

Sabeeh: Rehab of returnees from terrorist groups vital



Candy Crush addicts get new outlet as game comes to TV



India star Aamir now 'King of the Khans'



Bottas beats Vettel in Austria, Hamilton ends up fourth



US LIFTS LAPTOP BAN FROM KUWAIT AIRWAYS FLIGHTS

US OFFICIALS INSPECT SECURITY MEASURES • ROYAL JORDANIAN ALSO EXEMPTED



Min 30°
Max 46°
High Tide 01:33 & 11:48
Low Tide 06:28 & 19:38



BHUBANESWAR, India: Kuwaiti runner Ibrahim Al-Thifeeri reacts after winning gold in the men's 800m race on the final day of the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships at Kalinga Stadium yesterday. — AFP

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways yesterday announced that its passengers will be able to carry personal electronic items on board all US-bound flights departing from Kuwait International Airport. The US Transportation Security Administration lifted the ban on electronic devices onboard Kuwait Airways flights after US officials inspected the security measures on Kuwait Airways flights. Following this announcement, passengers onboard Kuwait Airways flights from Kuwait International Airport to JFK Airport in New York will be able to enjoy uninterrupted use of all of their personal electronic devices.

Commenting on the lifting of the ban, Sami Fahd Al-Rushaid, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways, said: "Safety, security and compliance with international safety regulations are always our top priorities at Kuwait Airways and we are delighted to announce to our passengers that the electronics ban has been lifted on all Kuwait Airways flights departing Kuwait International



Airport to the United States."

He added: "The security measures in place at Kuwait International Airport which are applied on Kuwait Airways flights are fully compliant with international standards. This allows us to continue to provide services to our passengers flying to the United States or any of our 38-destination international network with our revamped fleet that includes the arrival of the remaining two from our

order of 10 ultra-long-haul aircraft Boeing 777-300ER, which will be in commercial service by Q3 2017, in addition to 25 new Airbus aircraft including 15 A320neo and 10 from the A350 family of aircraft which are set to be delivered from 2019."

Meanwhile, Royal Jordanian Airlines said yesterday it has also won an exemption from the US ban on flights from its hub in Amman. "Enhanced security measures are now implemented to meet the requirements of the US Department of Homeland Security's new security guidelines for all US bound flights," Royal Jordanian chief executive Stefan Pichler said in a statement. "We are glad that our guests can now fly onboard RJ and use their electronic devices," from Amman's Queen Alia International Airport, he added. Saudi Arabia's flagship airline, Saudia, said it expects the United States to lift the ban on its flights on or before July 19. The United States has said it will abolish the ban for airlines that implement new safety measures. — Agencies

ASSEMBLY PROBE PANEL SUMMONS FOUR MINISTERS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A three-MP investigation committee formed to follow up issues raised during two grillings of Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah decided yesterday to summon four ministers to question them on various issues, the head of the committee said. MP Jamaan Al-Harbash also said the panel has drawn up a mechanism for its work and began that by sending 20 questions to the prime minister to ask for details over the issues raised during the two grillings held several weeks ago.

The prime minister was subjected to two quizzes in a same parliamentary session in May over allegations of squandering public funds and failure to check rampant corruption, in addition to financial and administrative violations. He was grilled in a marathon session by five opposition MPs, and the questioning ended by forming the three-man committee to probe the allegations.

Continued on Page 11

IRAQ PM DECLARES VICTORY IN MOSUL



MOSUL: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi is wrapped in the Iraqi national flag while walking alongside police and army officers upon his arrival yesterday. — AFP

MOSUL: Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi declared victory in the "liberated" city of Mosul yesterday, his office said, in the biggest defeat yet for the Islamic State group. Abadi "arrives in the liberated city of Mosul and congratulates the heroic fighters and the Iraqi people on the achievement of the major victory," his office said in a statement. The announcement comes after a grueling nearly nine-month battle to retake the northern city from the militants after three years under their rule.

A photo on Abadi's official Twitter account showed him dressed in a black military uniform and cap as he arrived in Mosul to announce the recapture of the city. The fighting did not seem to be completely over yet, with gunfire still audible in Mosul and air strikes hitting the city around the time the premier's office released the statement. The declared victory in Mosul marks an epic milestone for the Iraqi security forces, who had crumbled in the face of an IS onslaught across Iraq in 2014.

IS swept across much of Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland in a lightning offensive that year, proclaiming a self-styled "caliphate" straddling Iraq and neighboring Syria. But the jihadist group, which is facing twin offensives backed by a US-led coalition in both countries, has since lost large parts of the territory it once controlled. The Iraqi forces launched their campaign to recapture Mosul in October, seizing its eastern side in January and launching the battle for its western part the next month.

But the fight grew tougher when Iraqi forces entered the densely populated Old City on the western bank of the Tigris River that divides the city. In recent days, security forces have killed jihadists trying to escape their dwindling foothold in Mosul, as Iraqi units fought to retake the last two IS-held areas near the Tigris. Earlier yesterday, Iraq's Joint Operations Command had said it killed "30 terrorists" trying to escape across the river.

Continued on Page 11



ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (right) meets Libya's Khalifa Haftar, the head of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army, on Saturday. — AFP

LIBYA STRONGMAN IN UAE FOR MILITARY 'COOPERATION'

ABU DHABI: Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar has met with UAE leaders for talks on military cooperation, state media said yesterday, days after announcing the retaking of second city Benghazi from militants. Haftar, who has visited the United Arab Emirates regularly in recent months, held talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Saturday on "joint cooperation between the two countries... in combating extremism and terrorist organizations," state news agency WAM said.

The United Nations in June released a report accusing the UAE of supplying helicopters and other military aircraft to Haftar in violation of a UN arms embargo. Haftar, the head of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army, on

Wednesday announced the "total liberation" of Benghazi, three years after it was overrun by militants.

Six years after the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, chaos continues to engulf Libya as militants fight for power and access to the country's vast oil reserves. The unrest has provided fertile ground for extremist groups, some with ties to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. The UAE in May hosted a meeting between Haftar and rival Fayeze Al-Sarraj, head of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), in a bid to mediate in the political conflict. Haftar does not recognize the authority of the Tripoli-based GNA, instead backing an alternate government based in the country's east. — AFP

TRUMP CUTS AN ISOLATED FIGURE ON WORLD STAGE

WASHINGTON: During a difficult visit to Europe Donald Trump appeared out of sync with traditional allies, struggling to show that unorthodox strategies toward rival powers Russia and China can deliver results. At one point Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Angela Merkel exchanged a knowing glance as the US president veered off on another tangent. What were to be remarks about women entrepreneurs had become a Trumpian soliloquy on his daughter Ivanka's merits and his paternal failings. "If she weren't my daughter it would be so much easier for her," Trump said. "It might be the only bad thing going for her."

A few feet away, Merkel and Trudeau's nervy laughs were corporal acknowledgment that Trump's political peers are still unsure how to take the mercurial 71-year-old. Throughout the meeting there was a sense the president of the United States, leader of the so-called "indispensable nation," has shifted positions, leaving everyone else struggling to correct. In Warsaw, on the first stop of his four day trip, Trump sought to reassert his claim to lead the free world. Like a king riding along the cavalry frontline, he sounded the charge against terrorism and bureaucracy, which he painted as threats to Christian civilization.

He embraced allies by affirming his commitment to NATO's mutual defense clause, satisfying long-standing demands to be clearer about the alliance. But for many, Trump's idea of the West as a group of nations that "cry out 'We want God'" - a West of high borders and fierce nationalism - seemed out of kilter with the times. "It is no accident that he gave this speech to a country with an ultra-conservative and Eurosceptic government," said Thomas Wright of the Brookings Institution. "The great risk," Wright added, is that Trump's remarks "begin dividing Europe into old and new - or those who don't like him and his message and those who do."

Continued on Page 11



DOHA: Qatar's Attorney General Ali bin Fetais Al-Marri speaks after the launch of the Compensation Claims Committee during a press conference yesterday. — AFP

QATAR SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES FROM BOYCOTT

GULF SETTLES IN FOR LONG CRISIS

DOHA: Qatar yesterday announced it was establishing a committee to pursue compensation claims potentially worth billions of dollars over the country's "blockade" by Gulf states. Attorney General Ali bin Fetais Al-Marri said the Compensation Claims Committee would deal with cases including major companies, such as Qatar Airways, and individual Qatari students who have been expelled from the countries where they were studying. "This committee will receive all claims, whether from the public sector, private sector or individuals," Marri told journalists at a press conference in Doha.

Potential plaintiffs such as Qatar Airways, banks or individuals will be able

to file claims over what Doha has labeled a "siege" in courts at home and abroad, including in Paris and London, Marri said. Qatar has said thousands of its citizens have been affected by the isolation measures in what has emerged as the worst diplomatic crisis to hit the Gulf in recent years. Doha's National Human Rights Committee in June said the sanctions represented a violation of the rights of some 140 Qatari pupils studying in the UAE, Saudi and Bahrain.

Qatar Airways has made Doha a global hub in just a few years, but experts say neighboring Gulf states barring it from their airspace threatens its position as a major transcontinental carrier.

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

REHABILITATION OF RETURNÉES FROM TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS VITAL: ENVOY

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation, Ambassador Nasser Al-Subeeh, stressed yesterday the importance of rehabilitating and reintegrating returnees from terrorist organizations and areas of conflict in the society.

Subeeh said prior to the departure of Kuwait's delegation participating in the Global Coalition against Daesh conference in Washington, which starts its work today, that Kuwait has submitted a proposal in this regard aimed at establishing mechanisms for rehabilitating and integrating those combatants in their communities after being subjected to fair trials.

He added that the meeting would be attended by the Stabilization Support Group against Daesh, the Strategic Contact Group of the Alliance against Daesh, Counter Daesh Finance Group and the Counter-Daesh Coalition Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters in addition to senior political officials on the sidelines of the meeting. He said that the participants in the regular meeting in Washington will discuss the latest developments in the war against Daesh and ways to maintain the continuation of preventing the funding of its elements and depriving it of self-financing sources.

He said that the terrorist organizations began to decline after the liberation of the city of Mosul in northern Iraq, stressing keenness of the State of Kuwait to contribute to the process of helping the displaced and rehabilitation of areas liberated from the grip of the organization.

Ambassador Subeeh said Kuwait's contribution comes to help displaced people return to their land as soon as possible and to alleviate their suffering by providing them with all the necessities of life. He explained that the issue of rehabilitation of liberated areas need military forces to clear land liberated from mines and explosive objects to be followed by the rehabilitation of infrastructure, especially schools, health centers and vital public facilities. He said that cooperation and coordination among all countries has contributed to reducing the flow of fighters to "terrorist" organizations and to achieve success on the battlefield.

Ambassador Subeeh expressed hope that the conference will produce results and mechanisms that support the efforts of the international coalition against Daesh in Syria and Iraq to avoid the return of all the ugly scenes. The Global Coalition against Daesh conference was formed in 2015 after the control of the organization on large areas of Syria and Iraq, and includes more than 70 countries including 12 Arab countries. —KUNA

AMIR RECEIVES SENIOR OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and Acting Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

KUWAIT ENHANCES PARTNERSHIP WITH FAO: MINISTER

ROME: Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said Saturday that his country has effectively enhanced its partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Kuwait's active participation in the 40th Session of FAO Conference, themed "climate change, agriculture, and food security," has contributed to boosting ties with the Rome-based organization, Jabri said on the sidelines of the conference, which concluded earlier, adding that such a partnership would benefit national development in the country.

He also welcomed the conference's outcomes geared towards enhancing global sustainable development, noting that the conference was held in light of ongoing harsh circumstances facing several countries around the world such as famine, lack of food security, and humanitarian disasters due to continued conflicts and wars. The event approved FAO's 2018-19 action programs with an estimated budget of \$1.005 billion, Jabri noted, adding that the participants praised FAO's attainment of the 2030 agendas for sustainable development, and the promising success seen through the Ministerial Conference on water scarcity in the near East and North Africa region, in which Kuwait had an effective participation.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister affirmed his country's keenness on participating regularly in FAO's conferences due to their significant role in determining the international directions and policies of food and agriculture, in addition to being a main international platform for reviewing latest advancements in food and agricultural fields, and exchanging opinions and ideas in that regard.

He also confirmed Kuwait's strong commitment and conviction to support FAO's goals, noting that Kuwait is one of the proactive countries to reach all of the "Millennium" development goals, and World Food Summit's goals, and attain its national food security within the scheduled period. Kuwait's active participation at FAO's events stems from the country's real desire and keenness to benefit from the organization's notable international role and efforts, Jabri said.

FAO's massive and unique technical, scientific, political, and organizational expertise in the agricultural, economic, social, and environmental development fields would eventually back Kuwait's ambitious projects aimed at attaining food security, and implementing sustainable development, said the Kuwaiti minister. The minister has also mentioned his meeting today with FAO's Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva, in presence of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Faisal Al-Hasawi, General Director of the General Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs, Yousef Juhail, Permanent Representative to FAO, and Abdussalam Ould Ahmad, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa to FAO.

The meeting highlighted FAO's special appreciation of Kuwait's efforts in the regional and international arenas, in addition to its UNSC membership that empowers the Gulf country to be a genuinely effective in the sustainable development and humanitarian action fields, he said.

They also discussed a number of important subjects related to enhancing a number of vital sectors in Kuwait such as agriculture, food production and safety, in addition to ways to solve water scarcity and pollution in the country, he said. Kuwait-FAO cooperation would contribute in enhancing natural and human resources in the country, and in qualifying Kuwaiti cadres to work in national institutions, added Jabri. He also commended the fruitful effort exerted by Ambassador Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled in deepening cooperation ties with FAO and other UN organizations in Roma, and in providing Kuwaiti youngsters with opportunities to work for FAO and UN bodies in Italy.

Meanwhile, Jabri met with Khaled Al-Khashram, the first Kuwaiti accountant to work for FAO, and spoke with him about his experience in working for the UN organization. Jabri expressed keenness to follow Al-Khashram's career at FAO and help him to overcome all obstacles that might face him now or in the future in order to encourage other young ambitious Kuwaiti graduates to work for international organizations and institutions to improve their skills and benefit their country with the experience they gained while working abroad. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S 2035 VISION GUARANTEES HIGH EDUCATION

KUWAIT: Kuwait's 2035 vision has made it simple and easy for all nationals to attain higher education degrees through Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied

Education and Training (PAAET), foreign scholarships and private universities. The State of Kuwait has allocated millions of dinars for the sake of constructing an integrated building in

Al-Shedadiyah for Kuwait University in addition to another one for PAAET. Kuwait has also given permits for the establishment of nine private universities in the country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This file photo taken in 1966 shows the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah speaking during the inauguration of Kuwait University. — KUNA photos



Sabah Al-Salem University City in Al-Shedadiyah



The Australian College of Kuwait's school of aviation.



The new building of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).



The American University of Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Chief of General Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Lieutenant General Mohammed Al-Khedr yesterday met with Director General for Nonproliferation and Nuclear Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Ham Sang-wook. Issues of common interest, especially matters related to military aspects, were discussed, the Minister of Defense said in statement. — KUNA

Legalese

LABOR LAW 85 OF 2017
AMENDS LAW 6 OF 2016

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Yesterday, new amendments to one of Kuwait's major laws were promulgated in the official gazette. Article 51 and 70 of Kuwait labor law 6 of 2016 were amended to provide clearer employment benefits to Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis alike. Therefore, many of my readers have requested consultations regarding the topic, so I decided to write about the law explaining the changes and the ways it can be implemented. This is a great step forward, especially for non-nationals living in Kuwait. I have highlighted the changes by answering some of your questions below:

Amounts deducted

Question: I heard the new law confirms that no amounts should be deducted from the end of service benefits or termination indemnity. Can you please confirm this?

