimicking those on the martian surface. It killed bacteria within minutes, said the team, implying the planet was "more uninhabitable than previously thought." "If we want to find life on Mars, we have to take this into consideration and look at trying to find sub-surface life that wouldn't be exposed to these conditions," Wadsworth said.

Perchlorates are natural and man-made

on Earth, but are more abundant on Mars where they were first recorded by NASA's Phoenix Lander in 2008. The fact that perchlorates killed *B. subtilis* in the presence of UV radiation did not necessarily mean that all other life forms would similarly die, said Wadsworth. Further tests would have to be done to confirm this. Perchlorates have previously been spotted in lines, thought to be brine streaks, on the surface of Mars. Their presence was presented as evidence by scientists in 2015 of liquid water on the Red Planet.

But the new study said brine seeps, "although they represent local regions of water availability, could be deleterious to cells" if they contain perchlorates. The findings do contain some good news. They mean that organic contaminants left on Mars by robotic exploration, of which *B. subtilis* is a common one, are unlikely to survive long. It is widely accepted that the Red Planet once hosted plentiful water in liquid form, and still has water today, albeit frozen in ice underground. Liquid water is a prerequisite for life as we know it. —AFP



MARS: This file handout picture shows a series of sedimentary deposits in the Glenelg area of Gale Crater. —AFP

US VICE PRESIDENT VISITS KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

CAPE CANAVERAL: Vice President Mike Pence got an insider's look at Kennedy Space Center on Thursday and promised more glory days ahead for "this gateway to the stars." Pence is heading up a newly revived National Space Council. President Donald Trump re-established the advisory group last week. "Here from this bridge to space, our nation will return to the moon, and we will put American boots on the face of Mars," he added, drawing cheers and applause from the hundreds of space center workers, astronauts and dignitaries.

The highlight of Pence's afternoon tour - his second NASA stop in as many months - was his address to approximately 1,200 people inside the massive Vehicle Assembly Building, once used to stack moon rockets and space shuttles. The backdrop included three capsules: the first SpaceX Dragon to carry supplies to the International Space Station, NASA's Orion that flew into space on a test flight, and a training version of Boeing's Starliner crew vessel.

Later, Pence got to see an Orion spacecraft being prepared for flight in 2019 atop NASA's as yet-unflown megarocket, the SLS or Space Launch System. He was driven past the former shuttle launch pad that will serve as the departure point for SLS flights, as well as the pad from which astronauts rocketed to the moon and space shuttles soared, now leased by SpaceX. On Wednesday night, SpaceX successfully launched a Falcon rocket with a communications satellite, and so the pad was empty Thursday. Pence said he was sorry to have missed the launch. "I was praying for rain at the Kennedy Space Center so we might see that rocket go up today," he said.

Last month, Pence visited Johnson Space Center in Houston to help introduce America's newest astronauts. Florida's Kennedy was the second stop on his grand NASA tour. It is NASA's launch hub, but hasn't seen any astronaut takeoffs since the shuttles retired in 2011. Boeing and SpaceX are working to change that with their own crew capsules. Apollo 11 moonwalker Buzz Aldrin was in attendance Thursday, as were Florida's senators, Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio. This wasn't Pence's first visit to Cape Canaveral. He attended several launches as a congressman and recalled how his son, now a Marine aviator, was inspired by seeing a liftoff up close.

Pence said he will convene the National Space Council "before the summer is out." This is its third incarnation; it was abandoned in 1993 under the Clinton administration. Since then, Pence said, "our government's commitment" has not matched the level of excitement for space that exists among the general public. He said that will change and repeatedly called this a new era of American leadership in space. He gave no timelines or details, however, on the administration's plans for getting astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars. NASA is shooting for astronauts at Mars sometime in the 2030s, using Orion, the SLS rocket and other craft. —AP



A worker puts in the final touches on the collider equipment in this 2007 photo. Scientists at the Large Hadron Collider in Europe have discovered a new subatomic particle. —AP

PHYSICISTS FIND NEW PARTICLE WITH DOUBLE DOSE OF CHARM

WASHINGTON: Scientists have found an extra charming new subatomic particle that they hope will help further explain a key force that binds matter together. Physicists at the Large Hadron Collider in Europe announced Thursday the fleeting discovery of a long theorized but never-before-seen type of baryon.

Baryons are subatomic particles made up of quarks. Protons and neutrons are the most common baryons. Quarks are even smaller particles that come in six types, two common types that are light and four heavier types. The high-speed collisions at the world's biggest atom smasher created for a fraction of a second a baryon particle called Xi cc, said Oxford physicist Guy Wilkinson, who is part of the experiment. The particle has two heavy quarks - both of a type that are called "charm" - and a light one. In the natural world, baryons have at most one heavy quark.

It may have been brief, but in particle physics it lived for "an appreciably long time," he said. The two heavy quarks are in a

dance that's just like the interaction of a star system with two suns and the third lighter quark circles the dancing pair, Wilkinson said. "People have looked for it for a long time," Wilkinson said. He said this opens up a whole new "family" of baryons for physicists to find and study. "It gives us a very unique and interesting laboratory to give us an interesting new angle on the behavior of the strong interaction (between particles), which is one of the key forces in nature," Wilkinson said.

Chris Quigg, a theoretical physicist at the Fermilab near Chicago, who wasn't part of the discovery team, praised the discovery and said "it gives us a lot to think about." The team has submitted a paper to the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

The Large Hadron Collider, located in a 27-kilometer (16.8-mile) tunnel beneath the Swiss-French border, was instrumental in the discovery of the Higgs boson. It was built by the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known by its French acronym CERN. —AP

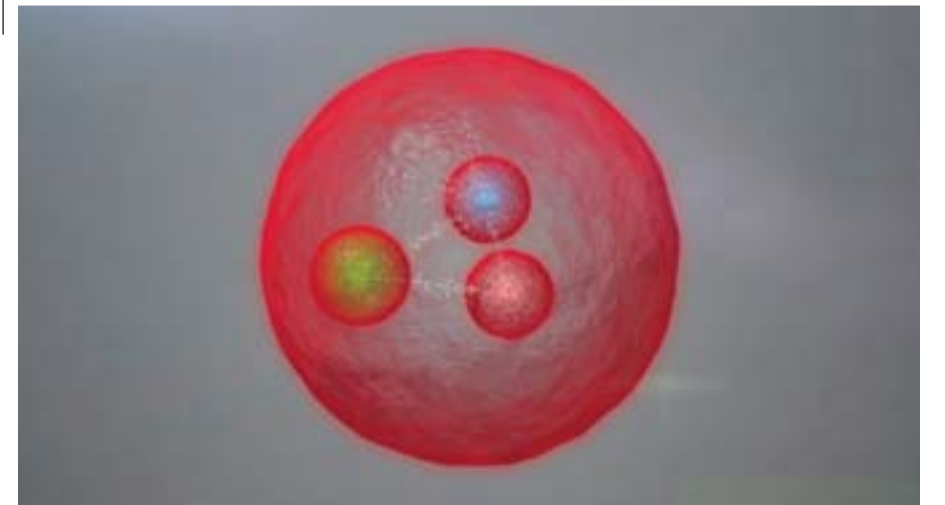


Photo shows an artist's conception of a new subatomic particle. —AP

BUSINESSES HUNGRY FOR RANSOMWARE PROTECTION

DUBAI: The recent WannaCry and ExPetr epidemics have proven to many businesses the crippling impact of having their files held at ransom by cybercriminals. An astounding 200,000 systems were affected by the WannaCry attack in 150 countries in May, grinding businesses to a halt and incurring staggering costs as companies fought to solve the issue and get back up and running. Awareness of the severity of ransomware is rising, and against this backdrop, an increasing number of businesses are now seeking to maximize their protection with minimum resources. This trend has been brought to light by the fact that 100,000 businesses have downloaded Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool in the last 12 months.

Kaspersky Lab is today introducing a new generation of its Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool for Business, which has been developed based on the firm's 20 years of experience at the frontline in the battle against cybercrime, to continue delivering the latest best-of-breed anti-ransomware technology to businesses for free. While the "Global IT Security Risks Survey 2017" from Kaspersky Lab and B2B International has revealed that the total financial impact of a ransomware attack on a company can amount to \$713,224 on average, this updated tool means businesses that don't "WannaCry" about ransomware threats don't have to.

Top ransomware families detected by Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool: 63% of the total ransomware detections were WannaCry. Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool for Business is compatible with third-party security products, easy to install, and does not require business users to have deep technical knowledge to configure

and manage it. It allows companies that do not use Kaspersky Lab's solutions to try advanced anti-ransomware technologies with no financial outlay.

The tool includes Kaspersky Lab's System Watcher component, which detects suspicious ransomware activities, creates a temporary backup of attacked files, and rolls back malicious changes, leaving the system unaffected. Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool for Business also leverages Kaspersky Security Network, which enables the delivery of Kaspersky Lab security intelligence in a matter of seconds, while ruling out false positives and maintaining high levels of protection.

"The recent WannaCry and ExPetr epidemics were an unfortunate reminder that the ransomware problem is real and can severely affect any company in the world. And the fact that 100,000 companies have already downloaded the Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool shows that businesses are becoming increasingly worried and aware of the problem. Given the size of the estimated financial impact from ransomware, we encourage every business to check that they have the right security solution enabled.

Companies that doubt their security solution is capable of combating the latest ransomware threats, can put the new Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool to work to test advanced anti-ransomware technologies," comments Vladimir Zapolnyansky, Head of SMB Business, KasperskyLab. Organizations that are looking to build on the protection offered from the Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool can explore Kaspersky Lab's comprehensive next-generation security solutions for business of any size. Find out more on the Kaspersky Lab website.

ISLAMIC FINANCE PROVIDES KENYANS WITH CUSHION AGAINST DROUGHT

WAJIR: Hamara Hujale tries to keep an eye on two squirming children and a pot of simmering ugali - a white doughy dish - as she reaches for her buzzing phone. After speaking a few words, she hangs up and scribbles in a wrinkled notebook. "My driver has found another customer so won't be back for another 30 minutes," she says with a satisfied smile. Hujale, who lives in the northeast Kenyan town of Wajir, used to make and sell kitchen utensils, "mostly to pastoralists who would use them as dowry for their daughters' weddings". "But as they lost their animals to drought, they had no money left to buy my products. So I had to find an alternative," she said.