Fajer: Article 51 of the Kuwait labor law before amendment explained the end of service/termination indemnity calculations, and then stated that "the provisions of the social security law shall be taken into consideration in this regard, and the employer shall pay the net difference between the amounts accrued due to the subscription of the worker in the social security and to the end of service benefit".

This statement now has been replaced with the following (rough translation as there is no official English version yet): "The social security laws should be taken into consideration, and the employee is entitled to his/her full end of service benefits without deducting any social security amounts". This makes a huge difference for Kuwaitis or GCC nationals in Kuwait that are registered under the social security scheme in Kuwait.

So to answer your question, not all amounts due from an employee to an employer cannot be deducted - they can if you have debts due and so on.

45 days

Question: Is it true that now we can take 45 days off instead of 30 a year?

Fajer: Article 70 before the amendments used to state: "The worker shall be entitled to a 30-day paid annual leave. However, the worker shall not be entitled to a leave for the first year of work except after at least nine months of service for the employer. Official holidays and sick leaves during the year shall not be counted as annual leave. The worker shall be entitled to a leave for the fractions year in proportion to the period he spent in actual service, even the first year of service."

Now it states (rough translation as there is no official English version yet): "The worker shall be entitled to a 30-day paid annual leave. However, the worker shall be entitled to a leave after six months of service for the employer. Weekends, official holidays and sick leaves during the year shall not be counted as annual leave. The worker shall be entitled to a leave for the fractions year in proportion to the period he spent in actual service, even the first year of service."

We can see two major amendments here:

1. Employees are entitled to leave after six months instead of nine months.
2. Weekends are no longer calculated in the annual leave.

So to answer your question, employees are not entitled to 45 days annual leave, but now only five days a week should be deducted from their leave (while currently it's common practice to calculate Saturday as a working day when it usually isn't). This will give the employee six weeks in total a year, if they are taking their annual leave at one go.

I hope I have helped explain the law above. If you want to read more, it is available in the July 9 edition of the official gazette of Kuwait under law 85 for 2017.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com

AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES OPENING OF NEW BRANCH IN JAHRA

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) recently celebrated the official launch of its new branch in Al-Jahra. The bank has relocated its long-established branch in the governorate to its new location to provide improved customer facilities, reflecting its commitment to drive customer satisfaction while ensuring an excellent banking service and environment. The new branch adds value to AUB's network of branches that are strategically located across Kuwait.

AUB's new branch in Al-Jahra, which has Faisal Al-Shammari as Branch Manager, is located in a vibrant and commercial location. The bank's latest branch has been furnished with up-to-date equipment within a modern design to provide high levels of customer service. The branch is equipped with ATMs providing an integrated service to customers. Safe Deposit Lockers are also available to allow customers to store their valuable items in a safe and efficient manner. Moreover, the new branch further includes a dedicated area for the bank's female customers, offering complete privacy and comfort while conducting they conduct banking transactions.

In line with the bank's mission to meet the needs of its wide range of customers, Al-Jahra branch has been designed to provide its services to special needs customers with different disabilities through the adoption of modern and updated facilities that provide a range of services for those customers in need of special assistance. The initiative is part of the bank's overall effort to provide an integrated service that accommodates its customers' wide array of needs.

The official celebration was attended by an extensive number of public figures, being senior officials from the Governorate of Al-Jahra including the Head of Al-Naeem District - Talal Mandeel Al-Qahs, and Colonel Mohammed Fahad Al Ajemy, Commander of Al-Jahra District, as well as a number of Al-Jahra Co-Op's board members. AUB's Executive Management representatives were present to welcome the guests, including Richard Groves - CEO, Moataz Al-Rafee - Senior Deputy CEO, Banking Services Group, Ranjan San - General Manager Retail Banking, and Naqeeb Ameen - Human Resources General Manager.

Qahs congratulated the bank on the new opening. He said, "We congratulate you and ourselves as residents of Al-Jahra Governorate with the official launch of your new branch. We will always remember the underlying role AUB has played in driving the national economy, along with providing an exceptional range of diversified banking services to its customers that are competitive, and are welcomed by a large number of members of the society."

Moreover, Richard Groves also noted, "At Ahli United Bank, we continue to work to maintain the bank's leadership position amongst the Islamic Banking community in the country. Our strategy focuses on strengthening our relationships with our customers by providing top tier banking services. The new branch launch in Al-Jahra



mirrors our approach towards enhancing and further developing our banking services."

Rafee also noted that "The new branch in Al-Jahra has been developed to meet our customers' banking demands, a core part of our commitment to ensure the

delivery of robust banking services across all our branches. This also includes choosing strategic locations that are in line with our customers' demographic changes in an effort to reach out to them in a timely and professional manner."

FAILURE TO REGISTER FOR CONSCRIPTION SUBJECTS CITIZENS TO PUNITIVE MEASURES: KUWAITI ARMY

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis born on May 10, 1999 or later are urged to register for conscription within 60 days after they reach the age of 18 in order to avoid penalties, the Kuwait Armed Forces said in a statement yesterday. The registration can be made either at registration centers around Kuwait or online at www.kns.gov.kw, reads the statement which was released to the press by the Kuwaiti Army's moral guidance and public relations department.

Failure to register within the aforementioned timeframe sub-

jects a person to punitive measures as mentioned in the National Military Service Law. These measures include adding an extra month to the one-year basic service period, adding two extra months in case of failure to respond to calls to complete procedures to join conscription, facing a travel ban as well as an arrest warrant to serve up to three years in jail and pay a KD 5,000 fine for those who are over the legal age of conscription, the statement reads.

Conscription cases and punish-

ments are not subject to statutes of limitations, and are considered crimes of misconduct that disqualify perpetrators from public jobs and other basic rights, the statement warns.

The National Military Service Law provides several guarantees for recruits, including retention of jobs in the public sector and full payment of salaries during the military service, in addition to priority in employment in the public sectors for those with job applications at the Civil Service Commission, the statement notes.

MULTIPLE ARRESTS IN POLICE CRACKDOWNS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Hawally police arrested seven people while being drunk and in possession of drugs. The detainees include four citizens, one of whom is a woman, two Asians and an Arab. Meanwhile, Ahmadi police arrested an Asian with nine envelopes that contain a material suspected to be drugs, besides 13 other envelopes containing shabu and marijuana. Separately, Capital police arrested a bedoon wanted by the implementation department, as well as two Asians with 19 locally made liquor.

Food hygiene

The number of violations discovered by the municipality since they launched their current food safety campaign reached 62. Head of Farwaniya emergency team Khalid Al-Radaan said the team carried out many campaigns on stores, restaurants, shops and kitchens to make sure of the safety of food stored there. The campaigns resulted in issuing 18 citations related to food hygiene, 44 for stores and signs, while 60 samples were sent to health ministry's laboratory.

Twitter user sentenced

The cassation court upheld a 10 year jail sentence against a Twitter user, over a number of tweets he made. Detectives arrested the suspect after uncovering his true identity.

MANPOWER AUTHORITY DENIES PLANS TO SET AGE LIMIT FOR WORK PERMITS

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Ahmad Al-Mousa said the authority is continuing to issue work permits according to administrative decision (747/2015) that was issued regarding permits and its amendments, adding that the authority has not discussed the issue of banning the issuance of permits to workers below 30 years of age, especially since it is not the only department concerned with issuing such decisions. Recent reports had suggested that state department concerned with labor affairs were mulling a decision to suspend the issuance of work permits to foreigners who are under the age of 30. About the authorities' completing a computer linkage system to bring workers from India, Mousa said that after completing a linkage with Egypt and making sure it is 100 percent successful, the linkage procedures with India will start.

Bedoons' hajj

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Undersecretary Farid Emadi said the ministry has taken all measures to ease hajj for bedoons this season, and is waiting for "good news" from Saudi Arabia. He said the ministry was in communications with Saudi officials and is opti-

mistic. Meanwhile, Emadi said "the selection of teachers to work at the Awqaf Ministry requires sharia qualification that is suitable for the educational process, in addition to the selection through an interview committee of specialized persons". He said the precautionary suspension of violating preachers does not have a pardon option, because it is not considered a punishment, but it is taken until the religious affairs committee meets to discuss preachers who are under suspicion. Separately Director of manpower resources at the education ministry Saud Al-Juwaiser said bedoons have been employed as members of the education faculty in the required specialties, libraries and engineering. He said Gulf nationals are treated like expats but they receive preferential employment treatment.

Forged certificates

A committee investigating forged certificates said claims that Education Minister Mohammad Al-Fares found a way out of the issue are untrue and the case is still at the board of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Marina relocation

Chairman of the Reform and Development Committee at the

Municipal Council Osama Al-Otaibi said there is a recommendation to relocate Shamlan Marina from its current location in Sharq to an alternate location on Mangaf beach, because it cannot be controlled environmentally, in addition to increasing complaints regarding its cleanliness. The move will also preserve the historical entity as well as the boats in it.

Lights banned

Minister of Commerce and Industry, State Minister for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Public Authority for Industry Khalid Al-Roudhan issued a decision to ban the import of spotlights because they waste power.

Fires

The engineering offices and consulting houses union said it is keen on fruitful cooperation with the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) to take several steps to limit fires in public and private construction projects, with computer linkage between departments to issue licenses in cooperation with the two sides within 24 hours. Union President Bader Al-Salman said a meeting he held with Director General of KFSD Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad resulted in an agreement over several issues to activate cooperation between the two sides in various fields.

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KUWAIT: Travelers prepare to catch their flights at Kuwait International Airport during the most recent Eid Al-Fitr holiday. — KUNA photos

LEADERS GROUP REPORT PREDICTS 1.8 BILLION TOURISTS BY 2030

TURMOIL IN TOURISTIC DESTINATIONS FORCES TOURISTS TO SEEK ALTERNATIVES

KUWAIT: The threat of terrorism and its repercussions continue to affect tourist destinations and sources in the medium and short terms. Yet this did not affect the optimistic expectations of having the number of cross-border tourists reach 1.8 billion by 2030. Despite this, and in light of the quantitative and qualitative changes related to international and regional tourism, the studies department of the Leaders Group for Consultation and Development presents in its monthly report for June-July 2017 the important features of tourism under the current stage, particularly during the summer season, as follows:

- Increased search for secure tourist destinations (traditional or new, be they states, areas or certain cities inside these states).
- Increased need for energizing domestic tourism in many countries because of security tensions and political crises around the world.
- The necessity for laying down international references that are concerned with travel, tourism and the hospitality industry - a set of advanced and unified standards to deal with results and reflections of sudden obstructions of tourist movements, such as cancellation of trips and reservations at the last moment for reasons beyond the control of passengers and tourists.

The following is a transcript of Leaders Group's report that shows and confirms these features and directions:

Earlier, international reports spoke about political arrests, natural disasters and terrorism as the most negative factors that affect tourism in the world. That was true during the period of the effects of the Arab Spring at the start of this decade, but the last few years confirm the terrorism is now ahead of the rest of the factors as far as recurrence and quantitative indicators are concerned, with the possibility of an advancement of other factors related to the security of tourists, travel and transport, while pointing to the argument of car-ramping incidents as well as the failure of safety tests of towers regarding fire hazards.

Regardless of new things on the international and regional tourism map, many Arab touristic countries including Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia, in addition to Turkey and other traditional and emergent European destinations, are working hard to revive the movement of Gulf tourists to them, as they are the most important sources of tourism in the region with regards to their numbers, volume and rate of tourist spending despite the drop in oil prices, and despite domestic tourism development plans in some Gulf countries.

Based on a World Bank report, we can estimate the rate of Gulf Cooperation Council citizens' spending on foreign tourism at more than \$67.1 billion.

Secure and easy travel

Whether the matter is related to the rise in the global number of tourists (1.8 billion), or the expenditure of Gulf tourists, especially in summer, it is clear that the greatest benefits from these two sources is no longer dependent on the readiness of host countries and traditional and emergent tourist destinations to develop their hospitality and travel industry. It depends, as it is known, on the ability to quickly deal with obstacles that affect tourism such as terrorism, political unrest, natural catastrophes and others.

They are also related to the necessity to pay attention to implementing priorities and safe, secure and easy travel standards of the World Tourism Organization that were mentioned in the closing official report of the organization's technical council in its latest meeting that was held in Madrid in May, besides the priorities of the effects of technology on the tourism sector if we apply the time average to recover from tourism obstacles, according to what touristic countries went through lately. Regional and European destinations that were hit by terrorism since the start of this year will not totally recover before the start of next year, as terrorism comes, according to international reports in third place in obstructing and threatening tourism.

The estimated period for tourism to recover from it is around 13 months, maybe less or more according to the country's ability to get out of the negative effects and restore confidence in its security procedures and the success of its marketing and plans, which must be extraordinary. But successive terrorist operations that target a country or city make the recovery process exhausting and difficult as well as costly, and this is true with a number of notable tourism countries that form an important destination for Gulf tourists.

Britain as an example

What was said above applies to tourism in Britain, which used to be one of the best destinations for Gulf tourists before the latest terrorist attacks. Tourism authorities in Britain had hoped to raise the number of visitors from Gulf countries by 2020 by 40 percent, especially since Gulf tourists top the list of tourists spending on shopping in Britain - double the average spending of other



Nabila Al-Anjari, head of the Leaders Group for Consultation and Development

tourists. This formed an additional motive for British tourism authorities to encourage procedures for Gulf nationals to get visas following the drop of tourists to Britain because of the financial crisis that shook several Western and Asian countries that are traditionally exporters of tourists. This resulted at the time in increasing the number of visitors from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE between 2008 and 2013 at a rate that exceeded 35 percent.

Yet, terrorist attacks were able to disturb tourism more than once. The Brexit referendum on Britain's exit from the European Union a year ago reduced the pound sterling's value and contributed to a partial rise in the number of Gulf tourists, especially with the reduction of travel costs by 10 to 20 percent. But the resumption of terrorist operations during the year, starting with attacks in Westminster, then Manchester and London, then finally the suicide attack on London Bridge that was carried out by three terrorists that killed 10, and what followed in the form of car-ramping incidents, all led to a large drop in tourism.

The number of visitors to London's tourist landmarks and entertainment centers dropped according to London police in the middle of June. Important touristic landmarks such as Madame Tussauds and a chain of entertainment centers spoke about a drop in "day trips" and deteriorating domestic demand, and worried about "the rate of visits by foreigners in the coming months".

Besides that, the problem of the Grenfell Tower fire west of the capital where around 80 were killed, and the evacuation of hundreds of residential units and discovering the failure of more than 120 towers so far in fire safety tests confirms once again the important of the relationship of tourism with security and safety measures that are not only concerned with the security and safety of aviation. It is worth mentioning that the technical defects that hit British Airways computer networks at the end of last year and continued for days led to loss-

es estimated at \$190 million due to delaying thousands of passengers at Heathrow and Gatwick airports, and the payment of compensation to every passenger.

Britain, with these factors, seems to face many challenges that are not only concerned with the repercussions of terrorism, but also with restoring tourism confidence in travel and transport safety and security procedures. Statements of officials about tourism and promotion campaigns about the return of life to normal in areas targeted by terrorism, such as Manchester, are not enough to recover tourism soon, and this is why statistics of this summer season will not have much happy news as far as the increase in the number of Gulf tourists, or even others, to the United Kingdom is concerned.

Turkey: Multiple obstacles

Contrary to expectations, preliminary indicators confirm a major disappointment for those concerned with the Turkish tourism sector towards the results of the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, to a point where pessimism towards the entire summer season is present, which means the continued recession of the sector that used to make Turkey three years ago the sixth most important tourist destination in the world with 40 million tourists and creating around two million jobs.

Turkey is an example of an advanced touristic country, but it is going through several security and political factors that obstruct tourism at the same time: The shooting down of a Russian jet in Dec 2015 and an attempted coup in July 2016, in addition to terrorist attacks and blasts that were claimed by IS and PKK in wide areas of the country, including the attack on Ataturk Airport; then a nightclub attack that killed 39 persons on New Year's Eve, including Gulf nationals; then Turkey's involvement in the Gulf crisis, after being involved in the Syrian crisis from the beginning.

The number of tourists dropped significantly after all these events. Russian flights were suspended and Russians were kept from visiting Turkey for eight months, and the drop in the number of tourists from Russia continues, which represents along with Germany and United Kingdom the source of the majority of tourists visiting Turkey. Following hopes of Gulf nationals returning to contribute to reviving the sector, the accusation of Turkey interfering as a party in the Gulf crisis led to increased fear that Gulf nationals may refrain from visiting Turkey, along with an advisory by

Saudi Arabia not to travel to Turkey as it did with Lebanon when tensions rose between the two countries, bearing in mind that the number of Saudi tourists reached last year reached 500,000.

There is no doubt that the sharp drop in German, British, Russian and Gulf tourists will not help recovery soon, as most recent indicators show that tourism in some popular Turkish areas is deteriorating day by day, even in attractive areas overlooking the Aegean Sea, which is considered one of the most important tourist destinations there. Some hotels have complained that the rate of bookings did not reach 30 percent during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.

Conclusions

The new developments of tourism in Britain and Turkey as mentioned and analyzed in this report confirm the extreme sensitivity of tourism and its returns as a result of terrorism and other factors that are no less dangerous. The study of these two cases shows the variables of regional and international tourism destinations and the movement of tourists in the region and Europe, at least, are faster than any expectations, which requires the preparing of new tourist destinations that are safer and more attractive to Gulf and European tourists during summer and other holidays.

The differences between the two cases show that repercussions on tourism are dangerous each time terrorism and security circumstances are accompanied with political disturbances, and recovery becomes more difficult and takes a longer time. This means that alternative choices for Gulf tourists, be it Arab or otherwise, may become long-term, especially if those alternative destinations are able to develop their attributes and experiences in the field of hospitality, hotels and travel. Bearing in mind the many tourist destination were and are still being exposed to terrorism and disturbances, it is extremely important to deduce that strengthening domestic tourism remains one of the best choices and more secure and less costly for countries that export tourists, such as GCC countries.

It is also important for tourist decision makers at the domestic and regional levels and in specialized organizations to reflect daily on tourism movements with all their economic, security and cultural aspects. This requires close follow-up that goes beyond reactions in order to guarantee a better world for tourism and its benefits.



Crime

Report

HEARTBREAK LEADS TO SUICIDE

KUWAIT: An Asian received a letter from his lover informing him she had married someone else, so he hanged himself in the house of his sponsor in Saad Al-Abdullah.

Indecency

A woman in her 30s accused a man of indecency in a complaint she lodged at Salmiya police station. She said she knew the man and he had promised to marry her. She said she met him in Salmiya, where he started touching sensitive parts of her body. Police are looking for the man for questioning.

Accident

A young man stole a vehicle, drove the wrong way and endangered the lives of others. He ignored police warnings, then hit a lamppost, which killed him. The incident took place near Arifjan bridge in the direction of Nuwaiseeb. The deceased was not identified at the time of the accident because he did not have an ID.

Assault

A young man was beaten by a group of men in Nuwaiseeb. The victim was driving around dawn in the area, when a car stopped him and he was pulled out and beaten. He had to be admitted to the ophthalmology department of Adan Hospital. The victim's father lodged a complaint at Nuwaiseeb police station, and police are investigating.

Swindling

Two Jordanians accused a friend of swindling them out of KD 8,000, who told them they will make a good profit within three months. A source said the Jordanians lodged a complaint at Nugra police station against their compatriot for investing in real estate and not delivering on his promises. Detectives are investigating.

Fight

Four women exchanged insults and blows in Jahra and were charged accordingly. The four, who used to drink morning tea together, had a dispute because one of them was gossiping about the other, and matters escalated to exchanging blows. The fight was broken up by neighbors. Police are investigating.

Arrests

Twenty-one Asians including women were arrested at the 'thieves market' in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and are being questioned prior to being deported. The 12 women and nine men were found trading in illicit goods.

Drugs

Policemen foiled plans of an Egyptian and two Sri Lankans to make a drugs sale, and found shabu, hashish, heroin and cash with them. The three were sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Police spotted a driver talking to an Asian couple, then when approached, the Asians, one of whom was a woman, fled. The Egyptian driver was arrested. A policeman chased the two Asians, as the man got rid of a bag. The bag contained eight shabu envelopes, hashish and money. The Egyptian was found to be under the influence of drugs, with heroin on him.

— Translated from the Arabic press



القلم

Al-Qabas

A LETTER AND A WISH

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

A Kuwaiti woman, who had a terminal illness, wrote a farewell letter before her expected death and posted it on social media. Everyone who read the sad letter that is filled with pain was inspired. The letter says, "I will not be worried when I die, and I will not care about my decaying body, as Muslims will do the necessary. They will remove my clothes, wash me, put me in a shroud, take me out of my home and take me to my new residence, the grave. Many will come to my funeral and many will cancel their commitments, to bury me.

"My belongings will be disposed of; my keys, books, bag, shoes and clothes. If my family does the right thing, they will donate them so I benefit from that. They will make sure that no one is sad for me. The economy will continue, and my job will be taken over by someone else, and my money will go to the heirs, while it will be me who will be held accountable for what I did with it. The first thing that will be dropped from me when I die is my name, so when I die they will ask: 'Where is the corpse?' And will not call me by my name. Then when they start to bury me, they will say bring the deceased closer, and will not mention my name. Here, you will not be proud of someone's tribe, position or affiliation, so how trivial is this life, and how great is what we are going for?

"Sadness towards you will be of three types, people who know you superficially, those friends who will be sad for hours or days then they will return to their normal talks and laughs, but the most affected and sad people will be at home, my family members who will mourn for weeks, months or even a year, making me a memory. And this is how my story ends and the true story begins."

What drew me to this letter is the amount of sadness and reality in it. I was drawn to what was mentioned at the end of it in the form of questions all about the hereafter, such as the question about what have we prepared for our grave and the hereafter? Were we keen on performing the compulsory (fardhs) and voluntary (sunnah) worships, charity and good deeds? These and other sayings that are repeated by others which satisfy one's conscience and relaxes the heart, yet what about life on earth? Why doesn't anyone care about it? Is it enough for us to pray, fast, give charity, zakat (alms), or help the poor to have performed our role in this life?

Why are others different from us about their strong interest of earth such as the interest of some of them in the hereafter, from their own point of view? Why don't we attempt to instill in the future generation's minds that it is important to leave an impression of our life that benefits humanity? Such as benefits in health, medicine, science, development, fighting illness, developing vaccinations, helping eradicate illiteracy, making drinking water available for every human being, eradicating poverty and ignorance and helping 66 million refugees suffering around the world.

Why do our culture, talks, and school curricula lack material that urges the individual to care about life on earth, such as the case about the hereafter? Is it not strange for the Ottoman Empire to last for 600 years and fail to give humanity a world that attracts the attention of all, while its European neighbors had given it thousands of scientists and innovators? A question that has the end of our backwardness in its answer. — Translated by Kuwait Times

القلم

Al-Qabas

AUCTION FOR GOVERNMENTAL LAWS

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

Auctions are normally governed by law in all commercial fields, but it seems that there is an auction for governmental laws. Improvisation's place is not in government policies, as many improvisations may turn into decisions in an auction between the leaders of state agencies and create a chaos of policies. There are many examples on the chaos and decisions' auction like the statement of Secretary General of Manpower and Government Restructuring Program Fawzi Al-Majdali who expressed hope to "fulfill the national vision" of His Highness the Amir in "supporting the economic march of Kuwait by backing up citizens and motivating them to go for their own businesses, as well as small and medium projects to alleviate the burden on the public sector and restructure the national manpower in the interest of the private sector" (Al-Anba, May 24, 2017).

The noble vision of His Highness the Amir was launched years ago, when His Highness toured the world, particularly Asian countries to look into their economic experience, especially the creation of true partnership with the private sector, in preparation for turning Kuwait into an International commercial and financial center. But according to what was published in the media, as well as the Amiri Diwan's website, the vision did not include the details mentioned by Majdali in regards to "small and medium enterprises and restructuring of manpower," and there should be accuracy in the percentage of developmental aspects that are an interpretation of the noble vision.

Majdali was not correct in his statement which comes before the merger between the Public Authority for Manpower, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and MGRP which is affiliated to another ministry.

Majdali's statement included "state property in Mubarakiya Market, Shuwaikh and co-op societies must be utilized by young Kuwaitis and not expats," which is a "national proposal for restructuring," so that commercial licenses will be limited to Kuwaiti youth only.

The commercial licenses of Mubarakiya Market activities and elsewhere are held by Kuwaitis to start with and they manage and operate them, including cooking, but practically it is necessary to use the help of expat labor to carry out service work that does not attract Kuwaitis to them, besides that small and medium enterprises cannot pay rewarding salaries to citizens.

The non-employment of Kuwaiti youth in such projects is not only a "waste of the youth rights" according to the description of Majdali, rather the waste is in the inability of "restructuring" to correct the imbalance in the market place through realistic policies that create partnership with the private sector, especially in major projects which can absorb Kuwaiti youth if there was a government vision for the suitable work environment. The 'waste' is in the government's spending on departments that are encroaching on each other's work such as MGRP and Public Authority for Manpower, and in the loopholes of commercial licenses that MGRP could not officially deal with but was able to identify the problem in the media only in "sub-licensing for expat in Mubarakiya." The waste is also in not paying attention to the source of the crises and not sub-licenses, and this is a reality with an official history and is not of yesterday. Enough titillation of the public, and touring the field into auctions and a market for baseless improvisations objectively or logically. — Translated by Kuwait Times

LIMAK CONSTRUCTION COLLABORATES WITH KUWAIT UNIVERSITY TO EMPOWER FEMALE ENGINEERING STUDENTS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Limak Construction, one of world's leading contractors, signed an agreement to establish Limak's 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' in collaboration with Kuwait University and Turkey's Bogazici University. The program is an internship and training program for Gulf female students enrolled in their senior year at Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum.

The project-based learning program will train 30 undergraduate seniors over the course of the Fall 2017 semester and consist of 200 training hours divided into seven modules. Upon completion of the program successful participants will receive a Business Technology Education Council (BTEC) Management and Leadership certificate recognized in over 100 countries worldwide and 3 Semester Credit Hours from Kuwait University. The program aims to empower students' leadership and management skills and help them envision their future careers in engineering.

Following the program, honorary students will be invited to witness and learn from Limak's state-of-the-art infrastructure projects worldwide including the world's largest airport in terms of passenger capacity, Turkey's Istanbul New Airport, as Limak is one of the five partners contracted to construct the airport. Selected

graduates will also be given the opportunity to continue to work on the Kuwait International Airport New Terminal II project as they will be invited to apply for internships and employment at Limak Kuwait.

The educational agreement was signed on February 2, 2017 by Limak Insaat Board Member and Limak Investments Chairperson Ebru Ozdemir and the Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University Professor Abdullateef Al-Khulaifi, and is the first in a series of initiatives planned under Limak Construction and Kuwait University's Memorandum of Understanding signed on May 8, 2017.

Limak Construction, which is currently constructing Kuwait's new airport terminal and leading projects in Kuwait, is a strong and long-term advocate of the advancement of women in the engineering and construction sector in the Middle East. The Kuwait program is modeled after a successful program launched by Limak in Turkey in 2015.

"Holding onto our promise made during Kuwait University's Golden Jubilee celebration in 2016 we are excited to announce our partnership with Kuwait University and Turkey's Bogazici University for the establishment of the 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program'. This is first of

many education-based initiatives we have planned over the next several years," said Mr. Richard Meredith, Limak Construction's Project Director for the Kuwait International Airport New Terminal II project. "Finally opening our doors to transfer the success, experience, and knowledge we have gained through our projects worldwide, we look forward to working with two of the top-tier universities in Kuwait and Turkey to grow Kuwait's talents together."

Limak's support for female engineers in Kuwait is part of the company's greater regional efforts to add permanent value to Kuwait's society by supporting education and learning opportunities in the fields of construction, engineering, architecture, and project management. The 'Kuwait's Engineer Girls Program' stems from Limak and Kuwait University's General Cooperation agreement signed on May 8, 2017.

Established in 1976, Limak Construction is a 100 percent owned subsidiary of the Limak Group of Companies and a worldwide leader in building and managing state-of-the-art infrastructure projects. The Group operates in over 17 countries with more than 50,000 employees and across various sectors, including tourism, cement, energy, infrastructure, airport management and operations, port management, food and aviation.



KUWAIT: Limak Insaat Board Member Ebru Ozdemir and the Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University Abdullateef Al-Khulaifi sign agreement to empower female engineers.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) recently inaugurated the first course of its 2017 summer training program for students aged between 14 and 21 years.

KFH HONORS 16 WINNERS OF QURAN COMPETITION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored 16 winners of Quran competition held for Baiti account clients aged between six and 10 years. The recognition emanates from KFH's endeavors to motivate its clients and followers on social media accounts to encourage their children to participate in such competitions that serve in motivating the children and inculcating moral values in them.

The honoring ceremony that was held to celebrate the winners was attended by

officials from Research and Fatwa Department at the bank, the Public Relations team and the parents of the winners. The winners received certificates of appreciation and cash prizes deposited in their bank accounts.

The competition encompassed only KFH Baiti account holders. KFH is keen on organizing competitions and events that would contribute in preparing a distinguished generation equipped with moral and ethical values.



Kuwait Times 55 International

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US and North Korea need to talk, but how?

TURKISH OPPOSITION CHIEF TO FINISH MARCH WITH MASS RALLY

Page 7

Page 10



MOSUL: A picture shows smoke billowing following an airstrike by US-led international coalition forces targeting Islamic State (IS) group in Mosul.—AFP

MOSUL LOSS HUGE, BUT NOT DEADLY, BLOW TO 'CALIPHATE'

BAGHDAD: Mosul was the largest city in the "caliphate" proclaimed by the Islamic State group and its loss is a huge blow to the jihadists' statehood experiment-but not a fatal one. The northern Iraqi city was where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made his only known public appearance in July 2014, announcing himself to the world as "caliph" during a Friday sermon at a mosque in the Old City.

It took tens of thousands of Iraqi forces backed by Western warplanes and special forces nearly nine months to defeat the jihadists, who leave behind them a heavily damaged city and exhausted security forces. With Mosul, a city that had a population of around two million three years ago, the "caliphate" loses one of the main hubs of its administration and IS one of the

most potent symbols of its might. "It is a major blow to IS's prestige," said David Witty, an analyst and retired US special forces colonel.

The recapture of Mosul, hailed as a decisive step towards ending this unprecedented episode in the history of modern jihad, is the latest in a long string of setbacks for IS. At its peak, the jihadist group controlled a territory roughly the size of South Korea or Jordan and with a population of more than 10 million. It has now lost more than half of the land and three quarters of the population. And a major offensive on its other de facto capital, the Syrian city of Raqa, is gathering momentum.

The group-whose motto was "remain and expand"-has not conquered new areas

around the core of its "caliphate" since 2015, has lost thousands of fighters and is less attractive to foreign jihadists than it once was. The fall of Mosul further reduces the so-called caliphate's territorial contiguity, leaving more pockets of IS-held land completely isolated. Yet analysts warn it is too early to declare final victory. "We should not view the recapture of Mosul as the death knell for IS," said Patrick Martin, Iraq analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, adding the group "still holds significant urban terrain," notably in Syria.