Last year she secured a loan of 370,000 Kenyan shillings (about \$3,560) through Crescent Takaful Sacco, an Islamic finance institution, and used the money to buy a tuk-tuk and set up a taxi business in Wajir. Access to credit is critical to help communities prepare for and cope with increasingly frequent climate shocks like droughts and floods, experts say. But in this Kenyan region bordering Somalia, where over 90 percent of the population is Muslim, few banks or institutions offer financial services

that comply with Islamic law, which bans gambling and speculation, including interest-bearing loans, said Diyad Hujale, a programme coordinator at Mercy Corps, a charity, and no relation to Hamara.

To remedy this, in 2016 a project helped set up the county's first private cooperative offering financial products in accordance with Islamic principles - such as interest-free loans, with no fees for late payment. The initiative, which is part of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme, is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and led by Mercy Corps.

Gladys Mutisya, manager of the Wajir sacco, said it targets "the unbanked: pastoralists - who make up half of our clients - farmers, and poorer communities in general." "We're trying to fill a gap that banks and traditional institutions are not able or willing to fill," Diyad Hujale explained that while Sharia-compliant financial services already exist in Nairobi, the capital, and elsewhere in the country, they are too far away and expensive for local residents to access - so the BRACED programme supported the sacco to hire and train staff in Wajir.

Preparing for shocks

The toughest challenge in this large-ly pastoralist county is prolonged drought, which Hamara Hujale said "affects everyone". In addition to her kitchen utensil business, she used to herd over 100 goats - but drought has claimed many of them. "I can't even remember how many have died," she said, bending to smell her pot of ugali. Catherine Simonet of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a London-based think tank, said that families with little or no disposable income are most affected when drought hits.

Repeated droughts create "a vicious circle where they not only have no alternative income if they have lost their harvest, for example, (but) they are also made more vulnerable to the next shock", she said. To avoid this situation, Mutisya said the sacco's clients tend to take out loans in "good times", such as the harvesting season, when they can most easily qualify for loans. They then hold the cash as easily accessible savings, so that in dry periods they can buy food and fodder for their animals to survive.

Businesses for resilience

While many clients use the sacco as a way to boost their cash on hand, others like Hamara Hujale take out larger loans to set up their own businesses. That fills a key gap in the market that is not met by other banks or institutions, Diyad Hujale said. "Wajir is vast and its residents earn very little, so to most investors they don't make 'business sense,'" he said. Simonet concurred that the potential for pastoralists to launch businesses is often underestimated. "We tend to only look at pastoralists for example as households, when they're also producers, businesses, and a hugely untapped source of investment," she said. Key to the sacco's model is trust, said Mutisya. "We don't just blindly give out loans. We assess the viability of our clients' business ideas and we train them on issues like accounting."

To minimise risk, the financial institution often lends money to groups rather than individuals. "The group's cohesion and reputation acts as a guarantee for us," Mutisya said. Hamara Hujale, who took out a loan on her own, now makes up to 2,000 shillings (\$20) per day from

her two businesses - nearly twice as much as when she only sold utensils. "But I need the money to repay over 30,000 shillings per month to the sacco," she said. Her dream, once she has repaid the loan in full, is to "buy a bigger car to serve as a taxi in rural areas".

Reaching remote areas

Since the sacco opened, about 500 accounts have been created, Diyad Hujale said. But "we're only present in a 20km radius around the town, when the entire county needs us," he said. He hopes mobile phone technology will allow the initiative to expand and reach more people through an online platform, without the need to physically meet with an agent. "Currently the only way to get a loan outside of Wajir town is for our agents to travel to outside villages, so the operation is currently very costly," he explained. Simonet said a mobile service would make particular sense for pastoralists. "Pastoralists not only live in rural areas, they are also constantly on the move. So to them a physical branch or agents don't make sense," she said. — Reuters

OWNERS OF POACHED SRI LANKA ELEPHANTS MAY AVOID SANCTION

COLOMBO: A group of wealthy businessmen, a Buddhist priest and other social higher-ups on trial in Sri Lanka for allegedly keeping illegally captured elephants may get their animals back - legally. Sri Lanka's government says it is ready to forgive the owners of poached elephants and give them a chance to apply for licenses provided they can prove in court that they did not know the animals that were confiscated from them had been illegally captured from the wild.

In the South Asian island nation, an elephant in the backyard has long been a sign of wealth, privilege and power. Though capturing wild elephants has been banned for decades and registration records indicate there should be only 127 elephants in captivity - most of them older - young elephants are a common sight in Sri Lanka's 400 or so Buddhist religious processions and traditional ceremonies every year.

Success of a religious procession is measured by the number of parading elephants. For Buddhists, who make up 70 percent of the country's 20 million people, elephants are believed to have been servants of the Buddha and even a previous incarnation of the holy man himself. Sinhalese kings rode elephants into battle. And every year, colorfully decorated tuskers carry an ornate box containing a replica of one of the Buddha's teeth.

In the last two years, the government has confiscated 39 elephants whose owners produced either false permits or none at all. Some had paid as much as \$200,000 per captured animal when a previous government was in office, according to the Wildlife Ministry. It would suggest the authorities had either turned a blind eye to the racket or sold fake licenses. The current trial involves 42 people - four of them accused of illegally capturing and trading in wild elephants, 27 who allegedly altered the official elephant registry and issued and obtained false documents, five suspected of possessing elephants without licenses and six held for possessing licenses without actually having an elephant in their backyard. Among them are a prominent Buddhist priest and a judge. If convicted, they could face a maximum 10 years in prison or a fine or both. But if the government has its way, some of them could walk free and own an elephant legally. A measure adopted by the Cabinet in April says only poachers and wildlife officers who collude with them by



MATARA, Sri Lanka: In this May 19, 2015 file photo, Sri Lankan police officers march with a ceremonially dressed elephant calf during a Victory Day parade in about 165 km south of Colombo. — AP

providing forged licenses will face punishment.

According to Wildlife Minister Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, owners may get a second chance if they are able to prove that they did not know their elephants were illegally captured or the paperwork fraudulent. "There are some people who love the animals and maybe they have taken them without knowing. If there are genuine cases proved in court then the court can decide and tell us," Perera said.

It wasn't clear when the court will rule or if it will take the government's view into account. But the suggestion has irked conservationists who say it sets a bad precedent. "This is nonsense," said Sumith Pilapitiya, a former World Bank environmental specialist. "The onus is on the buyer to make sure the paperwork is right. You are trying to legalize something illegal, looking for loopholes," he said. The reason for the government's unexpected leniency toward owners of poached elephants lies in Sri Lanka's traditions. It wasn't a problem decades and centuries ago, when elephants were plentiful, but the population has since been decimated. Perera said it's difficult for the government to

feed and care for elephants confiscated from homes and temples. There is also a shortage of elephants in religious processions, most of which take place around the same time this month.

The Sri Lankan elephant is one of three subspecies of Asian elephant and is found only in Sri Lanka. In the 19th century, there were believed to be up to 14,000. That number fell to fewer than 3,000 before hunting and capture were banned. But while the population has grown since then to nearly 6,000, according to Sri Lanka's first official elephant census in 2011, they are still considered endangered and under threat from habitat loss and degradation. They are confined to small, isolated pockets of jungle and pasture in the north and the east.

Perera said the government's measure was not meant to give an escape route to the offenders. "We can't give guarantees to anyone, illegal is illegal," he said, adding that prospective owners could re-apply for an elephant license "according to the judgment given by the court". — AP

TOUGH QUESTION FOR HOSPITALS: WHO'S TOO RISKY TO RELEASE?

NEW YORK: Four days before Alexander Bonds ambushed and killed a New York City police officer, he was in a hospital emergency room getting a psychiatric evaluation. The hospital released him the same day. Now the hospital's actions are under a governor-ordered state review. St Barnabas Hospital says it handled Bonds appropriately and welcomes the inquiry. The decision was one psychiatrists across the country make regularly: whether patients pose enough danger to themselves or others to require hospitalization. Practitioners say it's often a difficult call to make and that even an experienced evaluator can't predict someone's behavior.

"Most of the time, it's very complicated. You're trying to make an assessment: Is the person going to a home? Is there family? Are they reliable? What was the specific reason they were brought in? Is that likely to occur again?" said Bea Grause, president of the statewide hospital and health system association HANYS and a former emergency room nurse.

Bonds, 34, evidently had a history of mental health problems. There were anti-depressant and anti-psychotic medications in his apartment, and his girlfriend told officers she took him to St. Barnabas for the psychiatric evaluation July 1, police said. He was observed for seven to eight hours in the emergency room, where he was seen by a physician and then a psychiatrist, hospital spokesman Steven Clark said. "We believe the proper protocols and standards were met," he said.

By the night of July 4, Bonds' paranoid, erratic behavior worried his girlfriend enough that she called police to look for him. They didn't find him before he marched up to a parked police vehicle and shot through the window just after midnight, striking Officer Miosotis Familia in the head. Soon after, officers shot and killed him after they say he drew a weapon on them.

The state Health Department said it plans to interview St Barnabas staffers, conduct inspections and examine records to review Bonds' case and the hospital's policies and prescribing practices. Under state law, a person can be involuntarily hospitalized for at least 48 hours if they pose a substantial risk of causing serious injury to themselves or others. "If you're making a



Miosotis Familia

Alexander Bonds

determination that someone's a danger to themselves or others, you better be pretty clear about it. Because you're taking away their liberties," said Grause, whose association represents hospitals and nursing homes.

Psychiatrists caution that the risk can be difficult to pinpoint. "While psychiatrists can often identify circumstances associated with an increased likelihood of violent behavior, they cannot predict dangerousness with definitive accuracy," the American Psychiatric Association said in a 2012 position statement. Doctors and other hospital staffers can encounter agitated emergency room patients they've never seen before.

While paying close attention to what patients say and do, doctors also might test to determine whether a medical problem or medication might be spurring the behavior. They consider whether the cause could be alcohol or illegal drugs, a clue sometimes illuminated by observing patients for hours. They may look into whether someone has dementia. Some patients arrive clearly violent, and others are just having a bad drug reaction that will wear off. But "there's this vast gray area in the middle that takes a lot of experience, a lot of knowledge and balancing all of the factors that go into a good assessment," said Dr. Vivian Pender, a New York City psychiatrist and public affairs representative for the New York County Psychiatric Society.

Police have been working to determine Bonds' motive in shooting Familia. Bonds, who had served prison time for a 2005 armed robbery, had railed about police and prison officers in a Facebook video last September. Familia, 48, was a 12-year New York Police Department veteran and a mother of three. She was selfless, "incredibly funny" and full of warmth and wisdom, her daughter, Genesis Villella, 20, said Friday. — AP

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NESPRESSO INTRODUCES COFFEES CRAFTED FOR ICE



Coffee lovers are set to chill out with a summer on ice as Nespresso launches two Limited Edition coffees that have been specially crafted for iced coffee preparation. From the aromatic and fruity through to intense and roasted, Intenso on Ice and Leggero on Ice provide perfect refreshment during the warm summer months.