Years of instability

Even in Iraq, where the jihadists lost more ground and only retain seven percent of the territory they once had, declaring the caliphate dead "implies that

IS can no longer control terrain and govern," he said. Yet "if security forces do not take steps to ensure that gains against IS are sustained for the long-term, then IS could theoretically resurge and recapture urban terrain," Martin said. As it attempts to save the remnants of the caliphate, the group is likely to intensify a transformation it has already begun by focusing more of its resources on guerrilla attacks and bombings.

"In the near-term in Iraq, IS will switch to terrorism and insurgency instead of trying to openly control major areas," Witty said. Martin said there was already a pattern of major IS attacks following military setbacks. The deadliest ever bomb attack in Baghdad, in which more than 320 people were killed last year, came after the

jihadists lost their emblematic bastion of Fallujah. The group also staged a major commando attack on the Kurdish-controlled city of Kirkuk days after the launch of the assault on Mosul, which was Iraq's biggest military operation in years.

With its dreams of statehood on hold, IS is expected to revert to those types of attack and do everything it can to deny the Iraqi government any claim it has been eliminated. "It is very easy to see this coming, and Iraq will likely be plagued by insecurity for years to come," Witty said. The reach of IS ideology remains one of the greatest threats in the world after three years that saw foreign affiliates mushroom far beyond the core of the "caliphate" and thousands of foreign fighters join the battlefield, with some returning home.—AFP

US VOWS TO PRESS CHINA TO ENFORCE N KOREA SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON: The United States will crank up pressure on China to ensure that it implements sanctions against North Korea over its missile tests, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations pledged yesterday. After North Korea conducted its intercontinental ballistic missile test last week, Nikki Haley said that while the US wanted to avoid conflict, it was determined to halt North Korea's nuclear drive. "The fact that they launched an ICBM test is hugely dangerous not just for us, but for so many of our friends in the world, and we've got to put a stop to it," Haley told CBS television.

Haley told the UN Security Council last week that the US planned a new resolution which would ramp up sanctions on North Korea but also ensure that existing measures are enforced. China is North Korea's main ally and the US has become increasingly frustrated at what it sees as Beijing's failure to ensure the existing sanctions against the regime of Kim Jong-Un are fully implemented. "It will be very telling based on how other countries respond-whether they want to hold Kim Jong-Un's hand through this process or whether they want to be on the side of so many countries who know that this is a dangerous person with the access to an ICBM," said Haley.

'We're going to fight hard'
"So we're going to fight hard on this.

We're going to push hard not just on North Korea, we're going to push hard on other countries who are not abiding by the resolutions and not abiding by the sanctions against North Korea. "And we're going to push hard against China because 90 percent of the trade that happens with North Korea is from China, and so while they have been helpful, they need to do more."

While the Trump administration has tried to enlist China's help in persuading North Korea to put the brakes on its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, it has shown signs of giving up on Beijing. Trump raised eyebrows last month with a tweet concluding that China's efforts had "not worked out," and Washington recently slapped sanctions on a Chinese bank linked to North Korea and infuriated Beijing with announcement of a new arms sale to Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province.

Asked if China had let the US down, Haley said that "they actually followed through on the things that we asked them to," including by suspending coal imports, choking off a key source of hard currency for Pyongyang. "Now we have to say, okay, clearly that's not enough," she said. "With the Security Council resolution that we're negotiating now, we don't expect a watered down resolution, it will be very telling as to whether China works with us, which we are hoping that they will."—AFP

THIRD NIGHT OF G20 CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE, PROTESTERS

HAMBURG: Fresh clashes erupted early yesterday in the streets of Hamburg following the end of the G20 summit, with protesters setting fire to a number of vehicles, police said. Protesters gathered after the close of the summit in the Schanzendorf district, a stronghold for extreme-left radicals which has been the site of multiple confrontations since Thursday. Armed with glass bottles and targeting vehicles, many of which they set on fire, the protesters were pushed back by officers, using water cannon and tear gas, police said on Twitter. According to the most recent figures given by the police, some 213 police officers

have been injured since Thursday, and 143 people have been detained. No accurate number for protesters injured is available. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited wounded officers in hospital yesterday morning with Hamburg Mayor Olaf Scholz, saying he was "shocked and dismayed" by the "will to destroy shown by demonstrators against police and private citizens' property".

"We must ask ourselves as democrats whether a few violent protesters can keep countries such as Germany from holding such international meetings," Steinmeier told reporters. Scholz thanked the "heroic" police for their service and

the citizens of Hamburg who brought flowers to a military hospital where many officers were being treated, pledging compensation for those who suffered losses from vandalism. He dismissed criticism by some peaceful demonstrators that the police had been excessive in their crackdown and called for "lengthy jail sentences" for participants in the riots. The explosion of violence at the meeting sparked pointed questions over how Hamburg could descend into "mob rule" and why Chancellor Angela Merkel chose a hotbed of leftist militancy as the venue. Hamburg, a vibrant port city, is a citadel of anti-capitalist radicals and authorities had long been bracing for possible violence on the sidelines of the summit. On Thursday, a planned peaceful march by around 12,000 people protesting against globalization turned violent as a hard core of so-called black bloc masked anarchists attacked police and rambled through city streets.

The German police officers' union GdP on Friday hit out at the black bloc, accusing them of "hijacking peaceful demonstrations by tens of thousands of people to deliberately attack" police. The clashes occurred as leaders from the world's 20 biggest developed and emerging economies held a two-day meeting focusing on trade, terrorism, climate change and other key global issues. World leaders made concessions on trade and climate language to US President Donald Trump Saturday 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.—AFP



HAMBURG: Riot Police officers escort a protest rally against the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany.—AP

SENEGAL KICKS OFF FRACTIOUS LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN

DAKAR: Senegal kicked off campaigning yesterday for parliamentary elections later this month, with a record number of candidates vying to weaken President Macky Sall including 91-year-old ex-leader Abdoulaye Wade. Wade, president from 2000 to 2012, has been living in France for the past several months, but was expected to return to Dakar on Monday to lead the campaign for

his Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS). "I will campaign, but not the same way as when I was young," he told a local television station Friday.

A parliamentary victory for the opposition would give Wade the means to obtain an amnesty for his son, Karim, who enjoyed considerable ministerial powers under his father, but was sentenced to six years in prison in

2015. Karim Wade was also ordered to pay a fine of more than 210 million euros for "illicit enrichment". He received a presidential pardon in June 2016 and now lives abroad, and an amnesty would lift any doubts over his eligibility in politics, observers said. Another list of candidates will be fielded by the mayor of Dakar, Khalifa Sall, who has been jailed since March on suspicion of embezzling about \$2.9

million in city funds, charges which he has denied. Sall's lawyers have asked a court to grant him conditional release in order to lead the campaign, ahead of his expected run against the president with whom he is not related in 2019.

An effort to present a united opposition front fell apart in May over differences between supporters of Wade and those of

Sall on who should head the shared list of candidates. That led to a record 47 lists being presented to voters, up from 24 in the 2012 vote, with 165 seats up for grabs on the July 30 election. The opposition parties hope to secure a majority that would force President Sall into a "cohabitation" government, which would hamstring his ability to push his agenda through parliament. — AFP

FRANCE MARKS 70 YEARS SINCE 'EXODUS' VOYAGE TO ISRAEL

SETE, France: Seventy years ago, some 4,500 Jews gathered aboard a rickety old steamer in the French Mediterranean port of Sete, destined for a journey that would help spur the creation of an independent Jewish state. Yesterday the city marked the audacious attempt to reach what was then British-controlled Palestine in the presence of a few of the remaining survivors of the voyage, along with France's Grand Rabbi Haim Korsia.

"It's the last time that we have survivors: in 10 years they'll be gone," said Freddy Dran, co-president of the "Exodus Committee" and a representative of the Jewish community in Sete, near Montpellier. "We've found that in Sete and the region, half the population has no knowledge of this event, which had a profound impact on 20th-century history," he said, calling the commemoration "an educational project for younger generations". The plight of those onboard was memorably dramatized in the 1960 Otto Preminger film of the same name, starring Paul Newman.

Like climbing Mount Sinai

"Boarding this ship was like climbing Mount Sinai," according to Isthak Roman, whose father was onboard, speaking at yesterday's ceremony. On the night of July 10-11, 1947, a strange-looking boat overflowing with people, most of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps, began slowly making its way out of the harbor, officially destined for Colombia. The operation was mounted by the Haganah Jewish paramilitary organization, which had acquired the flat-bottomed boat originally intended for only river navigation from an iron yard, before discreetly bringing it to the Mediterranean.

At the same time, the group began bringing thousands of would-be emigrants to Sete aboard more than 170 trucks. "If we hadn't decided quickly to load these 4,554 people we would have had serious problems," a leader of the truck convoy, one of five Sete residents at the time who attended the anniversary ceremony.

"Haganah was behind this entirely plan-

destine operation, very few people in Sete were aware of what was going on," said Gustave Brugidou, president of a Sete historical society. Most residents were focused on the Tour de France racers as the cycling race passed through the city on July 10, and "were astounded to see all these people arriving on Mole Saint Louis dressed in winter clothes in the middle of summer," he said, referring to the port's jetty.

Global outcry

The passengers, representing a multitude of nationalities and including about 1,700 women and 950 children, squeezed themselves onto the boat still known as the "President Warfield". Their goal was to break through a British blockade on Jewish immigration to Palestine, where the Zionist movement hoped to create a Jewish state, and the ship was renamed the "Exodus 47" on July 16, a reference to Moses's biblical exodus, and a flag bearing the star of David was hoisted.

Two days later, a British navy vessel that had been trailing the Exodus seized it just a few dozen kilometers from the Palestine coast, in a confrontation that resulted in at least two deaths. "The ship's commander asked them to stop the fight, he said, 'My mission is to bring Jews to Israel alive, not dead,' Yossi Bayor, who was 15 when he boarded the Exodus, told the ceremony in Hebrew.

The passengers were rounded up and put on prison ships bound for the French coast, where they refused to disembark, and after several weeks were brought to Hamburg, Germany, in the British-controlled zone where the Holocaust survivors were put back in camps. "The conditions were terrible, we had no sleeping berths, everyone was on the floor," Bayor recalled.

The ordeal sparked a global outcry, and most of the passengers were later interned on Cyprus, then a British colony, and did not reach Israel until it declared statehood in 1948. "Thanks to - or because of - the odyssey undertaken by this ship from Sete, the State of Israel was created a few months later," said Brugidou, underscoring its influence on the decisive United Nations vote to divide Palestine in November 1947. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Some thousands of people follow Kemal Kilicdaroglu, front-center, the leader of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party, on his 400-kilometer 'March for Justice', in the outskirts of Istanbul. — AP

TURKISH OPPOSITION CHIEF TO FINISH MARCH WITH MASS RALLY

'THE 450-KILOMETRE MARCH GOAL: JUSTICE'

ISTANBUL: Turkey's opposition leader stepped up his challenge to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday when he addresses a mass rally at the end of an almost one-month-long "justice" march from Ankara to Istanbul. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of the secular Republican People's Party (CHP), launched an unprecedented 450-kilometre trek on June 15 in Ankara in protest at the arrest of one of his MPs.

Supporters compared the trek with Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi's famous Salt March of 1930 but the government has dismissed it as a bothersome stunt. Carrying a simple insignia emblazoned with the word "Justice" without any party slogans, Kilicdaroglu initiated the march after his party's lawmaker Enis Berberoglu, a former journalist, was sentenced to 25 years in jail on charges of leaking classified information to a newspaper.

"Why do I walk? This 450-kilometre march has one goal: Justice," said the CHP leader, who reached Istanbul on Friday and was joined by tens of thousands forming a vast file along the road despite blistering heat. "They ask 'Can we seek justice on the road? Yes we can. If there are grave injustices and illegalities in your country

and if your country's courts are incapable of delivering justice, you will stand up and hit the road," he said in a statement to AFP.

"That's what I am doing now. I have one motto: JUSTICE." About 50,000 people have been arrested under Turkey's state of emergency, imposed after last July's failed coup, and another 100,000 have lost their jobs, including teachers, judges, soldiers and police officers. In the latest crackdown, Turkish police on Wednesday detained Amnesty International's Turkey director and other activists on charges of membership in a terror group, which sparked uproar among human rights advocates.

'Alone'

Thousands of people are expected to show up for the rally, which could be one of the biggest opposition protests seen in Istanbul since the mass 2013 demonstrations against Erdogan's rule. Kilicdaroglu, who will address his followers in a mass rally near Berberoglu's prison in the Istanbul district of Maltepe, yesterday walk the final section of the march alone. "I will walk to the rally ground alone," he told reporters. "I do not want anything in the rally apart from

(Turkish) flags, Justice banners and (Turkey's founder) Ataturk's posters," he said.

The opposition chief rested at nights in a caravan throughout his journey, and witnesses said the 69-year-old was walking quite fast. "He is surprisingly vigorous," his party's Istanbul lawmaker Sezgin Tanrikulu said. Commenting on his eating habits, he said Kilicdaroglu "never has heavy meals." The government has regarded the justice march with disdain. Erdogan has accused Kilicdaroglu's party of siding with terrorism while Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Friday: "(The march) has started to become boring. This should come to an end after the rally."

Authorities, however, have not impeded the walk's progress, with police providing security every day. Turkish police this week detained six suspected members of the Islamic State extremist group planning a bomb attack on the march. But the CHP said it was a routine operation, and was not related to the justice march. The leader of the Nationalist Movement Party, Devlet Bahceli, warned his party supporters against any provocation and said his party's offices on the march route would be closed Saturday and Sunday. — AFP



SETE: This file photo shows an undated photo of the Exodus (Exodus 1947), a ship which carried 4500 Jewish people, all displaced persons or survivors of the Nazi concentration camps to the British Mandate for Palestine. — AFP

MIGRANTS ONCE AGAIN DRAWN TO DEADLY SPANISH ROUTE TO EUROPE

MADRID: The number of migrants arriving on Spain's southern coast has more than doubled in 2017 from last year as they avoid passing through conflict-racked Libya on their way to Europe. Eight boats carrying 380 people have been rescued since Wednesday in the Alboran Sea, which connects northeastern Morocco and southeastern Spain, in the Western Mediterranean.

"We are worried because we are seeing numbers which we have not seen in years. And it's a dangerous area, where the currents are very strong," said the spokesman for the Spanish branch of rights group SOS Racisme, Mikel Araguas. Last week, an inflatable dinghy that had apparently set out from Morocco with 52 people aboard was flipped over after being hit by a strong wave. Only three survivors were rescued by the Spanish coastguard. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) called it "the worst tragedy in the last decade in the Spanish Mediterranean" involving migrants.

The Italian sea route remains the most popular for migrants. Italy has accepted around 85,000 of the 100,000 people who have arrived in Europe by sea this year according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). But the Spanish route further west is gathering pace. Between January and June, more than 6,400 people were rescued at sea between Morocco and Algeria and Spain, according to the IOM, compared to 8,100 during all of 2016. The figure is close to the more than 9,000 migrants who arrived in Greece during the period.

Torture, slavery

The vast majority of migrants who come to Europe are sub-Saharan Africans fleeing poverty or conflict in their home countries. Most leave nations such as Guinea, Gambia or the Ivory Coast and make their way to Libya where they hope to cross over by boat to Italy. But the word is getting out that this route is becoming more risky, with "ever harder controls," said Helena Maleno Garzon of migrant aid agency Caminando Fronteras.

Many migrants passing through Libya, wracked by chaos since the 2011 toppling of dictator Moamer Kadhafi with rival militias and



TRIPOLI: Libyan coastguards help rescue illegal immigrants attempting to reach Europe off the coastal town of Guarabouli, 60 kilometers east of the capital. — AFP

administrations seeking to control the oil-rich country, have reported dramatic tales of abuse in the country. Migrants have reported being sold "on a slave market", according to the IOM. Amnesty International has complained of migrants being tortured and jailed while the UNHCR has published reports by migrants of "appalling" conditions at Libya's migrant detention centers.

As a result some migrants prefer to make their way to Morocco or Algeria and from there cross the Mediterranean to Spain. Adding to the appeal of this route is the fact that the sea crossing is shorter and it costs less. Prices charged by people smugglers have fallen to around 900 euros (\$1,000) per person, compared to 1,500-2,000 euros in 2016, said Andres Garcia Lorca, the Spanish central government's deputy delegate in the southern province of Almeria.

Desperation

Morocco also appears to have softened its controls, said Araguas. European Union border

agency Frontex for its part says it has not noticed "any change in border vigilance" on the part of Morocco. Recent social unrest in northern Morocco's Rif region also appears to have added to the migratory pressure. "There were numerous migrants from the Rif region in the month of June, there had not been so many Moroccans since the 1990s," said Maleno.

The risk of dying does not deter migrants. Over 2,200 people have lost their lives this year trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa, according to UN figures. "It is urgent and necessary to be aware of the seriousness of the situation.

They can't continue to close doors," said the president of migrant charity Andalucia Acoge, Elena Tajuelo. UNHCR spokeswoman in Spain, Maria Jesus Vega, said if Europe does not give the migrants a solution, "the solution will be given to them by mafia networks that take advantage of their desperation." Spain's interior ministry did not respond to requests for comment. — AFP

MUSLIM LEADERS RALLY IN BERLIN AGAINST TERRORISM

BERLIN: Around 30 Muslim leaders from across Europe gathered yesterday for a rally against terror in Berlin at the site of a deadly truck attack in December, claimed by the Islamic State group. The event, which attracted a few hundred participants, was part of a "March of Muslims Against Terrorism" by imams who set off by bus from Paris on Saturday. The gathering in the German capital took place at the Breitscheidplatz square, where a Tunisian who had failed in his attempt to seek asylum ploughed a hijacked lorry through crowds at a Christmas market, an attack that killed 12 people.

The Islamic leaders held a prayer for the

victims, joined by local Muslim, Christian and Jewish representatives. Imam Hocine Drouiche from the southern French city of Nimes was quoted by German media as saying that the event was meant to send a "message of fraternity against terrorism". The Lutheran bishop for the Berlin region, Markus Droege, praised the imams' tour. "Religion is the way of peace," he said. "Violence, hatred and terror betray faith and betray God." A total of about 60 imams are meant to join the tour of European cities, taking in Brussels, Toulouse and Nice which have all suffered deadly assaults by Islamic extremist assailants-before returning to Paris on Friday. — AFP



BERLIN: Participants of the 'March of Muslims Against Terrorism' arrive at the Breitscheidplatz in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

DASH FOR BULGARIAN PASSPORTS EMPTIES ALBANIAN VILLAGE

TREBISHT, Albania: Trebisht in north-eastern Albania looks like a ghost village, emptied of its residents by a rush to get Bulgarian passports that open the door to the European Union. Arman Kadriu has an Albanian name, but the 12-year-old boy says he considers himself Bulgarian. "I don't want to stay here taking care of cows. I want to be a football player," he said, covered in sweat, as he juggled a ball with his feet on a dusty road in the village in the Golo Brdo region. "In England, with a Bulgarian passport, it's possible," he said, switching languages to say "Dovizhdanel!"—goodbye in Bulgarian.

Bulgaria and Albania do not share a border. And non-EU member Albania, where a law on minorities is under consideration, does not count Bulgarians among its recognized ethnic communities, unlike the Greeks, Macedonians or Serb-Montenegrins. The ethnicity of historically Slavic-speaking communities in parts of Albania's east has long been fluid and disputed—neighboring Macedonia claims they are ethnic Macedonians.

But according to the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad, which helps in obtaining a passport, Bulgarian families have been settled in Albania since the 5th century and their descendants are part of its diaspora. No statistics are available, but Bulgarian organizations in Albania estimate that there are around 100,000 of these descendants. The European Parliament seems to agree: in February, it requested of

Tirana "that the rights of people with Bulgarian ethnicity in the Prespa, Golo Brdo and Gora regions be enshrined in law and ensured in practice".

The recommendation "has given renewed hope. Every day at least seven or eight people come to ask about obtaining Bulgarian citizenship," said Haxhi Pirushi. He heads the Prosperity Goloborda association, which provides certificates of Bulgarian origin to Albanians and is recognized by the government in Sofia.

Mass emigration

Perched on a hill, Trebisht is a sleepy place. A few men spend their day on the terrace of the "Democracy" bar and others work the land, while young people travel three kilometers to cross the Macedonian border for temporary work. Once the village counted "around 6,000 inhabitants, but more than 2,500 left four or five years ago when they had the opportunity to benefit from a Bulgarian passport," explained resident Tahir Mucina. In the neighboring village of Vernice "there is hardly anyone left," said the 31-year-old.

Since Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007, its citizens have been able to work and reside wherever they want within the bloc, with all the restrictions lifted in 2014. Mucina said he was also "on the lookout" for passports for himself, his wife and their three children. Albania, as a whole, is a nation of mass emigration, spurred by



TREBISHT, Albania: An elderly woman rides her donkey in the village of Trebisht, some 160 km south-east of Tirana.—AFP

an average wage of 340 euros (\$388) and an unemployment rate affecting nearly one in three young people. So it does not matter that Bulgaria is the poorest country in the EU. Seen from Trebisht, it is the gateway to Germany, England or some other promised land. And it suits Bulgaria to claim these people as their own.

"It has to do with (Bulgaria's) policy on Macedonia/Macedonians who also have access to Bulgarian citizenship because they are seen as ethnic Bulgarians," said

Southeast Europe expert Dimitar Bechev at the University of North Carolina. "Communities who live on the other side of the border... qualify as well." He said Bulgarian MEPs have successfully lobbied the European Parliament to take a stand on the issue. "If Macedonia were an EU member, things would have worked another way, of course," Bechev said.

In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, Bulgarians from 19 localities in Albania asked Sofia to defend their rights in what

was then an Italian protectorate, according to the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad. "The toponymy (study of place names), the preservation of an archaic Bulgarian language and the local dialect and traditions are evidence of the Bulgarian character" in the regions concerned, Sofia says.

Illegal path

Trebisht residents who said they consider themselves Bulgarian spoke to AFP in Albanian, but said they spoke Bulgarian at home with their families. "I live in Albania," said the 60-year-old Gani Shahini, "but my origins are Bulgarian." Between 2001 and 2016, a total of 4,470 Albanian nationals applied for a Bulgarian passport and 2,608 of them were successful, according to Sofia. But these figures do not reflect the full extent of the phenomenon. Some choose to take an illegal path, providing a market for forged passports.

Three people were arrested in December 2015 and later found guilty of making Bulgarian passports on demand for between 4,000 and 10,000 euros. Since May 1, Sofia has requested documents proving the Bulgarian origin of a parent or grandparent after Bulgarian prosecutors found abuse of the system. "The only interest of these people is to obtain a passport allowing them to move freely in the European area," said Albanian historian Pellumb Xhufi.—AFP



CALIFORNIA: Firefighters battle a wildfire as it threatens to jump a road near Orville, California.—AP

WILDFIRES RAGE AS CALIFORNIA SIZZLES

LOS ANGELES: The first major wildfires after the end of California's five-year drought raged across the state Saturday, as it was gripped by a record-breaking heat wave. Some 3,000 firefighters were battling several blazes with triple-digit temperatures recorded in valleys and inland areas. A wildfire in the Sierra Nevada foothills north of Sacramento was only two percent contained by early evening and had destroyed 10 homes, scorching 2,000 acres of forest and sparking evacuations and road closures.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) said five residents and a firefighter had sustained minor injuries. Meanwhile a blaze that forced evacuations in San Luis Obispo County tripled in size from Saturday morning to 19,000 acres by the evening. Fanned by hot, dry winds, it was just 10 percent contained, CalFire said.

Some 17 wildfires in various states of containment were burning in California Saturday, from the Six Rivers National Forest in the north to the San Bernardino Forest east of Los Angeles.

An excessive heat warning has been extended until 11:00 pm (0600 GMT) for much of southern California, with temperature records being broken across the region. Downtown Los Angeles tied the

1954 record of 96 degrees Fahrenheit while the city's northwestern suburb of Woodland Hills reached a high of 109 degrees, breaking the record of 108 set in 2006. "Dangerous and potentially life-threatening heat is expected through (today), when high temperatures between 100 and 110 degrees are expected for many interior sections of southwest California," the National Weather Service (NWS) said in a statement.

The weather service attributed the heat wave to a "strong upper-level high-pressure system centered over the desert southwest," adding that the heat wave could continue. "Hot temperatures will create a dangerous situation in which there is an increased threat of heat-related illnesses. The extended heat wave will also bring elevated fire weather conditions through the weekend," said the NWS. California Governor Jerry Brown in April declared the official end of the state's drought that lasted more than five years.

But he kept in place water reporting requirements, as well as bans on practices like watering during or following rainfall and hosing off sidewalks. "This drought emergency is over, but the next drought could be around the corner," Brown said in a statement. "Conservation must remain a way of life."—AFP

DECADES OF TRYING, BUT HEALTH REFORM REMAINS ELUSIVE IN US

MILLIONS LEFT WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

WASHINGTON: The United States, entangled in conflict overseas and struggling economically, was at a fraught moment when the president called for a national health care overhaul. The country "now spends more than \$75 billion annually on health care... yet despite this huge annual national outlay, millions of citizens do not have adequate access to health care." That observation could have been offered by current President Donald Trump, or predecessor Barack Obama. But it was Richard Nixon's lament, way back in 1972.

The US has a longstanding reputation for world-class medicine, doctors and hospitals, but for decades it has also been riddled with gaping holes that have left millions without health insurance. Every president in living memory—including Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary—has made some kind of effort to plug the gaps. But the problems persist to this day, only multiplied. During the 1970s, health care costs represented seven percent of the US economy. Eight presidents later, that figure has ballooned to 18 percent. The rate is half again more than that of France, with results worse than most other wealthy nations. An American girl born today is expected to live four years less than her French counterpart.

Public, private

Republicans today are seeking a fresh overhaul. When the Senate re-convenes today after a 10-day break, Trump will be under intense pressure to find a middle path that wins over enough conservatives and moderates in his party. At the heart of today's problem is the US system's split personality—part private, part public—which complicates broader efforts at reform. From the late 1920s, Americans began purchasing private insurance coverage. After World War II, US companies started offering their employees health insurance, and millions signed on.

But that did little to help unemployed, poor or elderly citizens. In 1965 the federal government stepped in, creating the Medicare program for those age 65 and above and Medicaid for lower income and disabled Americans. Tens of millions still fell through the cracks. Then came 2010's Affordable Care Act (ACA), Obama's signature domestic achievement, which lowered the share of uninsured to about 10 percent. While that is a historic low, 26 million Americans remain without coverage.

Health care expenses have swelled in part due to lack of government regulation. Costs



NEW YORK: A small group of activists rally against the GOP health care plan outside of the Metropolitan Republican Club in New York City.—AFP

increased each year at an unsustainable rate, along with the advent of new technologies like MRI scanning and 3D mammography. "This is the only industry where technology advances have increased costs instead of lowering them," wrote journalist Steven Brill in his 2015 book "America's Bitter Pill." "When it comes to medical care, cutting-edge products are irresistible; they are used—and priced—accordingly."

In the United States, if you break a leg, the (private) hospital sends your (private) insurer the bill, which typically amounts to several thousand dollars for a few hours in the emergency room. Each examination, X-ray and follow up incurs new charges. With "Obamacare," a move was made to shift away from the costly and inefficient fee-for-service model to payments to hospitals based on quality of care. But "we're still a system based on volume of care versus value of care," Howard Bauchner, editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said.

"Until value or bundled payments become more comprehensive, it's not clear to me that the rate of rise of costs will be contained." Political compromise Bill Hoagland, senior vice president at the Bipartisan Policy Center and a former top Senate budget staffer, says health

care reform has been a priority for seven decades, with Congress struggling to rein in costs. "There's one way to control costs in this country, which is something that Americans don't like: that is price controls," he said in an interview.

"This is a country that prides itself on the private sector and choice, (not) the fear that government comes in and over-regulates our health care and dictates to us which doctors we see or hospitals we go to." The public-private duality is so deeply entrenched that most Democratic presidential candidates have dropped the idea of a public single-payer system for all, like those in Europe. Only far left figures like Senator Bernie Sanders embrace that option.

Republicans, for their part, have long promised to dismantle Obamacare and reduce the role of government. But some in the party's centrist wing oppose such dramatic separation, making full repeal of the ACA unlikely. Hoagland believes Democrats and Republicans ultimately will need to compromise in order to contain surging costs and expand coverage. Time is short. At current trending, health expenditures will account for 20 percent of GDP by 2025.—AFP

KKK MARCHERS IN VIRGINIA TOWN MET BY THROGS OF COUNTER-PROTESTERS

CHARLOTTESVILLE: Supporters of the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan marched in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday to protest the planned removal of a statue of General Robert E. Lee, who oversaw Confederate forces in the US Civil War. The Klan marchers were met by hundreds of jeering counter-protesters in this quiet university town, where the protest by the notorious white power group was authorized by officials in Virginia on free speech grounds.

Dozens of marchers—some carrying Confederate flags, a handful in the distinctive white hood worn by Klan members—paraded past hundreds of people shouting "racists go home!" and other chants. The two groups were separated by a metal barricade and a phalanx of armed police. Critics say the far right, both here and across the United States, has been energized by Donald Trump's election to the presidency. Be it the Ku Klux Klan, the alt-right or generic white supremacists, these conservatives have found a new cause in defending the Confederate flag and monuments in the US South that recall the era of slavery.

They are outdated, awful symbols of racism for many Americans, who are mobilizing to have them taken down from public places. Anti-Klan protesters in Charlottesville got an early start overnight, throwing red paint on the bronze equestrian statue of the saber-wearing Confederate general. City workers were scrubbing the paint off early Saturday. Watching



VIRGINIA: Police escort members of the Ku Klux Klan past protesters following a rally calling for the protection of Southern Confederate monuments in Charlottesville, Virginia.—AFP

the scene, Mason Pickett, a 60-ish retired businessman, said he regretted the decision by Charlottesville—which he said had become an "ultraliberal city, even socialistic"—to remove the statue.

"Statues can be good history, they can be bad history—you may not like it and you may love it, but it's history," he said. But Tina Young, a 49-year-old lawyer, said it was

past time to remove signs of the state's Confederate past. Virginia and other Southern states had had plenty of time to do so, she said. "In Washington, DC, they have put up a Martin Luther King statue, they have an Afro-American museum, they have a Jewish museum, they made the public space more fair and balanced," she said. As to Robert E. Lee, she added, "he did represent slavery, he did fight a war against our government which killed thousands and thousands of soldiers, he could have chosen the better side but he didn't."