It couldn't be easier to have your Nespresso moment on ice as the Nespresso coffee experts have created a simple, three-step recipe for a perfectly proportioned and delicious iced coffee, with water or milk.

To prepare your Nespresso on ice, follow the easy three-step method:

STEP 1 Add 3 extra-large ice cubes to a glass (90g or 7 regular sized ice cubes)

STEP 2 Top with an Espresso serving (40ml) of Intenso on Ice or Leggero on Ice

STEP 3 Finish with 90ml of cold water or cold milk froth (approx. 6 tablespoons)

Top Tips from the Nespresso Experts:

Using larger ice cubes keeps your iced coffee cooler for longer as they melt more slowly. For a limited time customers will receive a free Nespresso ice cube tray

with their order of 150 capsules.

Intense coffee fans can amend the recipe to two Ristretto servings (2x 25ml) of Intenso on Ice or Leggero on Ice for a more intense flavor

Intenso on Ice and Leggero on Ice are the first coffees Nespresso has crafted specifically to be enjoyed as iced coffees. Intenso on Ice is a bold coffee with cereal and cocoa notes and an intense, roasted finish. If prepared as an Intenso on Ice Macchiato, it reveals a smooth and creamy texture with biscuit notes. In contrast, when enjoyed as a black iced coffee, Leggero on Ice offers delicate fruity and lemon notes with lingering aromatics and a full bodied, smooth texture. If paired with milk to create a Leggero on Ice Macchiato, it develops toasted notes and a more milky and sweet flavor.

To celebrate the launch of Intenso on Ice and Leggero on Ice, Nespresso is also offering a Limited-Edition Touch Travel Mug which is available in a matte white finish with a contemporary blue geometric pattern which matches the coffee capsule design. The Touch Travel Mug is the must-have accessory for those who like to enjoy their iced coffee on the go as it keeps drinks cool (or hot).



IISM HOLDS SENIOR INVESTITURE CEREMONY

India International School Mangaf organized senior investiture ceremony. Ripples of excitement were experienced by every member of the IISM family on May 5, 2017, the most auspicious day on which the democratically elected student council was sworn in officially. The chief guest Krishen Kumar Pahal, First secretary (political), Indian Embassy to Kuwait was offered a red carpet welcome by the Director, Principal, Senior Vice Principal,

Vice Principals and the student council members. It was a spectacular sight to watch the student's council members, the House Captains and Prefects on the dais.

The Principal F M Basheer Ahmed welcomed the Chief Guest and the School Director Malayil Moosa Koya honored him with a memento. In his welcome speech the Principal explained the significance of the new symbols allotted to all the four houses renamed recent-

ly as Imperial, Ideal, Sparkle and Marvel-Imperial with the King's Crown demonstrating royalty, Ideal with Leaves depicting freshness and fortune, Sparkle with Maple leaves embedding courage and sacrifice and Marvel with the Sundisplaying glorious vitality.

This was followed by the Flag presentation of the School and all its four houses. The Head boy and the Head girl shared their profound emotions and vouched to be responsible

administrators for the year ahead. The Chief Guest and the other dignitaries of the school conferred badges to the student council members, house captains and the prefects. It was scintillating scenario to watch the oath taking by the new council.

The chief guest delivered a short power packed speech emphasizing the importance of students being academically and politically perfect. The relevance of his speech was high-

lighted by the proceeding event - honoring the academic achievers and subject toppers of X and XII 2015-16 batches. A soothing melody by the school choir followed all these meritorious buzzle. These mind blowing series of events came to a close with a suitable thankful note presented by the CCA secretaries. The gathering dispersed after wishing the new council members and promising their support to them.



MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS ANNOUNCES RAFFLE DRAW WINNER

The raffle draw winner of "Win up to 75 gold bars & be a gold billionaire campaign" by Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Muhammed Sajid VP receives 100gm Gold bar as a prize from Lukman Alavi - Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 01:15 7500
- 02:40 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
- 04:15 Bad Company
- 06:15 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
- 08:30 Mission To Mars
- 10:30 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
- 12:05 The Throwaways
- 13:45 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
- 16:00 Forbidden Empire
- 18:00 Hudson Hawk
- 19:45 Hitman: Agent 47
- 21:25 Rise Of The Legend
- 23:40 Zero Tolerance

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 01:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 02:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 05:02 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 05:49 River Monsters
- 06:36 Night
- 07:00 Night
- 07:25 Lone Star Law
- 08:15 The Lion Queen
- 09:10 After The Attack
- 10:05 Dog Rescuers
- 11:00 Wildest Africa
- 11:55 Cats 101
- 12:50 Wildest Indochina
- 13:45 Wildest Indochina
- 14:40 Wildest Indochina
- 15:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 16:30 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 17:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 18:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marvin
- 19:15 Lone Star Law
- 20:10 Wild Animal Repo
- 21:05 Lone Star Law
- 22:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marvin
- 22:55 Tanked
- 23:50 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 00:00 EastEnders
- 00:30 Doctors
- 01:00 Call The Midwife
- 01:55 Doctor Who
- 02:40 Cold Feet

- 09:30 How It's Made
- 09:55 How It's Made
- 10:20 How It's Made
- 10:45 How It's Made
- 11:10 How It's Made
- 11:35 How It's Made
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 12:25 How It's Made
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 Ultimate Survival
- 14:30 Ultimate Survival
- 15:20 Ultimate Survival
- 16:10 Ultimate Survival
- 17:00 Man v Expert
- 17:50 Man v Expert
- 18:40 Breaking Magic
- 19:05 Breaking Magic
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 Reign Of The Dinosaurs
- 21:10 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Untamed & Uncut



- 00:30 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
- 01:20 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
- 02:10 Murder Calls
- 03:00 Murder Chose Me
- 03:48 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 04:36 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 05:24 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 06:12 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 07:00 Blood Relatives
- 07:50 Blood Relatives
- 08:40 Blood Relatives
- 09:30 Blood Relatives
- 10:20 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
- 10:45 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
- 11:10 Florida's Craziest Crimes
- 12:00 I Am Homicide
- 12:50 I Am Homicide
- 13:40 I Am Homicide
- 14:30 I Am Homicide
- 15:20 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special
- 16:10 Nightmare Next Door
- 17:00 Beauty Queen Murders
- 17:50 Beauty Queen Murders
- 18:40 Beauty Queen Murders
- 19:30 Beauty Queen Murders
- 20:20 Lauryn Is Lost: A Disappeared Special
- 21:10 Blood Relatives
- 22:00 Shadow Of Doubt
- 22:50 Murder Calls
- 23:40 Grave Secrets

- 01:05 Loopidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:20 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:25 Loopidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 07:50 Goldie & Bear
- 08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 08:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:05 PJ Masks
- 09:35 Sofia The First
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 11:00 Lady And The Tramp
- 12:25 The Lion Guard
- 12:50 Sofia The First
- 13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:45 Doc McStuffins
- 14:10 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 15:05 PJ Masks
- 15:30 The Lion Guard
- 16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:25 Sofia The First
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Goldie & Bear
- 17:35 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:05 Lady And The Tramp
- 20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 21:00 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 22:30 Sofia The First
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:35 The Hive
- 23:45 Loopidoo

- 00:00 Ocean Warriors

- 19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Mech-X4
- 20:45 Mythic Med
- 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



- 00:00 Famously Single
- 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 El News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 So Cosmo
- 04:40 So Cosmo
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 EJ NYC
- 06:50 El News
- 07:20 Just Jillian
- 08:10 El News
- 09:05 Botched
- 09:55 Botched
- 10:45 Botched
- 11:35 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 12:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 13:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 14:15 Botched
- 15:10 Botched
- 16:05 WAGs Miami
- 17:00 WAGs Miami
- 18:00 WAGs Miami
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Botched
- 21:00 Botched
- 22:00 Botched
- 23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry

- 00:00 Ocean Warriors



- 00:00 Man Fire Food
- 00:30 Man Fire Food
- 01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 02:30 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 10:30 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 12:00 Man Fire Food
- 12:30 Man Fire Food
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 16:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:00 Siba's Table
- 17:30 Siba's Table
- 18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 19:00 Man Fire Food
- 19:30 Man Fire Food
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 22:00 Private Chef
- 22:30 Private Chef
- 23:00 Chopped



- 00:15 Eat Street
- 00:45 Wineroads
- 01:10 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 01:40 Bad Trip
- 02:35 Poh & Co
- 03:00 Poh & Co
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:55 Places We Go
- 04:25 Places We Go
- 04:50 Chocolate Covered
- 05:20 Home Strange Home
- 06:15 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 06:40 The Food Files
- 07:10 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 07:35 Chocolate Covered
- 08:05 Chocolate Covered
- 08:30 Eat Street
- 09:00 Eat Street
- 09:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:55 Bad Trip
- 10:50 What's For Sale?
- 11:15 What's For Sale?
- 11:45 Chasing Time
- 12:10 Chasing Time
- 12:40 Poh & Co
- 13:05 Poh & Co
- 13:35 Bad Trip
- 14:30 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:50 Places We Go
- 16:20 Places We Go
- 16:45 A Is For Apple
- 17:15 Home Strange Home
- 18:10 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 18:35 A Is For Apple
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 Places We Go
- 20:30 A Is For Apple
- 21:00 Home Strange Home
- 22:00 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 22:25 A Is For Apple
- 22:55 Bad Trip
- 23:50 Poh & Co



- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:30 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Cameraman To The Queen
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Coronation Street
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 03:30 Coronation Street
- 03:55 Royal Stories
- 04:20 Royal Stories
- 04:50 When Phillip Met Prince Philip
- 05:50 Inside Windsor Castle
- 06:50 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
- 07:40 Grantchester
- 08:35 This Is England '88
- 09:30 Jekyll And Hyde
- 10:25 Cameraman To The Queen
- 11:25 Chopping Block
- 12:20 Chopping Block



- 00:10 Invasion Earth
- 01:00 Evacuate Earth
- 02:00 King Fishers
- 03:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South

HOOSIERS



HOOSIERS ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 13:15 Grantchester
- 14:10 Doc Martin
- 15:00 Inside Windsor Castle
- 16:00 When Phillip Met Prince Philip
- 16:55 This Is England '88
- 17:50 Royal Stories
- 18:15 Royal Stories
- 18:45 Grantchester
- 19:45 Jekyll And Hyde
- 20:40 When Phillip Met Prince Philip
- 21:35 This Is England '88
- 22:30 Cameraman To The Queen
- 23:20 Lewis