Two dozen arrests

The debate about the legacy of key figures in many former Confederate states extends from Louisiana to Georgia and the Carolinas, and even in Washington, where a stained glass window in the National Cathedral depicts a Confederate soldier. Slaves in Washington were freed only a year after the start of the Civil War. No major battle in that 1861-1865 war was fought in Charlottesville, population 50,000. But its passions have been stirred.—AFP

VENEZUELA MARKS 100 DAYS OF PROTEST

CARACAS: Venezuela hit its 100th day of anti-government protests yesterday, one day after its most prominent political prisoner, Leopoldo Lopez, vowed to continue his fight for freedom after being released from jail and placed under house arrest. Lopez's surprise prison release triggered speculation over the prospect of negotiations between the opposition and Venezuela's embattled leftist government of Nicolas Maduro, with a rising toll of death and destruction from three months of non-stop street protests.

Lopez, leader of the Voluntad Popular (Popular Will) party and a symbol of resistance to the Maduro government, emerged hours after his release from prison looking fit and happy. He pumped his fist in the air, unfurled the Venezuelan flag and told a crowd of supporters who had gathered outside: "Yes, we can!" "I maintain my firm opposition to this regime," Lopez said in a statement read by a leader of his party. "I reiterate my commitment to fight until conquering Venezuela's freedom."

President Maduro, in televised remarks later Saturday, called for a message of "peace and rectification" from Lopez. Maduro said he hoped the statement from Lopez could provide the basis for reconciliation "because the nation wants peace." Lopez, a 46-year-old Harvard-trained politician, was held for more than three-and-a-half years in a military prison outside Caracas for allegedly

"inciting violence" by calling for anti-government protests.

His release has been a key demand of Venezuela's opposition and the international community, amid an intensifying political confrontation aimed at forcing the unpopular Maduro to hold early elections. Attorney General Luisa Ortega—the most senior figure to defy Maduro—accused the government of using Lopez to "improve its image." "People deprived of liberty cannot be used as if they were hostages that can be objects of negotiation," she told the Chilean daily newspaper La Tercera.

At least 91 people have died since April 1 in clashes between protesters and security forces over moves by the courts and the government to strip the National Assembly of power, delay elections and rewrite the constitution. The Supreme Court said it had ordered Lopez's move to house arrest for health reasons, calling it a "humanitarian measure." In Madrid, Javier Cremades, Lopez's Spanish lawyer, underscored that "all of Leopoldo Lopez's civil and political rights must still be restored."

"What's more, there are still 300 political prisoners in the Bolivarian jails," he added. Foro Penal, an NGO, puts the number of political prisoners in Venezuela at 433. The government insists they are in jail for acts of violence. The US State Department called the release of Lopez "a significant step in the right direction"—but said many more such steps are needed.—AFP



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TILLERSON URGES MOSCOW TO TAKE FIRST STEP TO EASE UKRAINE CONFLICT

KIEV: US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urged Russia yesterday to take the "first step" to ease the bloody separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine, which Kiev and the West believe is being fuelled by Moscow. Tillerson said sanctions will remain in place against Russia "until Moscow reverses their actions." "It is necessary for Russia to take the first step to de-escalate the situation in the east part of Ukraine," Tillerson said as he made his first visit as Washington's top diplomat to Kiev.

"We are disappointed by the lack of progress under the Minsk agreement," he added at a joint briefing with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko after they held talks. Tillerson's visit to Ukraine followed a first face-to-face meeting between President Donald Trump and

Russia's Vladimir Putin on Friday at the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. The conflict as well as Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 has pushed ties between Moscow and the West to their lowest point since the Cold War.

"We do call on Russia to honor its commitments," Tillerson said yesterday, referring to a peace deal aimed at halting the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russia rebels. Tillerson urged the Kremlin "to respect the ceasefire, by pulling back the heavy weapons and (allowing) the OSCE (pan-European security body) to carry out their responsibilities" under the deal struck in February 2015. More than 10,000 people have been killed since the pro-Russian insurgency began in

April 2014, which Kiev and the West accuse Moscow of orchestrating. The US and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Russia, though Moscow has denied backing the rebels.

"The US and EU sanctions on Russia will remain in place until Moscow reverses their actions," Tillerson stressed. Efforts to secure a peace deal have foundered as the fighting has dragged on, and neither side appears prepared to make concessions. Tillerson said he had appointed a special envoy to allow Washington to be more involved in a peace process overseen by Germany and France. Poroshenko hailed US involvement and reiterated his commitment to seeking a negotiated peace deal. —AFP



KIEV: This handout picture taken and released by the Ukrainian Presidential Press-service shows Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, right, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, left, giving a press conference yesterday in Kiev. —AFP



ASAKURA: Defense forces soldiers remove debris in a flooded area in Asakura, Fukuoka prefecture. —AFP

JAPAN FLOODS DEATH TOLL RISES TO 18

TOKYO: The death toll from heavy rains and flooding in Japan's south has risen to 18, officials said yesterday, as rescue teams continued their search for survivors. Swathes of Kyushu—the southernmost of Japan's four main islands—have been left devastated after overflowing rivers and torrential downpours swept away roads, houses and schools this week. Thousands of people have been evacuated to makeshift shelters in school gyms and public buildings, but many remain stranded, with emergency services battling through thick mud and rain to try to reach them.

More than 500 people were still cut off yesterday, public broadcaster NHK reported, with collapsed bridges and waterlogged ground on steep hillsides hampering rescue efforts. The government was doing its "utmost" to recover those missing or stranded, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in a rare weekend

press conference. Officials of Fukuoka and Oita prefectures said a total 18 people had been confirmed dead while 27 were missing or could not be reached. Five people were in critical condition, Suga said, with the government still trying to ascertain if their injuries were a result of the severe weather. Television footage showed rescue helicopters held up at a makeshift heliport unable to fly because of the downpours, while people prayed for the safety of their family members.

More than 50 centimeters of rain deluged parts of Kyushu in 12 hours on Wednesday, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to warn of possible significant damage. Rains have continued intermittently since, with up to 22 centimeters recorded in Fukuoka in the past 72-hour period. Japan's weather agency on Sunday warned of continued heavy rains and mudslides in northern Kyushu. —AFP

BANGLADESH POLICE ARREST KEY SUSPECT IN DHAKA CAFE ATTACK

NEW DELHI: Police in northwestern Bangladesh on Saturday arrested a suspected key supplier of explosives in last year's attack on a Dhaka cafe that left 20 hostages dead, including 17 foreigners, an official said. Sohel Mahfuz was arrested along with three other suspected members of Jumatul Mujahideen Bangladesh, or JMB, said T M Mojahidul Islam, the police chief in Chapainawabganj district. He said Mahfuz, thought to be one of the top planners of the cafe attack, was taken to the capital, Dhaka, for interrogation.

Details of the other detainees were not clear, including what connection they

might have had to the July 1, 2016, attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack but authorities blamed JMB. Five militants from the banned group who stormed the cafe and took patrons hostage also died in the attack, along with two police officers.

Since the attack, police and other security agencies have begun a manhunt and raided numerous places across the country, with the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saying it has zero tolerance for such radical groups. Some 60 suspects, including some JMB commanders, have been killed in raids across Bangladesh since July 1. —AP

US AND NORTH KOREA NEED TO TALK, BUT HOW?

'BETTER TO JAW-JAW THAN WAR-WAR'

WASHINGTON: After North Korea's shock demonstration that it can strike the American mainland with an intercontinental missile, US officials say their focus remains on finding a diplomatic solution to avert a catastrophic conflict. But with Washington reluctant to be seen to be rewarding Pyongyang, whose leader Kim Jong-Un has been taunting the "American bastards", can the two sides manage to sit down and thrash out their differences face to face?

Analysts and diplomats who are veterans of previous flare-ups in tensions between the two countries acknowledge there are huge obstacles in the way of talks—not least because they have no diplomatic relations. But they also say talks are not only possible but really the only viable solution, whether talking directly or via third parties—including senior US politicians outside the Trump administration. "The only way out here is diplomacy," said James Clapper, who spent years as a US intelligence chief in South Korea and was later Director of National Intelligence under Barack Obama.

Donald Trump said in May that he would be "honored" to meet with Kim under what he called the right circumstances, in essence demanding North Korea first halts its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. While the US president promised a "pretty severe" retort to North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test, his defense secretary Jim Mattis' response was to echo Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill famous mantra that it is "better to jaw-jaw than war-war." And Kim also appeared to leave the door open for talks after Tuesday's test, saying his nuclear and ballistic missile programs could be "on the table" if the US dropped what he called its "hostile policy".

While Pyongyang has been seeking to engage Washington in bilateral talks for decades, Washington has insisted on indirect and informal contacts. Through the 2000s, a six-party format—including China, Russia, Japan, and South Korea—appeared to draw North Korea, then under Kim's father Kim Jong-il, toward some level of outside nuclear monitoring and a possible slowdown in their program. But that process collapsed in 2009, and since gaining power two years later, Kim Jong-un has dismissed talks for his determination to achieve nuclear status, as much for his domestic political stature as demonstrating the country's military prowess.

Building trust

Since then, contacts have been through forums, seminars involving former officials, academics, humanitarian representatives and at times officials acting only in a semi-official



UNITED STATES: A US Air Force B-1B Lancer assigned to the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, prepares for takeoff from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. —AFP

capacity. Such meetings can be turgid, with North Koreans reading off a playlist of positions believed dictated directly by Kim. It takes a lot of work to bridge language and cultural gaps, according to people who have participated. Nevertheless, "there's an ability to build some trust," said Joseph DeTrani, a former State Department envoy to the six-party talks.

And in the past, when the US sought to get North Korea to free Americans detained as spies or illegal proselytizers, Kim Jong-il was willing to meet and deal with US emissaries like former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, and former UN ambassador Bill Richardson. Such meetings have been rare under Kim Jong-un but he did meet with former basketball star Dennis Rodman who has been a regular visitor to North Korea over the years.

"We had periods when there were agreements, that was with Kim Jong-il," said DeTrani who regards Kim Jong-un as a more "reckless" leader. Rather than using third parties, some voices are pushing for the US to establish semi-formal relations by setting up a North Korea Interests Section in Pyongyang, staffed by US diplomats, and allowing a North Korean counterpart in Washington. But after a channel is opened, then what?

Iran talks a model?

Scott Snyder, a Korea expert at the Council on

Foreign Relations, says the fundamental problem is that the US cannot accept North Korea's demand to back off its regional military stance protecting South Korea and Japan. "The problem is where the North Koreans want to go with this is exactly the place where we don't want to go," he said. Frank Aum, a former Defense Department official now with the US Korea Institute at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, said the Trump administration had to adapt by accepting at least internally that it is effectively dealing with a nuclear power that needs to be contained.

Aum supports intensifying the existing approach of applying economic pressure on North Korea via sanctions and trying to get China to bring its influence to bear on Pyongyang—arguing that such tactics helped persuade Iran to curb its nuclear program during Obama's presidency. "It took three years for sanctions on Iran to begin working," he said.

The Trump administration though is no fan of the Iran nuclear deal, calling it one of the worst in history. And Scott Snyder, a Korea expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the Iran model won't work because Pyongyang already has a proven nuclear capability and its leadership was much more immune to outside pressure. "The regime benefits from political isolation," he said. —AFP

CRIES FOR JUSTICE ON ANNIVERSARY OF CAMBODIA CRITIC'S MURDER

TAKEO: Thousands gathered yesterday at the grave of a prominent Cambodian critic who was gunned down a year ago in a murder that sparked widespread anger and skepticism over the alleged killer's motives. Kem Ley, a popular and charismatic political analyst, was shot twice in the head as he sipped coffee in Phnom Penh—a brazen assassination that sent shockwaves through the country's already beleaguered activist community. Unemployed former soldier Oeuth Ang admitted carrying out the killing and was sentenced to life in March after a brief trial.

His declared motive, that the murder was revenge for an unpaid \$3,000 debt, caused

broad disbelief and was not cross examined in court because he effectively admitted his guilt. "I don't know whether they made up that debt story but I don't believe it at all," Kem Ley's 77-year-old mother Phok Se, told AFP as well-wishers began gathering at the family home in Takeo province. "There has been no justice for us so far," she added, echoing the sentiments of many at the ceremony which saw Buddhist monks chant prayers as devotees made offerings around the grave.

In Phnom Penh police stopped mourners from placing flowers at the petrol station cafe where Kem Ley was gunned down. In a joint

statement to mark the anniversary more than 100 local and foreign organizations called on the government to reopen the case after a "flawed trial". "There has been no transparency in the murder investigation and there are still many unanswered questions in this case," the statement read, adding there was "compelling evidence" Oeuth Ang had accomplices.

Many friends and supporters find it hard to believe Oeuth Ang, who rarely held down a job, could afford to lend \$3,000 — more than twice the average annual salary in Cambodia. "One year has passed and yet we are nowhere near uncovering the full picture of what happened to Kem Ley," Chak Sophea, from the Cambodian Center for Human Rights, said. Cambodia has been ruled by strongman premier Hun Sen for 32 years and has a dark history of usually unsolved activist killings.

In the 1990s and early 2000s such assassinations were common, but they had become rarer in recent years. Spooked that the bad days may have returned, tens of thousands turned out for Kem Ley's funeral in scenes that rattled the government. Kem Ley criticized Cambodian politicians of all stripes, but he was particularly scathing about the endemic corruption that blights the country. Shortly before his murder he gave a radio interview about an investigative report that detailed some of the millions of dollars amassed by Hun Sen's family.

The government has strongly denied any responsibility in his killing. Hun Sen faces crunch national polls next year and has dramatically ramped up his rhetoric in recent months. Last month he called on critics to "prepare coffins" and warned he would eliminate "100 or 200 people" if stability was threatened. Hun Sen portrays himself as a leader who has brought growth and security to the war ravaged nation. Critics say corruption, inequality and right abuses have become entrenched during his years in office. —AFP



CAMBODIA: Cambodians hold images of prominent Cambodian critic Kem Ley during the first anniversary of his murder at his mother's home in Takeo province yesterday. —AFP



LAHORE: Members of a non-governmental organization 'Youth Forum for Kashmir' chant anti Indian slogans during a rally to mark 1st anniversary of the death of a young rebel leader Burhan Wani, who was killed by Indian troops last year, in Lahore, Pakistan. —AP

PAKISTAN SUMMONS INDIAN DIPLOMAT AFTER FIVE KILLED IN KASHMIR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says it has summoned an Indian diplomat after five civilians were killed by "unprovoked" Indian fire across the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region. The Foreign Ministry announced the move yesterday, a day after Pakistan's military said Indian forces had shelled two areas. India said Pakistani shelling across the Line of Control killed and off-duty soldier and his wife on

Saturday, calling it an "unprovoked" violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement. The two nuclear-armed rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which both claim in its entirety, since gaining independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The Himalayan region is split between Indian and Pakistani-controlled zones separated by the heavily militarized Line of Control. —AP

TRUMP CUTS AN ISOLATED FIGURE...

Continued from Page 1

Trump's claim to be the guardian of Western values was further undermined by a press conference that saw sustained attacks on the free press and a downplaying of Russia's election interference. Later at the G20 in Hamburg, Trump appeared even more clearly outside the policy mainstream. The artful drafting of a joint communique saw world leaders banding together without the United States: In the fight against climate change, it was 19 in favor and a lone Trump against. "To get 20 of your friends to agree where to have dinner together tonight is really hard," said top Trump economic advisor Gary Cohn, denying US isolation.

Trump's efforts to reset relations with global rivals were equally vexed. During a historic two-hour-and-sixteen-minute meeting with Vladimir Putin, the US president effectively agreed to put Russia's 2016 election interference in the past - a major concession to Moscow. "After very substantive dialogue on this, they agreed to move on to other discussions," said Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. But that bought few tangible benefits beyond a possible ceasefire agreement for southern Syria.