- 00:20 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
- 01:10 Mountain Men
- 02:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 Pawn Stars
- 03:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 04:05 Storage Wars Texas
- 04:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 05:00 Grave Trade
- 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 Pawn Stars
- 09:20 Storage Wars
- 09:45 Storage Wars
- 10:10 American Pickers
- 11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 11:50 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Counting Cars
- 13:05 Counting Cars
- 13:30 Ice Road Truckers
- 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 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 18:30 Lost Worlds
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Storage Wars Texas
- 22:15 Storage Wars Texas
- 22:40 Detroit Steel
- 23:30 American Pickers



127 HOURS ON OSN MOVIES HD

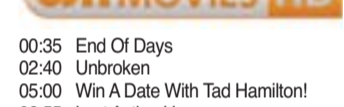
- 04:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 05:00 Somewhere In China
- 06:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 07:00 Border Wars
- 08:00 Scam City
- 09:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 10:00 Breakthrough
- 11:00 Primal Survivor
- 12:00 World's Most Extreme
- 13:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
- 14:00 Cesar To The Rescue Compilation
- 15:00 King Fishers
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 17:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 18:00 Frontline Diaries: Into The Forbidden Zone
- 19:00 King Fishers
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 20:50 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 21:40 Frontline Diaries: Into The Forbidden Zone
- 22:30 King Fishers
- 23:20 Nazi Megastructures



- 01:20 The Nuts From Out There
- 03:05 Cher Ami
- 04:40 Ducktales: The Movie
- 06:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 07:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 08:30 Capture The Flag
- 10:05 Funny Little Cars
- 11:10 Ducktales: The Movie
- 12:25 The Kids From 62-F
- 14:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 15:20 Capture The Flag
- 17:00 Ratchet And Clank
- 18:35 Ghosthunters On Ice Trails
- 20:15 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 21:35 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 22:50 Funny Little Cars



- 00:20 Gorilla Murders
- 01:10 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 02:50 Australia's Deadly Monsters
- 03:45 Secrets Of The Wild
- 04:40 World's Deadliest
- 05:35 Little Killers
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 Prehistoric Predators
- 09:15 Wildebeeste: Born To Run
- 10:10 Wild 24
- 11:05 The Monster Project
- 12:00 Incredible Gulpers
- 12:55 Secrets Of The Wild
- 13:50 Search For King Cobra
- 14:45 Hunter Hunted
- 15:40 Jobs That Bite!
- 16:35 Born Wild (2017)
- 17:30 Monster Fish
- 18:25 King Of The Mountain Baboon
- 19:20 Hunter Hunted
- 20:10 Jobs That Bite!
- 21:00 Born Wild (2017)
- 21:50 Monster Fish
- 22:40 King Of The Mountain Baboon
- 23:30 Incredible Gulpers



- 00:35 End Of Days
- 02:40 Unbroken
- 05:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 06:55 Last Action Hero
- 09:15 Up Close And Personal
- 11:20 Unbroken
- 13:25 Sherlock Holmes
- 15:35 Gulliver's Travels
- 17:05 Seventh Son
- 18:50 S.W.A.T.
- 20:50 127 Hours
- 22:35 Indecent Proposal



- 00:30 Da Vinci's Machines
- 01:20 Da Vinci's Machines
- 02:10 Da Vinci's Machines
- 03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
- 03:48 How Do They Do It?
- 04:12 How Do They Do It?
- 04:36 How Do They Do It?
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:24 Food Factory
- 05:48 Food Factory
- 06:12 Food Factory
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 08:14 Da Vinci's Machines
- 09:02 Da Vinci's Machines
- 09:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 10:38 Da Vinci's Machines
- 11:26 Mythbusters
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 Mythbusters
- 13:50 Mythbusters
- 14:38 Mythbusters
- 15:26 Food Factory
- 15:50 Mosquito
- 17:04 How Do They Do It?
- 17:27 How Do They Do It?
- 17:50 How Do They Do It?
- 18:15 How Do They Do It?
- 18:40 How Do They Do It?
- 19:05 How Do They Do It?
- 19:30 Stephen Hawking's Universe
- 20:20 Stephen Hawking's Universe
- 22:00 Mega Engineering
- 22:50 Mega Engineering
- 23:40 Mega Engineering



- 01:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
- 03:20 Beethoven's Second
- 04:55 The Haunted Mansion
- 06:25 Inspector Gadget
- 07:45 Beethoven's Second
- 09:20 Lilo & Stitch 2
- 10:30 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
- 12:05 The Haunted Mansion
- 13:35 Gnomeo & Juliet
- 15:00 The Wild
- 16:25 Sky High
- 18:05 Because Of Winn Dixie
- 19:55 A Simple Wish
- 21:25 Gnomeo & Juliet
- 22:55 The Wild



- 01:05 Death At A Funeral
- 02:40 Outside Bet
- 04:20 Ride Along 2
- 06:05 Daddy's Home
- 07:45 A Merry Christmas Miracle
- 09:10 Outside Bet
- 10:50 Ride Along 2
- 12:35 Daddy's Home
- 14:15 A Merry Christmas Miracle
- 15:40 Fan Girl
- 17:10 Once Upon A Crime
- 18:45 The Duff
- 20:25 Cops And Robbers
- 22:00 Drunk Wedding
- 23:25 Joshy



- 00:20 My 600lb Life
- 01:50 She's In Charge
- 02:35 She's In Charge
- 03:20 Separated At Birth
- 04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
- 04:50 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
- 05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 06:45 7 Little Johnstons
- 07:07 Say Yes To The Dress
- 07:30 Separated At Birth
- 08:15 Little People, Big World
- 08:37 Little People, Big World
- 09:00 Cake Boss
- 09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
- 10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 10:55 Two In A Million: Girls Made Of Glass
- 11:40 Oprah's Master Class
- 12:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
- 12:47 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
- 13:10 Kate Plus 8
- 13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras: Coach Wars
- 14:40 Little People, Big World
- 15:02 Little People, Big World
- 15:25 Two In A Million: Tiniest Torso
- 16:10 Love At First Swipe
- 16:35 Cake Boss
- 17:00 Kate Plus 8
- 17:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 18:50 Ultimate Shopper
- 19:40 Say Yes To The Dress
- 20:10 Cake Boss
- 20:35 Cake Boss
- 21:00 Cake Boss
- 21:25 Cake Boss
- 21:50 Suddenly Rich



- 00:00 The Survivalist
- 01:50 Blue Sky
- 03:30 Ronaldo
- 05:00 Hoosiers
- 06:55 Healing
- 08:50 Rosewater
- 10:30 Wildlife
- 12:20 Hoosiers
- 14:20 Chariots Of Fire
- 16:25 Oliver's Deal
- 18:10 Jappeloup
- 20:25 Stand By Me
- 22:00 Born To Be Blue
- 23:45 Danny Collins



THE THROW AWAYS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 03:30 Cold Feet
- 04:15 Orphan Black
- 05:00 Doctors
- 05:30 EastEnders
- 06:00 Holly City
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 EastEnders
- 08:00 New Tricks
- 08:50 Call The Midwife
- 09:45 Father Brown
- 10:30 Doctors
- 11:05 EastEnders
- 11:35 New Tricks
- 12:30 Call The Midwife
- 13:25 Father Brown
- 14:05 Doctors
- 14:35 EastEnders
- 15:10 New Tricks
- 16:10 Call The Midwife
- 17:00 Father Brown
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 EastEnders
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 Forgotten
- 21:00 Ashes To Ashes
- 21:50 Ripper Street
- 22:45 Ripper Street
- 23:40 Doctors



- 00:00 Hank Zipzer
- 00:25 Alex & Co.
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:55 Hank Zipzer
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Hank Zipzer
- 03:45 Alex & Co.
- 04:10 Alex & Co.
- 04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:25 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 The 7D
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 07:15 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
- 07:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 07:45 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts...
- 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 Teen Beach 2
- 12:20 Stuck In The Middle
- 14:25 Jessie
- 14:50 The Zhuzhus S1
- 15:15 Bizaardvark
- 15:40 Elena Of Avalor
- 16:05 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 17:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 17:25 Cadet Kelly
- 19:00 Star Darlings
- 19:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:30 Liv And Maddie
- 19:55 Elena Of Avalor
- 20:20 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 20:45 Bizaardvark
- 21:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 21:35 Stuck In The Middle
- 22:00 Bunk'd
- 22:25 Bunk'd
- 22:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 23:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
- 23:35 Lolirock

- 01:05 Yukon Men
- 01:50 Yukon Men
- 02:35 Yukon Men
- 03:20 Yukon Men
- 04:05 Yukon Men
- 04:50 Yukon Men
- 05:35 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:45 Wheeler Dealers

CROSSWORD 1654



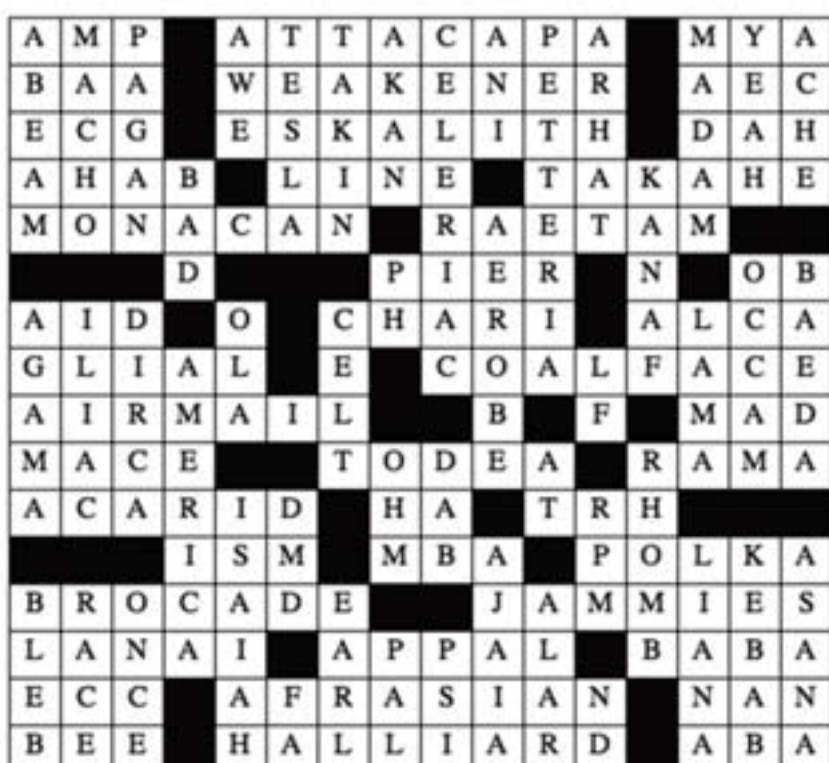
ACROSS

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.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are happiest when the goals for each day are understood. Honest, straightforward people have a special place in your heart. It is easiest to work under a boss that has clear expectations. Revising or reassessing your work responsibilities and scheduling may take up most of this day. You could be helping to change several methods of operation. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. You have a chance to show off your analytical abilities now. Social gatherings are fun and much more interesting than you expected. Take an opportunity to network at this social event . . . You will be pleased with the outcome. You are able to keep ideas and stories in focus that all could learn or enjoy.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This morning is for planning and this afternoon is for carry-through regarding those plans. Later, this afternoon, you will reap the rewards for your hard work. This may also mean a raise or promotion for some past, long-term accomplishment that you may think was forgotten. The people with whom you work are congenial and fun to be with away from work, as well as working as teammates-you are very appreciative. Love and friendships grow closer than ever. Although it is your birthday, you may have to revise a few of your own plans to accommodate old friends that want to stay the night. Laughter and talking over old times can be heard way into the night. Be sure to take pictures for the memory book.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your career can end up at right angles to your own need for growth and change. Emotional material welling up from within you may challenge and threaten the current path, causing you to stop and consider it with care. You will be successfully examining ideas, thoughts and concepts-with an eye to getting rid of those unwanted debts. There is much searching, research, detective work and such. You are in a planning mood and are very clearheaded and able to view the alternate paths. Move forward now. You can see the road ahead and will make the right choices. You may find yourself serving to guide someone younger than you in matters of importance tonight. Perhaps you will be able to encourage him or her to move forward with a special talent.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Careful; you may be very forceful in what you say today. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well but perhaps a little abruptly. Proud, you have an inner need to express feelings and emotions to others. You are driven to leadership positions by a sense of your own inner worth. You have learned to listen carefully when you see someone needs a listening ear; this makes you popular and loved. You have the mental drive to get much accomplished. Heed a warning you may hear from someone in a senior position-do not take roads that go nowhere just for the ride. Pay attention to your dreams and enjoy sharing them. If there is not a lesson to learn, there will be some fun just-suppose types of conversations.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is the perfect time to take risks and dare to be a little eccentric. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. You have good ideas and co-workers and higher-ups will often stop what they are doing to hear your input. You will be wise to know your subject matter before approaching higher-ups. Challenging authority and striving for success are on your agenda; you tread softly. Ambition is a powerful motivation and can lead you into conflict if you let it get out of control. Properly channeled, it results in great achievements and brings recognition. Events may make it easy for you to be original, have breakthroughs and find new solutions to old problems. This evening is good for friendships.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Keep up your pace in the business world-attention to detail may keep you in demand. Competition is high and your energies match any challenges you come across now. Put your visions and dreams to work. You can be intense, passionate and very personal. You may rush past superficialities and right to the heart of any matter. Your imagination drives you to make your inner vision a reality. Careful-there is aggressiveness in your emotions that may cause you to be prone to emotional outburst. Do not misuse your aggression. This, again, is a period of hard work, both in salvaging some endeavors that appear to be failing and in branching out in new directions. A relaxed atmosphere this evening will put you in the mood for romance.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Career choices, decisions that should be made, may appear to go against or challenge your current sense of security and home environment. The easy way out may not be beneficial to your health and general well-being. Weigh alternatives with care. Your career and path to success seems to be running counter to your need for change and self-growth. Job requirements may stifle your sensitivity-hold you back from growing. Tread this one with care-stay focused. Look for work in science, medicine or a nursery group-plants or children. Being a tour guide may be another consideration. You are thankful for the passion and depth of your nature as it takes you into some of the most interesting places and with the most interesting people.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You should take advantage of furthering your professional aims now. You are at your most appealing and can have the greatest impact on the ones at work who pass out the raises and promotions. If you have been out of work, try particularly hard during this time to find the kind of job you really want. You have fluency in communication and your intellect is sharp. You will be curious, talkative and adept at problem-solving conversations most days. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. You may not, however, value something extraordinary or unusual. Instead, you find yourself appreciating what is quite normal or ordinary. There is much passion that manifests itself in art and a physical desire for the opposite sex this evening.



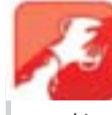
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a natural sense of what the public wants and can easily sell items that most people find hard to sell. The business world is lucky to have you. Sales, lectures, presentations of all sorts can be successfully experienced. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. This afternoon calms a bit as there are opportunities to relax and enjoy some quiet time. Perhaps this is a good time to think and study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying a long telephone conversation, writing a letter or reading a book. You are especially witty this evening as you dine out with loved ones. Others value you for your independence and unique qualities. This is a time when you can expect a little boost and support.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Good eye-hand coordination and sustained effort makes almost any task run well. By midafternoon you will be pleased at your progress. A problem at work that has gone on for a long time is finally nearing its end. It will soon be time for new conquests. Now, understandably, you may feel more like ignoring responsibilities and doing some social visiting. Practice common sense and seek a balance. This is the time you and your co-workers will be given recognition for this hard work. You may be encouraged by an older member of the family to move forward with some special plan-research would be beneficial. You will enjoy waiting on your loved ones this evening. Heal the thought that you are separate from others.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are at your most practical today. Your own common sense will tell you everything you need to know particularly when it comes to working with others. You can act without haste. You are called on to make decisions pertaining to money matters this morning. You make good use of your ability to sense common sense. A need to be respected is important to you and you look for ways to help others and to step in when your company may need help. You will soon be asked to communicate with powerful people in order to have better working situations. You develop a sense of ambition and practicality and strive for high achievement. A bookstore is an enjoyable place this evening. Special prices for beautiful books bring facts, figures and fantasy your way.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pleasant attitudes are created this Sunday in the home and in the workplace. A need for emotional security is accentuated; you should not pressure a partner or co-worker into doing things just to please you. You have an increased tendency to partake in working partnerships or group activities today. Mental stimulation is the key for you right now and it is a good idea to make every effort to join in and work with others. Any project begun today should be successful. This evening is a time where you might find a deepening of a love relationship. If you have no love relationship, this could be a time in which you will meet that special person. If you have a special love in your life, now is the time to find ways to nurture and deepen the relationship.

WORD SEARCH

Head & Neck

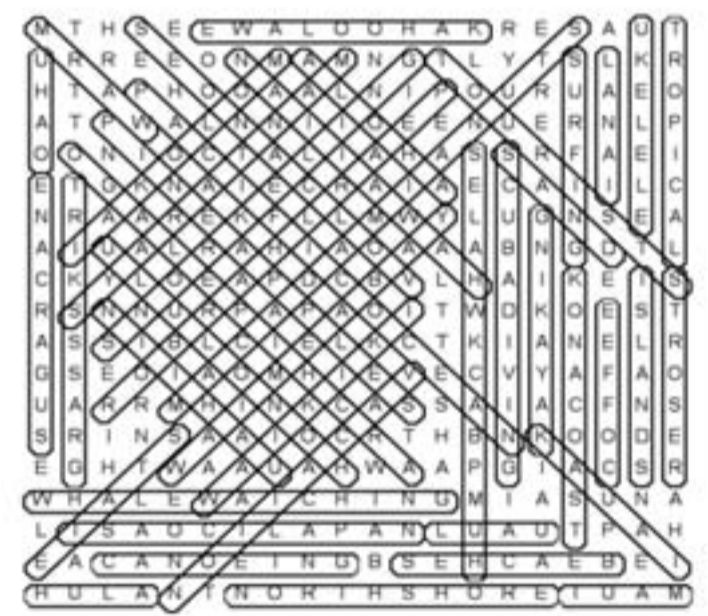
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| BRAIN | HAIR | SCALP |
| CHEEKS | JAW | SKULL |
| CHIN | LARYNX | TASTE BUDS |
| EAR LOBES | LIPS | TEETH |
| EARDRUM | MOUTH | TEMPLES |
| EARS | NAPE | THROAT |
| EYEBROWS | NECK | TONGUE |
| EYELIDS | NOSE | TONSILS |
| EYES | NOSTRILS | TRACHEA |
| FOREHEAD | OESOPHAGUS | UVULA |
| GUMS | PHARYNX | |