Officials are hopeful the measure, effective from noon yesterday, can stem the bloodletting and open the door for a broader cooling of the vicious six-year civil war - but such ceasefires have come and gone many times before. For months, negotiators in Amman had been searching for something much more durable: a safe zone, enforced by troops, which would

secure Jordan's border and allow the regime's opponents their own territory.

That prospect still seems distant. "The best possible outcome is that this 'agreement' becomes a building block for more US-Russian cooperation in Syria," Cliff Kupchan of Eurasia group told clients in a research note. "But the emerging truce also faces significant obstacles, and its fate is unclear at best."

On North Korea, Trump appeared unable to translate weeks of sustained public pressure and angry tweets on China into meaningful diplomatic progress. Across the table from Trump,

Xi Jinping offered little indication he would impose the type of sanctions that could make Pyongyang think twice about developing ever-more powerful long range nuclear missiles. Trump was left to abandon his own sense of urgency. "It may take longer than I like, it may take longer than you'd like... but there will be success in the end, one way or the other," he said. With his ideological hardline and diplomacy failing to live up to his "winning" rhetoric, Trump's second foreign visit left "America first" at risk of becoming "America alone". — AFP



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump disembark from Air Force One upon arrival at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on Saturday. — AFP

ASSEMBLY PROBE PANEL SUMMONS FOUR...

Continued from Page 1

Harbush said that the committee decided to summon the ministers of social affairs and labor, defense, finance and electricity and water to question them on the allegations made during the grillings. The lawmaker said the committee will next week meet Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh to discuss the issue of unemployment among Kuwaitis and the demographic structure, which has been the target of strong criticism by lawmakers because of the large rise in the number of expatriates.

In the following week, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh will be invited to discuss the issue of several state institutions holding huge amounts of funds and failing to

transfer them to the state treasury as required by the law. The minister will be also asked about allegations that the government has spent as much as KD 3.8 billion illegally without providing any records on how the money was spent. In the same meeting, the committee will discuss with Electricity and Water Minister Essam Al-Marzouq the implications of hiking the prices of power, water and petrol, and its impact on citizens and proposed solutions, Harbush said.

Later, the committee will summon Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to inquire about the controversy surrounding the multi-billion-dollar deal to purchase Eurofighter warplanes, he said. Harbush expected that the panel will complete its work during the summer recess of the National Assembly, which is due to return in October.

IRAQ PM DECLARES VICTORY IN MOSUL

Continued from Page 1

Even in the final days of the battle, thousands of civilians remained trapped inside the Old City and those who fled arrived grief-stricken after losing relatives in jihadist sniper fire and bombardments. Around 915,000 residents have fled Mosul since the start of the battle for the city in October, the United Nations said this week. Iraqi forces are backed by air strikes and advisers of the US-led coalition

fighting IS in Iraq and Syria since 2014.

Abadi declared on Twitter late last month that "we are seeing the end of the fake (IS) state". The recapture of Mosul will not however mark the end of the threat posed by IS, which holds territory elsewhere in Iraq and is able to carry out frequent bombings in government-held areas. In Syria, a US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance is fighting to oust the group from the northern city of Raqqa after penetrating its heavily fortified historic center. — AFP

QATAR SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES...

Continued from Page 1

The Compensation Claims Committee will be overseen by Marri, as well as officials from the ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of justice. Marri insisted that the decision to pursue compensation for damages is not tied to current state of negotiations between Qatar and the four bloc countries. "The difference between politics and law is that in law there is continuity, unlike politics, which could be stopped by certain conditions," he said.

Meanwhile, more than a month since the start of the diplomatic crisis gripping the Gulf, hopes of a swift resolution seem as remote as a summer downpour in the desert. Both sides - the group of Saudi-led allies against Qatar - seem as entrenched in their positions as ever and as unlikely to find a face-saving solution for all as at any time since the conflict erupted on June 5. "I think that this crisis has a way to go still," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a Gulf analyst with the Baker Institute at the US-based Rice University.

He is not alone. A weary US State Department this week signalled its belief that the row - which has seen Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt sever ties with Qatar over claims it supports Islamist extremists - will rumble on, at best, for some time. "We believe that this could potentially drag on for weeks. It could drag on for months," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said on July 6.

The first days of July had offered a tiny, hopeful glimpse of a resolution as the region awaited Qatar's response to the list of 13 onerous demands placed on Doha by the Saudi-led bloc. But a defiant Qatar, which denies the charges of supporting extremism, then called the demands - such as closing broadcaster Al-Jazeera and the Turkish military base in Doha - "unrealistic". In return, Saudi and its allies threatened further sanctions, while Qatar hit back, labeling the four Arab states "siege countries".

"There will be no lifting of the sanctions any time soon, I can't see that happening," said Andreas Krieg of the Defence Studies Department at King's College London. The crisis seems to be in deadlock. "It appears that Saudi Arabia and the UAE underestimated Qatar's ability to very quickly bring on board major regional powers such as Turkey and Iran," Christopher Davidson, an expert on Middle East politics at Britain's Durham

University, told AFP. "In this context, pushing forward with any form of cross-border intervention seems unlikely, with instead a long drawn out slow-bleed of Qatar's economy probably being the preferred Saudi-UAE strategy."

So what happens next? On the diplomatic front, the push is coming from the West with the visit of British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson to the region this week-end, followed by the scheduled arrival of US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in regional mediator Kuwait on July 10. In Nauert's statement she also warned the conflict "could possibly even intensify". This could manifest itself in two ways.

On the sanctions front, attention appears to be turning to regional political organizations and, more tentatively, trade. There has been much speculation that Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain will seek to push Qatar out of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council either through suspension or expulsion. Reports in the Saudi media have suggested this could be the next step in Qatar's isolation though it is unclear if there would be enough votes to carry this through.

Krieg speculated that Saudi Arabia instead might maneuver to penalize Qatar through its membership of the Arab League. On trade, there have been suggestions that Saudi Arabia and the UAE may present international companies with a choice of doing business with them or Qatar, not both. That though is far from a risk-free strategy, Ulrichsen said. "Such a move may rebound on Riyadh and Abu Dhabi if it calls into question the vulnerability of commercial decisions to political interference," he said.

Krieg added that such a move could ultimately backfire on Saudi Arabia's own attempts to restructure its economy, in any post-oil world. It is also unlikely that international companies would cave in to such orders. Following a decision on July 4 by Qatar Petroleum to expand gas production by 30 percent, using joint ventures with international businesses, companies were reportedly already forming an orderly queue for contracts.

One Saudi-based commentator, Abdulrahman Al-Rashed, though insisted recently that Qatar will "fold" but make concessions beyond the "spotlight". It is unclear, however, what those might be. "There are no apparent areas of concession. This looks like it will go down to the wire," said Davidson. — AFP

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Focus

SILENCE ON WHETHER
TOWER MATERIALS
PASSED SAFETY TEST

The cladding system used on London's Grenfell Tower would only have met British regulatory standards if the two main materials had passed a key safety test together, according to a Reuters analysis of the building code and data on the materials. Three weeks after the June 14 fire, neither the two companies involved in the cladding on the Grenfell Tower nor the local authority which enforces the building codes have addressed questions from Reuters about whether that test was ever conducted and its outcome.

The test is required to show whether both materials when used together were sufficiently resistant to combustion. Without proof that it had been carried out, the cladding system would not have met building regulations. The cladding work carried out by Rydon Group Ltd, the main contractor on the 2014-2016 refurbishment of the building, and its subcontractor Harley Facades involved attaching insulation boards to the tower's concrete facade and covering them with aluminum composite panels.

France's Saint Gobain said the insulation used was its brand of polyisocyanurate (PIR) called Celotex R55000. The aluminum panels, which had a polyethylene plastic core were called Reynobond PE, and made by New York-based Arconic Inc, previously known as Alcoa Inc. If all the elements of the insulation system had achieved a separate and demanding government standard called "limited combustibility", in separate tests, then a combined test would not have been necessary, according to the building regulations.

But Reynobond PE and Celotex did not meet the combustibility test by themselves, according to safety experts and product specifications published by the manufacturers. This meant that the two materials combined would need to pass another test known as the BS 8414 test, according to the building regulations. This involves setting a fire under a three-storey mock-up of the proposed wall construction.

Both standards, set out in the guidelines to the building code, aim to prevent a fire spreading quickly from inside and up the exterior walls, something that happened at Grenfell Tower. In a June 29 email, a spokeswoman for Rydon Group Ltd says it "met all building regulations" but did not say if the BS 8414 test stipulated in the building codes had been conducted. The building control department of the local Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea council (RBKC), which is responsible for checking that the building and plans are consistent with regulations, declined to say if it had checked the tests had been carried out.

Police think the cladding system at Grenfell Tower may have contributed to the rapid spread of last month's fatal fire. They have said they are investigating possible criminal behavior and the role of all the companies involved in the building. The Department for Communities and Local Government, the government department which is responsible for setting the regulations enforced by building control, has said the cladding system used at Grenfell did not comply with the building rules it oversees. It has not said why and declined to answer detailed questions on its legal reasoning. Link to graphic of Grenfell Tower cladding system:

Combustibility

The test used to assess combined materials must be commissioned from a government approved independent testing agency. Reuters was unable to determine which, if any lab was used. Rydon, which had a turnover of £249 million last year, told Reuters the materials it used were suitable for use in tall buildings. "Laboratory testing of the fire resistance of the cladding system used at Grenfell Tower was carried out prior to installation. Please see attached BBA certificate," the spokeswoman said in the June 29 email.

The certificate Rydon provided showed the panels met a separate standard on the surface spread of fire. Asked specifically about the BS 8414 test, the Rydon spokeswoman said: "More technical questions would be better directed at Harley as it's their area of expertise." Executives and a spokesman at Harley, a small company with few assets, declined to comment for this story. It said in a statement on its website last month it was not aware of any link between the fire and the exterior cladding to the tower.

An official at RBKC, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, declined to provide details of the specification it approved or what checks it conducted to ensure the actual construction met the approved plan, citing the ongoing police investigation into the fire. A spokeswoman for Saint Gobain said its BR 135 combustibility certification of Celotex was based on tests conducted with a non-combustible cement facade panel. She declined to say if Celotex had ever passed the BS 8414 test with a flammable facade panel such as Reynobond PE. — Reuters

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FREED FROM CHINESE JAIL
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TRUMP REMAINS AN UNPREDICTABLE FORCE

On US President Donald Trump's second trip abroad, there were fewer of the bull-in-a-diplomatic-china-shop moments that had solidified European leaders' skepticism during his maiden overseas tour. Less public berating of allies, no pushing to the front of photo opportunities. But Trump still departed Europe on Saturday in the same position as he started: an unpredictable force on the world stage and an outlier among longtime American partners.

For the president's backers, his posture is the fulfillment of his campaign promise to bring more openness to American foreign policy and challenge long-standing global agreements, even with the nation's closest allies. But his detractors say he keeps sending the world dangerously mixed messages. "Our partners and our allies are all looking for meaning and intention in those words and will read into it what they want to, which may or may not be what Trump meant," said Laura Rosenberger, a former foreign policy adviser to Hillary Clinton and a senior fellow with the German Marshall Fund.

Trump's message on Russia remains the most convoluted, despite his advisers' efforts to put to rest questions about his views on Moscow's election meddling. The president refused to publicly give the kind of condemnation that his staff said he delivered to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a private meeting Friday. He let a challenge from Putin, who said Trump accepted his denial of Russian involvement in the 2016 election, go largely unanswered, tweeting Sunday morning that he'd "already given my opinion" on the matter.

Trump's posture toward Putin has left allies both baffled and anxious, particularly against the backdrop of the investigations into whether his campaign coordinated with Russia

during last year's election. But increasingly, it's Trump's positions on climate and trade that have catapulted to the top of their list of concerns. The divide over climate was particularly glaring as the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, drew to a close. The US was the only member country that did not sign a statement reaffirming the alliance's support for international efforts to fight global warming. The statement called the Paris climate accord, which Trump withdrew from last month, an "irreversible" global agreement.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Trump's refusal to sign on to the statement was "regrettable." French President Emmanuel Macron, who will host Trump on a quick trip to Paris this week declared: "There are major differences, growing differences between major powers. There is the emergence of authoritarian regimes and even within the Western world there are major divisions, uncertainties, instabilities, that didn't exist just a few short years ago."

But Trump and his allies appear to relish his volatility and isolation. Nile Gardiner, a foreign policy analyst for the conservative Heritage Foundation, which has close ties to the Trump White House, praised the president as "the most outspoken and unconventional US president of modern time" and said he is still managing to articulate a "coherent doctrine and vision."

Conservatives in the US were indeed buoyed by Trump's speech in Warsaw, Poland, which marked perhaps his most comprehensive articulation of how he views America's role in the world. He praised Polish resilience and called upon Western nations to jointly combat forces that threaten "to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are". The conservative editorial page at The Wall Street Journal called the address "Trump's defining speech".

Uneven message

Yet even as his Warsaw speech portrayed the world in stark terms, he offered an uneven message on Russia. In a news conference in Poland, the president acknowledged that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election, but he repeated his assertion that "other countries" may have done the same, a reference that appeared to let Putin off the hook. Hours before his meeting with Putin, he tweeted that "everyone" at the G-20 was talking about why John Podesta, a top adviser to Clinton, had "refused to give the DNC server to the FBI and the CIA. Disgraceful!" Intelligence agencies concluded that both the Democratic National Committee and Podesta's emails were hacked by Russians last year.

Trump has argued that Democrats are hyping Russia's involvement in order to create an excuse for Clinton's loss. His tweet about Podesta prompted the former top White House aide, who was driving with his wife on a cross-country trip, to respond that the president was a "whack job". "Dude, get your head in the game. You're representing the US at the G20," Podesta wrote on Twitter.

Trump's advisers hoped to turn the page on the matter following the president's first meeting with Putin. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, the only US official who joined Trump in the meeting, said the president opened the discussion by "raising the concerns of the American people" on Russian interference in the election, describing it as a "very robust and lengthy exchange". Putin's takeaway was different. He told reporters Saturday that he believed Trump accepted his denials of Russian meddling, but said it was best to ask the American president himself. White House aides didn't dispute the account. And the Sunday morning flurry of tweets from Trump did little to clarify. — AP

STRUGGLE OVER IRAQ'S FUTURE INTENSIFIES

After almost nine months of fierce fighting, the campaign to recapture Mosul from Islamic State is drawing to a bitter end in the ruins of the city's historic quarter, but the struggle for Iraq's future is far from over. Aside from Mosul, across the border in Syria a battle is raging to dislodge IS from Raqqa, the second capital of its self-declared caliphate. Fighting will push down the Euphrates valley to Deir al-Zour, the jihadis' last big urban stronghold.

But the fall of Mosul also exposes ethnic and sectarian fractures that have plagued Iraq for more than a decade. The victory risks triggering new violence between Arabs and Kurds over disputed territories or between Sunnis and Shiites over claims to power, egged on by outside powers that have shaped Iraq's future since the 2003 US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni minority-rule and brought the Iran-backed Shi'ite majority to power.

For Iraq, stunned by the blitz on Mosul by Islamic State in 2014 and the collapse of its army, victory could thus turn out to be as big a problem as defeat. The federal model devised under the Anglo-American occupation and built on a power-sharing agreement between Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds collapsed into ethno-sectarian carnage spawned by the al Qaeda precursors of Islamic State.

In the three years since the militants swept across the border from Syria where they had regrouped in the chaos of the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's rule, IS was the rallying point uniting a fractured Iraq. But now that the group faces military defeat, the unity that held Iraq together is starting to come apart.