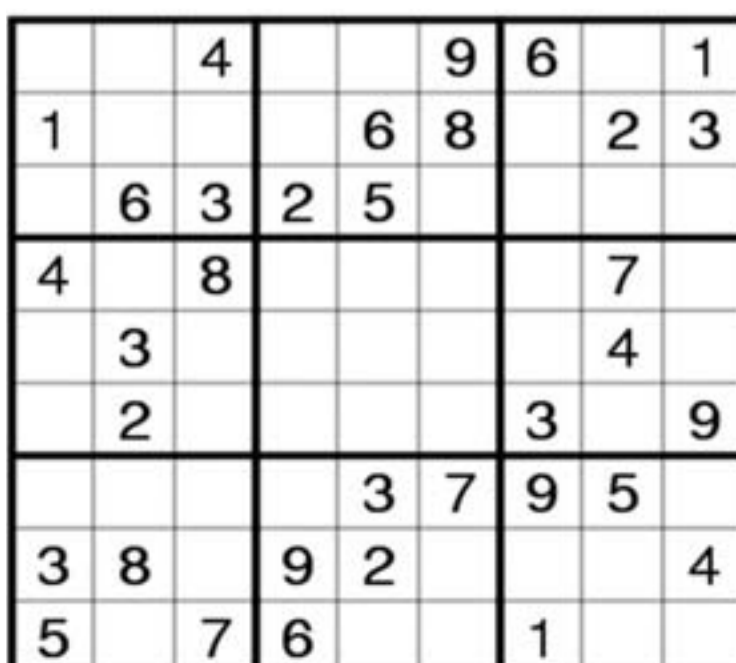
Friday's Solution

Hawaii



The hidden message is: THERE ARE ONLY THIRTEEN LETTERS IN THE HAWAIIAN ALPHABET

Daily SuDoku



Thursday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/07/2017 TO 12/07/2017)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
8:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	8:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	4:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX
10:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	10:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
12:30 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	12:30 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	9:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX
				12:05 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX
11:30 AM	AVENUES-3	11:30 AM	AVENUES-3	11:30 AM	AVENUES-3
2:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
4:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	3:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
7:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	5:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
9:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	9:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
12:05 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
				12:15 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
11:45 AM	AVENUES-4	11:45 AM	AVENUES-4	1:00 PM	AVENUES-4
1:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3
4:30 PM	Special Show "TUBELIGHT (Hindi)"	4:30 PM	Special Show "TUBELIGHT (Hindi)"	3:00 PM	Special Show "TUBELIGHT (Hindi)"
7:15 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	7:15 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	5:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
10:00 PM	Special Show "THE MUMMY"	10:00 PM	Special Show "THE MUMMY"	5:30 PM	Special Show "THE MUMMY"
12:45 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:45 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	7:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
				10:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
3:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	12:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3
5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		
7:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		
9:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	9:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		
11:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	11:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		
12:00 PM	AVENUES-5	12:00 PM	AVENUES-5	12:00 PM	AVENUES-5
2:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
5:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D	5:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D	5:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D
7:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D	7:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D	8:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D
9:30 PM	Special Show "SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING"	9:30 PM	Special Show "SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING"	11:30 PM	Special Show "SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING"
11:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		
11:30 AM	AVENUES-6	11:30 AM	AVENUES-6	11:30 AM	AVENUES-6
1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
3:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
5:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
7:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	7:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
9:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	9:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	9:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
11:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	11:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	11:30 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales
12:30 PM	360- 1	12:30 PM	360- 1	12:30 PM	360- 1
4:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
6:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	6:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	6:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)
8:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	8:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)	8:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 (3D)
10:30 PM	Premiere Show "War For the planet of the Apes"	10:30 PM	Premiere Show "War For the planet of the Apes"	10:30 PM	Premiere Show "War For the planet of the Apes"
12:30 AM	TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	12:30 AM	TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight	12:30 AM	TRANSFORMERS: The Last Knight
11:30 AM	360- 2	11:30 AM	360- 2	11:30 AM	360- 2
1:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	1:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	1:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
3:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	3:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	3:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
5:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	5:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	5:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
7:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	7:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	7:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
9:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	9:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	9:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
11:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	11:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI	11:30 PM	TAFASH WE ARB3EEN HARAMI
12:30 PM	360- 3	12:30 PM	360- 3	12:30 PM	360- 3
4:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	4:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	4:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
6:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	6:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	6:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
8:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	8:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	8:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
10:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	10:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	10:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
12:30 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:30 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:30 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)

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FOR SALE
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NOTICE
 June 7, 2017
 Mr. Raj Kumar T Reddy son of Mr. Dampala Ramesh Reddy, resident of A P H B Colony, B 42, Yeramukapalli, Andhra Pradesh and Ms. Larissa Melanie Fernandes daughter of Mr. Simplicio Fernandes, resident of Carmona, Xirra, Salcette, Goa, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecon@indembkwat.org, welfaresection@indembkwat.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).
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Arrival Flights on Sunday 9/7/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 9/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FEG	1933	Sohag	12:55
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	THY	766	Istanbul	13:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC	514	Tehran	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	415	Sohag	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	ETD	303	Muscat	14:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	257	Beirut	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	718	New York	16:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
RBG	559	Alexandria	04:10	KAC	542	Doha	17:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
QTR	8320	Doha	05:20	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:10
BAW	157	London	06:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
MSC	411	Asyut	06:45	KAC	178	Vienna	19:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:50	KAC	620	Doha	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	104	London	20:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MSC	403	Asyut	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	166	Rome	20:55
ABY	125	Frankfurt	09:00	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	JZR	1443	Doha	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:25	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30
KAC	522	Al Najaf	11:20	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	RBG	551	Alexandria	23:00
JZR	239	Amman	12:25</				

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
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya 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

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 08/07/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 46 °C

By Day: Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Night: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h with a chance for fog forming at night.

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	Very hot + causing rising dust.	Very hot and Dusty and Dust will subside gradually
Min Temp °C	29	31	33	35
Max Temp °C	44	46	52	49
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	south easterly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 35	10 - 30	10 - 45	25 - 55

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	33		45	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31		46	
ABDULY	33		47	
BUBYAN	31		41	
JAHRA	33		48	
FAILAKA ISLAND	31		43	
SALMIYAH	32		40	
AHMADE	31		40	
JAL ALIYAH	33		50	
QAROH ISLAND	32		35	
UMH AL-MARADEM	32		36	
NUWAISIB	30		47	
WAFRA	29		50	
SALMIY	31		49	
MUTRIBA	34		52	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	31
Max Rel Hum (%)	59
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:55
Sunset	18:51

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:21
Sunrise	04:55
Zuhr	11:53
Aar	15:27
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:22

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam 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
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al
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Emma Stone says male co-stars have helped her get equal pay

Emma Stone says that male co-stars have taken pay cuts to ensure she received equal pay on films. Speaking to tennis great Billie Jean King in an interview published Thursday in *Out Magazine*, Stone said the gesture to match has impacted what she's able to ask for in the future. The Oscar-winner portrays King in the upcoming film "Battle of the Sexes" about the 1973 match against Bobby Riggs. Stone has spoken about the gender pay gap in Hollywood before, as have big screen stars like Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson. Her experience is not universal, though. Stone's co-star Andrea Riseborough said that she has not had the same experience and has been paid less than male co-stars even when she's asked for a raise. — AP

Despicable Me 3 smashes US holiday weekend box office

"Despicable Me 3," the latest installment of the animated crime caper series, smashed the North American box office through the US holiday weekend, taking in nearly \$100 million, industry figures showed Wednesday. The latest installment of the franchise that opened in theatres last Friday hauled in \$99 million through the five-day weekend, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations. Steve Carell stars as the voice of "despicable" bad guy-turned-protagonist Gru and his twin brother Gru in the Universal film.

It also features Kristen Wiig as Gru's wife Lucy and "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker as Balthazar Bratt, a former child star and evil villain whose fashion sense is stuck in the '80s. Debuting in second place was hotly anticipated heist thriller "Baby Driver," with \$30 million. Ansel Elgort ("The Fault in Our Stars") stars as a gifted getaway driver who suffers from tinnitus-ringing in his ears and has to play music on an iPod to concentrate when he is behind the wheel.

Falling to third after its debut weekend at the top of the box office was "Transformers: The Last Knight," the fifth installment in the blockbuster series which raked in \$24 million.

The film, which is heavy on visual effects, features actors Mark Wahlberg, Josh Duhamel, John Turturro and Anthony Hopkins, and opened to what was by far the weakest debut in the franchise's history.

Warner Bros. superhero action film "Wonder Woman," starring Gal Gadot as the Amazonian goddess-princess, earned \$24 million, landing in fourth place and bringing the film's total domestic ticket sales to \$354.6 million in five weeks. Meanwhile Pixar's "Cars 3" cruised into fifth place, with \$14.2 million in its third weekend. The animated movie features Lightning McQueen and his longtime friends fighting off a challenge from a new generation of racers, voiced by actors including Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo and Arnie Hammer. Rounding out the top 10 were:

- "The House" (\$11.9 million)
- "47 Meters Down" (\$5.4 million)
- "The Beguiled" (\$4.4 million)
- "The Mummy" (\$4.4 million)
- "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" (\$3.8 million) — AFP



Recording artist Ringo Starr blows candles as his wife Barbara Bach (3rd L) and director David Lynch, friends and family look on during Ringo Starr's birthday celebration at Capitol Records in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Ringo Starr pushes love in new music for birthday

Ringo Starr celebrated his 77th birthday Friday with a call for more love in the world on a song from a new album that will feature Beatles bandmate Paul McCartney. The former Beatles drummer announced that "Peace and Love," his 19th studio album, will come out on September 15 and include collaborations with McCartney as well as other major names in rock.

Starr released a first song, "Give More Love," a pop track whose uplifting chorus has echoes of Beatles classics but with heavier guitar. Keeping a birthday tradition, Starr encouraged fans around the world to meet up and collectively offer a two-finger peace sign, with the ex-Beatle himself appearing in Los Angeles outside the headquarters of his label Capitol Records. The peace motif harks back to the hippie era of the 1960s when The Beatles embraced the message of non-violence—a theme especially dear to late bandmates John Lennon and George Harrison.

McCartney is credited on two songs on "Peace and Love," marking a reunion of all living members of history's top-selling pop group and the pair's first recording together since Starr's 2010 album "Y Not." Starr, who recorded "Peace and Love" at his home studio in Los Angeles, first revealed the collaboration in February when he tweeted a picture of himself embracing McCartney and thanked him for coming to play bass.

Starr on "Peace and Love" also enlisted several songwriters who worked with him on his last album, 2015's "Postcards from Paradise." They include Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh, Dave Stewart of The Eurythmics, soft rock singer Richard Marx and Toto guitarist and prolific session musician Steve Lukather. Starr plans eight shows in October at a Las Vegas casino followed by a short US tour. — AFP



Prince videos appear on old foe YouTube

Official videos from Prince started appearing Friday on YouTube, a year after the death of the pop star who was a sworn foe of the omnipresent site. Videos for some of his classic songs—including tracks from his 1984 movie "Purple Rain" such as "When Doves Cry" and "Let's Go Crazy"—became available on an official account for Prince. The account was linked to Prince's imprint under Warner Brothers Records, which last month reissued "Purple Rain" in an expanded edition that reached number four on the latest Billboard album chart.

Prince was early to embrace the internet but later became an avid critic, charging that the ubiquity of free online music was short-changing artists. The artist hired a team of online monitors who used legal means to take down videos of him, even short clips by fans of the sort that have become fixtures

on social media. Asked about his stance shortly before his death, Prince wrote on Twitter in a message he soon deleted: "Since YouTube doesn't pay equitable licensing fees, isn't this a nonsensical question?"

Prince died in April 2016 at his Paisley Park estate in Minnesota from an accidental overdose of powerful painkillers. His family has since stepped up efforts to monetize his music, explaining that it needed to take action to keep the estate afloat. His catalog returned earlier this year on all major streaming sites including Spotify. The estate's commercial drive was recently criticized by hip-hop mogul Jay-Z, who had reached an exclusive arrangement with Prince on his Tidal streaming service. "I'm surprised you ain't auctioned off his casket," he raps on his latest album. — AFP

'VALERIAN' DIRECTOR SAYS RIHANNA IS FOCUSED ON SET

Director Luc Besson says getting Rihanna's team on board for her role in the sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" was a little painful at first. Rihanna's manager Jay Brown was a fan of Besson's films like "The Professional" and "La Femme Nikita" but they had to make sure they trusted Besson and his crew before they committed. The pop superstar co-stars in "Valerian" out July 21, as a burlesque dancer named Bubble who performs in a seedy club owned by Ethan Hawke.

Although it's a relatively small part in the film starring Cara Delevingne and Dane DeHaan, it's already being hailed by early viewers as a scene-stealing performance. Rihanna, who wasn't available for an interview, was the director's first choice for the pivotal role and he figured it couldn't hurt to ask. She'd had a main role in the 2012 film "Battleship" and the animated "Home," and cameos in "This Is the End" and "Annie." He was surprised at how involved her team was at the outset.

"They're very protective of her," he said "So before you get in, you have to prove that you're honest and you're there for a good reason ... It's a little painful at the beginning, but after a while you go, 'Yeah, we get it.'" Once the Grammy winner's team decided to move forward, Besson said Rihanna "was lovely." "What was good was when she was on the set she's 200 percent focused with you, no entourage, she's there. When she's there, she's there," Besson said.

"The problem, sometimes, is to have her there," the French director added with a smile, to which his wife and producer Virginie Besson-Silla quickly jumped in and said, "No, no, she's was good!" "She was good," Besson agreed. "She was amazing and so focused. I was surprised by how much she was ready and open to the director ... She was at my service and I was surprised at the beginning. She was so generous." — AP

Film claims to solve mystery of Amelia Earhart's fate



In this undated photo provided by Morningstar Entertainment via the History Channel, retired US Treasury Agent Les Kinney poses for a photo. — AP

The photo is haunting. Among a number of figures gathered on a dock, the fuzzy image seems to be that of a woman, her back to the camera, gazing at what may be her crippled aircraft loaded on a barge, and perhaps wondering what her future might hold. Is this Amelia Earhart, the world-famous aviator, witnessed after her mysterious disappearance while attempting the first round-the-world flight 80 years ago this month?

That is the theory put forth in "Amelia Earhart: The Lost Evidence," a two-hour documentary airing today at 9 pm EDT on the History channel. It uncovers records, including this newly revealed photograph that shows what may be a healthy Earhart along with her navigator Fred Noonan, after they were last heard from.

The film also argues that after the pair crash-landed in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands, they were picked up by the Japanese military and that Earhart, perhaps presumed to be a US spy, was held prisoner. And there's more: The United States government knew of her whereabouts and did nothing to rescue her, according to the film. The disappearance of Earhart and Noonan on July 2, 1937, in the Western Pacific Ocean has gained legendary status among the age's unsolved mysteries.

By then she had already logged numerous aviation feats, including that of being the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. She reigned as an international hero. And yet the US government closed the book on its investigation just two weeks after her disappearance. Its vaguely worded findings were inconclusive.

Was there a cover-up? The film proposes there was. The documentary is hosted by former FBI Executive Assistant Director Shawn Henry, whose fascination with the case is equalled by former US Treasury Agent Les Kinney, who discovered the photo hidden and mislabeled in the US National Archives. In the documentary, that photo is subjected to facial-recognition and other forensic testing. It is judged authentic, and likely that of Earhart and Noonan.

The film also displays plane parts found in an uninhabited island of the Marshall Islands by Earhart investigator Dick Spink that are consistent with the aircraft that Earhart was flying on her round-the-world attempt. And it hears from the last living eyewitness who claims to have seen Earhart and Noonan after their crash. The documentary tells of "a world-famous aviator who got caught up in an international dispute, was abandoned by her own government, and made the ultimate sacrifice," Henry sums up. "She may very well be the first casualty of World War II." — AP



This image shows Rihanna, who portrays a burlesque dancer named Bubble, in Luc Besson's sci-fi epic, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets." — AP



This undated photo shows fake Native American styled-jewelry seized by federal officials during a 2015 investigation in New Mexico. — AP photos

Fake Indian art threatens native livelihood

The recent spread of fake Native American art and jewelry has shown the need to update how the federal government protects tribal artists from fraud that undercuts the value of their work, according to two US senators who gathered suggestions for reforms on Friday. New Mexico Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich convened a hearing in the American Indian arts hub of Santa Fe, where federal law enforcement officials and leading Native American artists described a disheartening influx of counterfeit jewelry, weavings and contemporary art knock-offs.

"We've got a serious problem on our hands," said Udall, vice chair of the Senate Indian affairs committee, summarizing three hours of testimony. "Fake Indian arts and crafts are flooding the markets right here in Santa Fe and across the country and this is having an effect of destabilizing the Native Art market. It's forcing Native Americans to quit their crafts."

Udall said he hopes to propel efforts to modernize the Indian Arts and Crafts Act to cope with sophisticated international jewelry rings that copy Native American designs and police online sales.

The act makes it a crime to falsely market and sell art as Native American-made when it is not. A 2010 amendment to the Indian Arts and Crafts Act broadened provisions to allow any federal law enforcement to conduct investigations, while

a 2012 agreement put the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the forefront of pursuing violations. William Woody, the top law enforcement official at the Fish and Wildlife Service, warned that counterfeiters may easily write off economic sanctions, calling the current \$250,000 maximum fine a "pittance."

He and a representative from the Department of Justice said lawmakers should consider bolstering criminal forfeiture provisions as well. Pressed for an estimate on how much of the U.S. Indian art market is made up of counterfeits, Woody said "it could be as high as 80 percent" but cautioned that confirmation is impossible. Federal prosecutors in New Mexico are preparing for two trials in an ambitious investigation that traced falsified Native American art from manufacturers in the Philippines to galleries across the United States, from Santa Fe to Virginia and Alaska.

Officials on Friday said the targeted networks imported jewelry with a declared value of \$11 million. They said the jewelry would have fetched at least twice that price through retail sales. Meridith Stanton, executive director of the Interior Department's Indian Arts and Crafts Board, said her office already works with legal departments for online sellers including Amazon, eBay and Etsy to confront vendors of fake Indian artwork.

Her office also attends events such as Santa Fe's summer



Indian Market to educate shoppers and brokers about avoiding fraudulent Indian art.

"You can speak or pass out brochures, and do workshops and seminars, but you still have to have the law enforcement aspect, you have to have the hammer," Stanton said. Joyce

Begay-Foss, a Navajo weaver and director of education at the New Mexico Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, said both Indian artists and befuddled shoppers are frustrated by the influx of counterfeits. She called out Navajo-baskets as fakes that were used as decorations for the Senate hearing. "The federal law does not protect you as a buyer," she said.

In October 2015, federal agents raided Indian art galleries in Albuquerque, Gallup, New Mexico, and Calistoga, California, to seize counterfeits and evidence. Authorities have accused Nael Ali, owner of two Indian art galleries in the Old Town neighborhood of Albuquerque and another in Arizona, of attributing jewelry to specific Navajo craftsman when it was actually made in the Philippines.

Ali and art supplier Mohammad Manasra are scheduled for trial in August on fraud charges under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. They maintain their innocence. Subsequent indictments against four people trace Filipino-made jewelry to Indian-art galleries in Santa Fe and San Diego. The defendants could get maximum penalties of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. — AP



FRIDA KAHLO LOOK-ALIKES ATTEMPT TO BREAK RECORD

With unibrows and flowers in their hair, more than 1,000 people came to a Dallas museum dressed as Frida Kahlo as part of an attempt to set a record. The Dallas Museum of Art says more than 5,000 people attended the celebration Thursday night marking the 110th birthday of the artist. The museum, which partnered with the Latino Center for Leadership Development for the attempt, said evidence will be submitted to Guinness World Records next week and the review process will take up to 12 weeks.

Participants were asked to create a unibrow, put flowers in their hair, wear a red or pink shawl and a flower-printed dress. The museum is currently featuring an exhibition called "Mexico 1900-1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Clemente Orozco, and the Avant-Garde." — AP

In this photo, dozens of Frida look-alikes stand in line during an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Frida Kahlo in one location at the Dallas Museum of the Art in Dallas. — AP



Journalists film, take picture and look at the pieces of art during the press preview of the first masterpieces of the estate of German collector Cornelius Gurlitt at the Museum of Fine Arts Bern in Bern. — AFP photos

First works from Nazi-era art hoard arrive at Bern museum

A Swiss museum on Friday showed off pieces from a spectacular Nazi-era art hoard it inherited from a German recluse, in the run-up to the first exhibit of the controversial collection. The Museum of Fine Arts in Bern unveiled a selection of the nearly 200 pieces set to go on display on November 2 for its exhibit "Degenerate Art, Confiscated and Sold". Among the works showed off to the media Friday were pieces by important German painters Otto Dix, and Franz Marc and Otto Mueller.

The works are part of a vast trove of works left behind by art collector Cornelius Gurlitt, who died in 2014 at the age of 81. When Gurlitt died, he named the Bern museum as the sole heir to hundreds of works found in his cluttered Munich apartment, including pieces by the likes of Cezanne, Beckmann, Holbein, Delacroix and Munch.

Gurlitt, described in media reports as an eccentric recluse, hid the paintings, drawings and sketches in his Munich home for decades and another 239 works at a house he owned in Salzburg, Austria. Gurlitt's father was one of four art dealers during the Third Reich tasked by the Nazis with selling art stolen from Jews or confiscated as "degenerate" works. Although German authorities discovered the collection during a tax probe in 2012, they kept it under wraps for more than a year until it came to light in a magazine article.

Gurlitt struck an agreement with the German government in April 2014 stipulating that any works that were plundered by the Nazis would be returned to their rightful owners and the Bern museum said it would honor that wish. Heirs of collectors stripped of their assets by the Nazis, many of whom would later be killed in the death camps, have, however, complained that restitution has been woefully slow in coming.

Gurlitt's decision to leave his trove to the Bern museum sparked a lengthy legal battle, which ended last December when a Munich court rejected his cousin Ute Werner's challenge to his will. She had staked a claim to the collection, arguing that Gurlitt was not mentally fit to stipulate what would happen to the art. The Bern exhibit will not include any of the plundered works, but will be mainly made up of works considered by the Nazis to be

"degenerated art" and sequestered in German museums.

Most of the pieces are on paper, including important works within the symbolism, expressionism, constructivism and new objectivity movements. But the exhibit in Switzerland will run in parallel with a second display from the collection at the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, Germany, which will focus on "Nazi Art Theft and its Consequences". Once those two exhibits have run their course by early March 2018, the Bonn exhibition will go on display in Bern, the museum said. — AFP



Perry promo slammed for 'cruel' koala joke

Pop superstar Katy Perry has been slammed by animal activists for telling her pet dog to "chase some koalas" in a promotional video for the Australian leg of her global tour. The plug for Perry's "Witness" tour next year, which also pushes the country's top department store Myer and its 8,000 ticket giveaway for the shows, featured the singer telling the poodle: "Let's go chase some koalas, Nugget."

Koalas on Australia's east coast are listed as vulnerable to extinction, with dog attacks, habitat loss and vehicle strikes among the top causes of the population decline. "This is just absolute ignorance from Perry and Myer, and inappropriate on so many levels," wildlife vet Claire Madden told Queensland's Courier Mail. "Perry is a role model to so many young people, and this just destroys all the good work we do to try to encourage people not to let their dogs come into contact with koalas."

The retailer also came under fire on social media. "How could you even think this was OK? On any level? Pathetic. Cruelty to animals is not a joke," one user wrote on Facebook. Following the backlash a Myer spokeswoman told AFP the company had removed the reference to koalas in the video. It replaced the line with: "OK Nugget, it's time to get you a puppy passport."

Perry is not the first celebrity to come under fire in Australia over her dog. In 2015 Hollywood star Johnny Depp and his then-wife Amber Heard also caused a storm when they failed to declare her two dogs on arrival into the country. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor drew the ire of Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, who ordered Depp's dogs Pistol and Boo to "bugger off" back to Hollywood or face being put down in a case dubbed "War on Terrier". "Johnny Depp all over again," complained one Facebook user on Myer's page. "Arrogance and disrespect for Australia." Perry, the first user to garner 100 million followers on Twitter, has not commented about the video on social media. — AFP



Singer Katy Perry poses for photographers as she arrives for the Gabrielle Chanel fragrance launch party in Paris on July 4, 2017. — AP



This file photo shows French fashion designer for Lanvin, Bouchra Jarrar, left, acknowledging the audience at the end of her women's Fall-Winter 2017-2018 ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris.

Designer Bouchra Jarrar quits troubled fashion label Lanvin

Designer Bouchra Jarrar has quit Lanvin, the troubled Paris label confirmed Thursday, only 10 months after she showed her first collection there. The 46-year-old closed her own label last March so she could dedicate herself to reviving France's oldest fashion house. But it soon became clear that all was not well within the house, which has been in turmoil since the shock sacking of its previous designer Alber Elbaz in 2015.

In a short statement late Thursday, Lanvin said they had "mutually decided to put an end to their collaboration". The popular Elbaz had brought Lanvin, founded in 1889, back from the edge of oblivion before he fell afoul of its formidable owner, Taiwanese media magnate Shaw-Lan Wang. The label sank 18.3 million euros into the red last year, its first loss for a decade.

Jarrar's two collections for the label were warmly received for their "sober elegance" by critics, and last week she was made an officer of France's prestigious Order of Arts and Letters for her services to fashion. But with morale low in the brand's workshop amid an exodus of talent after Elbaz's departure, and rumors of further friction over budget cuts, her exit was not unexpected. In March, Jarrar hinted that she was not getting the support that she needed to turn the label around.

"I want to bring my expertise, creativity, technical know-how and pragmatism" to the brand, she told the South China Morning Post. For that "I need the whole house's support. Alone it's impossible," she added. In the statement confirming her departure, Jarrar said she wished to "particularly acknowledge the work of the teams with whom I collaborated to express French creativity and

know-how." French-born Jarrar, whose parents come from Morocco, started designing early, having learned to sew from her father.

She spent a decade at Balenciaga under Nicolas Ghesquiere before becoming head of haute couture at Christian Lacroix, building up a loyal following for her minimalist and quintessentially French chic look of sharply cut tuxedo and leather jackets and pea coats. Wang and Lanvin's other major shareholder, Swiss businessman Ralph Bartel, plan to recapitalize the company and re-launch the brand, according to the French business magazine Challenges. — AFP

Kendall, Kylie Jenner sued over Tupac Shakur T-shirts

A commercial photographer has sued Kendall and Kylie Jenner over the use of two of his images of late rapper Tupac Shakur that were used on T-shirts the sisters briefly sold for \$125 apiece. Michael Miller sued the Jenner sisters in a Los Angeles federal court on Friday for copyright infringement over the "vintage" T-shirts that featured their likeness or designs superimposed over photos of famous musicians. Miller's suit

states the Jenners never sought permission to use his photos. The sisters' brand Kendall + Kylie stopped selling the shirts last month after Ozzy Osbourne's wife and the mother of the late rapper Notorious B I G, criticized them. Emails sent to the Jenners' publicists were not immediately returned Friday. Miller is seeking at least \$150,000 apiece for the use of his photos. — AP



Drones, DJs and Kardashian advisers at Dakar Fashion Week



A dress hangs on a clothes rack at the end of Dakar Fashion Week in the Senegalese capital. — AP photos

When it launched 15 years ago, Dakar Fashion Week had a handful of aspiring local designers and models gathering in often run-down hotels. Now dozens of designers from around the world present their creations to thumping DJ mixes as drone cameras hover above the runway shows that are broadcast live on national television. Among the guests last week was Jenke Ahmed Tally, an Ivorian and Senegalese stylist who has worked as Beyonce's creative director and now advises Kanye West and Kim Kardashian.

Africa's fashion scene has grown steadily over the past two decades, with sub-Saharan Africa's apparel and footwear market now worth \$31 billion, according to data by Euromonitor. Michelle Obama and Beyonce have worn labels such as Nigeria's Maki Oh. Johannesburg, Lagos, Nairobi and Casablanca are at the forefront of African fashion but Dakar is an equally creative hub, with much of its energy driven by Adama Ndiaye, the 39-year-old organizer of Dakar Fashion Week. "When I started it was a young girl's dream to build something in my country," she said.

Industry challenges include managing clothing production costs, quality control, distribution logistics and reaching large markets. Such concerns, however, were an afterthought as stylish crowds gathered for the fashion spectacle that ran June 27-July 2. One evening, a street show was held for free in a low-income neighborhood to allow other Dakar residents to sample the glamour and hype. Amid the excitement was a

strain of concern. After attacks on hotels by al-Qaida-linked militants elsewhere in West Africa, security was tight at the various fashion events.

And organizer Ndiaye was compelled to address the issue of Africans migrating to Europe after one of her friends and collaborators was among 180 people who drowned when a boat sank off the coast of Libya earlier this year. "It was heartbreaking to hear that we lost someone so close to us and so modern and working in this industry and he had a name," Ndiaye said. "I still can't figure out why someone like that would try to go to Europe by boat."

A panel discussion titled "Our African Dream" was part of Dakar Fashion Week's program and featured a Senegalese entrepreneur who spoke of a failed crossing to Europe that almost cost him his life. Students and local youth were invited to share the message that opportunities also exist at home.

"I hope that this is only the beginning of inspiring more young people to educate them on how hard work and struggle and pain and loneliness is all part of becoming successful," said Ndiaye, who will host similar talks later this year in Ivory Coast, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. "It's important for we Africans to tell our stories to help others to realize what we have here is good." — AP



Models sit backstage during Dakar Fashion Week.



Designer Oumar Dicko, right, of Mali and Belgium, laces up a model in one of his creations.



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

Fake Indian art threatens native livelihood

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Ekaterina of Hanover and Prince Ernst August of Hanover leave after their church wedding ceremony in Hanover, central Germany. — AFP

Made in Myanmar: Designers put ethical twist on local fashion

With Myanmar emerging as a manufacturing hub for mass-produced clothes, a crop of young designers are using home-grown fashion to preserve the country's sartorial heritage and reshape the sweatshop model. Inside her boutique in downtown Yangon, Pyone Thet Thet Kyaw crafts her own designs using traditional patterns and fabrics, many from ethnic minority groups, to make A-line skirts, dresses and tops. On another she adds the high-collared neckline of the *ingyi*-a tight top usually worn by Myanmar women along with a fitted, sarong-like skirt-to a flirty pleated dress.

"We Burmese really care about our own ethnic and traditional clothes," she told AFP in the shop, over the whirl of sewing machines. "When you modernize the traditional patterned clothes you have to be careful they're not too flashy-or too modern." Myanmar is fiercely proud of its traditional garb, which was largely protected from the influx of homogenous Western fashion now ubiquitous across Southeast Asia by the former military junta. For 50 years they shut the country off to foreign influences and tightly controlled what was worn in all official media.

Designer Ma Pont said she was not allowed to show

even a flash of shoulder or armpit when she used to make clothes for military-controlled TV channels in the 1990s. "We were not really free," she said. Fashion was particularly politically charged in that era, when many women would secretly ask their tailors for designs that imitated the distinctive style of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Local media reported the purple outfit she wore the day she was released from almost two decades of house arrest soon became a popular sight on Yangon's streets.

Changing tastes

Today the democracy icon, who last year became the de facto leader of Myanmar's first civilian government in generations, is still widely admired for the elegant Burmese outfits she wears at public appearances. But while many still prefer traditional clothes, especially the sarong-like longyi worn by both men and women, fashions are starting to change. Shopping malls aimed at Yangon's growing middle class are sprouting up around the city, while on its fringes factories are churning out clothes for international brands drawn to its pool of young, cheap labor.

It is a flip-side of the industry which boutique designer

Pyone Thet Thet Kyaw has seen first-hand. As a teenager she spent months toiling in garment factories on the outskirts of the commercial capital-a job that earned her 2,000 kyat a week (now worth \$1.46). The experience made her determined to open her own boutique and train young women in the art of clothes-making to make sure they never suffer the same fate. "I started to see things, like how you could only spend 10 minutes for your lunch or you could not go to the toilet whenever you wanted because it would disrupt their production line," she said. "If fast fashion and unethical fashion continues, then we're the ones to be suffering."

Fashion slaves

Impoverished but emerging Myanmar is swiftly becoming a new hub for massive garment factories making cheap clothes as quickly as possible for fashion giants like H&M and Primark. Exports more than doubled to \$1.65 billion last financial year, according to official data, and are expected to surge after the US ended sanctions in October. But while the sector is helping to drive rapid economic growth, critics say few benefits are trickling down to work-

ers who earn some of the lowest wages in Asia and have little legal protections.

A recent report by multinational watchdog SOMO warned of "significant risks of labor rights violations being committed in Myanmar's garment industry that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency". Other local designers, like Mo Hom, are working to save Myanmar's centuries-old traditional fabric industry from the influx of cheap imported clothes from Thailand and China.

Her boutique in Yangon is filled with colorful designs in cotton and silks sourced from Chin and Shan states, where they can take months to weave by hand using traditional wooden looms. Many are dyed with natural substances like green tea and strawberries to give subtle colors, which she mixes with traditional ethnic patterns and silhouettes. "Local mills are actually dying because there is no market demand anymore," said Mo Hom, who trained and worked as a designer in New York before moving back to Myanmar in 2012. "A lot of the mills are actually closing down." — AFP



This photo shows boutique owner Pyone Thet Thet Kyaw, right, owner and designer of Virya Couture, working in her shop at Yangon. — AFP photos



This photo shows a woman weaving silk on a loom for traditional Myanmar clothing at a workshop in Mandalay.



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