No Post-Battle Plan

One challenge is the future of Mosul itself, a city traumatized by Islamic State's brutal rule and shattered by the latest US-backed offensive, with thousands dead and nearly one million people displaced. Western, Iraqi and Kurdish officials say they are astonished that Iraqi authorities neglected to prepare a post-battle plan for



An Iraqi forces sniper looks on as smoke billows following an airstrike by US-led international coalition forces targeting Islamic State in the Old City of Mosul yesterday. — AFP

Jihadi Fighters

All this comes against a backdrop of simmering rivalries between regional powers Iran and Turkey, and above all declining US influence and Iran's vigorous attempts to consolidate its control in Iraq. While the administration of US President Donald Trump regards Syria and Iraq purely in terms of the military campaign to destroy IS, local jihadi fighters will simply melt back into the population, and could regroup in a new insurgency.

Sunni and Kurdish leaders in and around Mosul largely agree with this grim prognosis, alarmed that Abadi has refused even to discuss the future governance of Mosul, and suspecting that Iran is calling the shots. The disputed territories stretch along an ethnically mixed ribbon of land dividing the autonomous Kurdish area in the north of Iraq from the Arab-majority part in the south - more a minefield than a mosaic - at a time when both the Kurds and Sunni Arabs are giving up on Shi'ite rule in Baghdad.

Atheel Al-Nujaifi, who was Nineveh governor when the provincial capital Mosul was captured in 2014, says: "We are back to where we were before Mosul fell, (because) there is an idea among the hardline Shiite

leadership to keep the liberated areas as loose areas, with no (local) political leadership, or security organizations, so they can control them".

Moderate Shiite leaders, among whom he counts Abadi, are wary of a winner-take-all logic of victory, fearing this "could lead to the creation of radicalism again and they know this would destroy not only Iraq but the Shiites". The problem, he believes, is that Iraqi Shiism is badly fractured, helping Iran control almost all its factions. The former governor, a Sunni who now has at his command an armed force trained by Turkey, says he is bowing out of office but not politics. He acknowledges there is a lack of mainstream Sunni leaders, but blames Baghdad for making sure none emerges.

Whither the Sunnis?

Talk of Kurdish secession has sparked discussion of whether Sunni Arabs should set up a separate state, though most officials say this is not practical, because: Sunni territory lacks the oil base the Shiites and Kurds have; the experience of Islamic State would hover like a specter over any new entity; and Sunnis are too intermingled across Iraq. Some Sunni and Kurdish leaders believe one solution is to make Mosul a self-governing region like Kurdistan, with smaller units of self-rule to accommodate the plethora of minorities, which they say is permitted by the constitution.

"Before, the Sunnis were very sensitive to believing (devolution) would lead to secession, to the breakup of Iraq but now they're coming to terms with it," says Zebari. The Sunnis are not the only ones who repudiate Baghdad's Shiite-dominated government. The northern Kurdish region has called a referendum to move from autonomous self-rule to an independent state. Kurdish leader Barzani told Reuters timing for independence after the vote was "flexible but not open-ended". Yet there is growing concern the real purpose of the referendum is not immediate secession, but to strengthen Kurdish claims over the disputed territories, such as the oil-rich region and city of Kirkuk, whose future has been in play for over a decade. — Reuters

RAMOS 'CALM' OVER RONALDO EXIT RUMOURS

MADRID: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos says he is "very calm" about rumours linking Cristiano Ronaldo with a move away from the Spanish capital. "In that sense I am very calm," Ramos told Spanish newspaper Marca yesterday when queried about the Portuguese superstar's future. Ronaldo has dominated headlines over the close season with Spanish and Portuguese media suggesting that the four-time Ballon d'Or winner wants to leave the European champions. The 32-year-old was said to be "upset" as Spanish prosecutors accused him of \$16.76 million (14.6 million euros) tax fraud. Ronaldo is due to testify in court on July 31. "They are great players and hopefully they will be with us for years to come," said Ramos, referring to Ronaldo and Alvaro Morata, the Madrid striker, who have reportedly become targets for English giants Manchester United and Chelsea. Ronaldo has remained tight-lipped about a possible exit from the Spanish and European champions, but Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has gone on a charm offensive to defend his star striker, saying that Ronaldo doesn't want to leave the club. — AFP

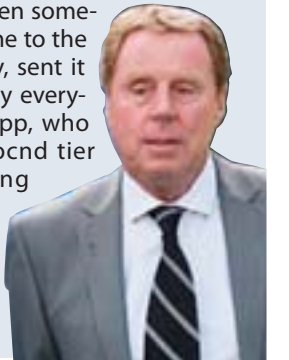


RABADA KEEPS QUIET AFTER DISMISSING STOKES

LONDON: This time, Kagiso Rabada was keeping quiet. There were no wild celebrations from the South Africa fast bowler after he trapped Ben Stokes lbw on Day 4 of the first test against England yesterday. Instead, Rabada put a finger to his lips and watched Stokes walk past him on his way back to the pavilion at Lord's. Rabada's reaction came after he was banned for the second test between the countries, at Trent Bridge starting Friday, for swearing at Stokes after dismissing the allrounder on Thursday in the first innings. The verbal abuse was picked up over the stump microphones. Rabada was handed a one-match ban because of an accumulation of demerit points within a two-year period, having already been on three points following a clash with Sri Lanka opener Niroshan Dickwella during an ODI in February. Proteas batsman Temba Bavuma said Saturday that the 22-year-old Rabada, one of the most exciting young bowlers in the sport, was "heartbroken" at letting his teammates down. South Africa's players have supported Rabada, and mobbed him after dismissing Stokes yesterday. Wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock even put his hand over Rabada's mouth. — AP

BIRMINGHAM MANAGER REDKNAPP IN CANCER SCARE

LONDON: Veteran manager Harry Redknapp revealed yesterday he had had a tumour removed from his bladder but fortunately it had not been diagnosed as malignant. The 70-year-old Birmingham manager-who guided Portsmouth to FA Cup glory in 2008 — told the 'Sun on Sunday' he had never been so stressed in his life. "I could feel it in my body-I knew it wasn't right," said Redknapp, who also managed among others Tottenham Hotspur. "This is the first time I've been properly worried. I knew I didn't feel good, you know when something isn't right, but it was Sandra who pushed me to the doctor in the end. They cut it out, took it away, sent it away to make sure it is not malignant and luckily everything was OK. I know I am fortunate." Redknapp, who succeeded in keeping Birmingham in the second tier Championship last season after replacing Gianfranco Zola towards the end of the campaign, says his peace of mind has at least been restored. "They cut it out, there was no other option. Once they did that I was up and about after a couple of days," said Redknapp. — AFP



TOYOTA WINS SUPER GT300 CLASS AT AUTOPOLIS

TOKYO: Toyota claimed a memorable first victory of the season in the GT300 class as the 2016 champion No. 25 VivaC 86 MC driven by Takamitsu Matsui and Kenta Yamashita ran from pole position to take the win in the third round of the 2017 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series. Held at the Autopolis circuit under sunny skies and over a challenging 300-km distance, the race proved to be one of the most exciting and closely-fought contests of the season so far. "I would like to extend my congratulations to the team for giving Toyota a thrilling first win of the season," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "For Toyota, racing events such as the SUPER GT series are an opportunity to not only test the mettle of our performance machines, but also to develop human resources and to bring the joy of cars to an even wider audience. The atmosphere at the Autopolis was absolutely terrific, and I express my sincere appreciation to our fans for their support and constant encouragement for our racing initiatives."

At the start of the race, the pole-sitting No. 25 VivaC 86 MC with Kenta Yamashita at the wheel pulled away into the lead, closely followed by the car that started second on the grid. Just as it looked as if the battle for the lead between these two cars will heat up, a car from a rival manufacturer spun out at the 17th turn and came to a stop in the middle of the of the track, causing a collision with the No. 31 TOYOTA PRIUS apr GT that forced the latter to drop out of the race. The incident brought out the safety car and stopped the race temporarily.

After the re-start, the gap between the

No. 25 VivaC 86 MC and the second-placed car had been reduced to just one second, and the battle between the two machines continued until the No. 25 made its pit stop on lap 30. After both cars had completed their pit stops, the competitor car found itself in the lead momentarily, but the No. 25 VivaC 86 MC, now with Takamitsu Matsui behind the wheel, kept pushing hard to quickly reclaim the advantage.

As the race entered the final stages, Matsui made a strong spurt and opened up a gap of nearly four seconds with 10 laps remaining. Even though the second-placed car managed to close the gap to one second again, Matsui succeeded in holding out by the narrowest of margins to give Toyota the victory. At the finish line, there was only a 0.091 second gap between the noses of the two machines.

"In the first half, I was hoping that Kenta Yamashita would break out and give us the race, but things didn't go that easily," said Takamitsu Matsui. "Since it seemed that it had been tough going in the first half, we changed the tire choice for the second half, and after they got warmed up, things went well. Because Autopolis is said to be a track where the JAF-GT300 cars have an advantage, I'm relieved that we were able to win here."

Kenta Yamashita said, "When I was running laps in the 1 min. 45 sec. range, I thought it was a good pace, but the second-placed car was able to stay with me and it was hard for me to build up any kind of solid lead. But in the second half of the race, Takamitsu Matsui did a fantastic job, and although there was some trouble along the way, the drivers and the team really worked hard and we just managed to get the win, so I am glad."



GANGNEUNG: In this April 6, 2017 file photo, South Korea's Lee Eun-ji, bottom right, scores a goal as North Korea's Kim Kum Bok, bottom second right, tries to block the puck during their IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship Division II Group A game in Gangneung, South Korea. Seven months ahead of the Pyeongchang Olympics, many in South Korea, including new liberal President Moon Jae-in, hope to use the Games as a venue to promote peace with rival North Korea. — AP

OLYMPICS

PYEONGCHANG OLYMPICS ARE ICY PATH TO WARMER KOREAN RELATIONS

SEOUL: Tears and hugs after North and South Korean women won the 1991 team table tennis world championships. A standing ovation when athletes from the two Koreas marched together to open the 2000 Sydney Olympics. A selfie taken by a South Korean gymnast with her North Korean opponent that went viral at last year's Rio de Janeiro Games.

Seven months ahead of the Pyeongchang Olympics, South Korea's new liberal President Moon Jae-in hopes the first Winter Games on Korean soil could produce more of these feel-good sparks of seeming reconciliation and pave the way for deep engagement to ease the rivals' 72-year standoff.

In a good development for Moon, IOC President Thomas Bach on July 3 expressed his support for Moon's overture while North Korea recently allowed its taekwondo demonstration team to perform in the South in the Korea's first sports exchanges since Moon's May 10 inauguration. But there is also plenty of skepticism about Moon's efforts because of a serious escalation in North Korean nuclear and missile arsenals - North Korea on July 4 test-fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile - and a weak North Korean winter sports program that sent only two athletes to the 2010 Vancouver Games and none to the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Sydney and Rio were both Summer Olympics.

North Korea's only IOC member, Chang Ung, said last week that cooperation on the Pyeongchang Games could prove hard considering the shortage of time and difficult politics.

What follows is an examination of South Korea's attempt to make North Korea a key part of the Olympics set for Feb. 9-25.

MOON'S PLAN

During a speech at the world taekwondo championship in the South that drew Chang and North Korean athletes, Moon appealed for North Korea's Olympic participation while talking about the power of sports and citing the historic "pingpong diplomacy" between the United States and China in the 1970s.

"I think (North Korea's Olympic attendance) would greatly contribute in realizing Olympic values, which are about bringing humanity together and promoting world peace," Moon said during the event's opening ceremony on June 24. Moon has previously said he wants North Korean athletes to visit the South by crossing over the heavily fortified land border between the Koreas - a deeply symbolic event that would excite frenzied media coverage. He has also proposed holding a pre-Olympic celebratory event at the North's scenic Diamond Mountain, where the two Koreas once ran a tourism program.

Moon's sports minister, Do Jong-hwan, told lawmakers recently that South Korea was also studying a joint women's ice hockey team with North Korea for the Pyeongchang Games. Other ideas: using a recently built North Korean ski resort as a training site and adding North Korea to the Olympic torch relay route.

During their meeting at Moon's presidential palace in Seoul on Monday, Bach said he actively supports Moon's push for Korean peace and said it's in accordance with the Olympic spirit, according to Moon's office. But some of the measures floated by the Moon government require formal IOC approvals, and Pyeongchang organizers say nothing has been officially determined yet.

Chang suggested it may be too late to try to field a single Olympic team, saying it took five to six months or 22 rounds of inter-Korean talks before fielding a single women's table tennis team in 1991. He also questioned how much sports could impact relations between the Koreas. "Did table tennis improve relations between the United States and China? Pingpong was able to work as a catalyst because a political foundation had already been created. The world was saying pingpong made things work, but that wasn't the case," Chang told South Korea reporters last week. "Politics are always above sports."

THE SPORTS OBSTACLES

North Korea is not strong in winter sports. The only North Korean athletes who are thought to have a realistic shot at making the 2018 Olympics are a North Korean pairs figure skating team. Even if they qualify, it will mean less than 10 North Koreans - two athletes plus coaches and officials - would come to Pyeongchang.

This small squad - or no athletes at all - could make it difficult to create a mood of reconciliation. Still, South Korean officials are looking at other ways to get North Korea involved.

Pyeongchang's organizing committee said it's discussing with South Korean government officials whether to ask the IOC and other international sports bodies to give North Korea special entries if no North Korean athletes qualify for the Olympics.

South Korea is also reviewing whether to hold out-of-competition matches during the Olympics that would allow North Korean athletes to compete, according to Moon's Unification Ministry. The South's organizing committee said special entries and extra games have not been allowed at past Winter Games.

THE NUCLEAR OBSTACLES

Relations between the Koreas are dismal as the North pursues its nuclear ambitions. Since taking power in late 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has conducted three atomic test explosions and ordered a raft of ballistic-missile launches as part of his stated goal of building nuclear missiles capable of reaching the continental United States. The North Korean ICMB launched last week could reach Alaska if fired at a normal trajectory.

Moon's conservative predecessors responded by suspending major aid shipments and cross-border cooperation projects. But Moon has pledged to improve ties and promised to use the Pyeongchang Games to ease cross-border ani-

mosities. Even after the ICMB launch, Moon didn't back down on his Olympic overture.

"When athletes from South and North Korea, and from the rest of the world, sweat and compete against each other, offer a hand to fellow athletes who have fallen down, and embrace each other, the world will witness peace through the Olympic games," Moon said in a speech Thursday ahead of the Group of 20 summit in Germany. "I look forward to North Korea's active and positive response."

But any big North Korean weapon test close to the Pyeongchang Games could trigger strong anti-North sentiments both at home and abroad and make it hard for Moon to press ahead with his overtures.

"What's most important is that North Korea not act in a way that earns President Moon criticism when he makes a gesture of reconciliation," said Jung Moon-hyun, a sports science professor at Chungnam National University in South Korea.

SPORTS DIPLOMACY

At the height of the Cold War, sports were another battlefield between the Koreas. North Korea boycotted the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics, both held in Seoul.

But sports exchanges briefly flourished in the early 1990s before a nuclear crisis erupted. This cooperation included the North-South women's table tennis team championship over China in 1991, and a unified world youth boys' soccer team that reached the quarterfinals later that year. These were the last unified Korean sports teams, but the rivals found other ways to cooperate. After the leaders of North and South Korea met for landmark summit talks in Pyongyang in June 2000, athletes from the Koreas walked behind a blue-and-white "unification" flag for the first time at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Summer Games. This happened at other major international sports events, but the practice stopped after the 2007 Asian Winter Games in Chungchun, China.

Despite terrible political ties amid the nuclear standoff, cross-border sports exchanges between the Koreas did not disappear entirely.

North Korea attended the 2014 Asian Games held in Incheon, South Korea. At the close of the games, three top Pyongyang officials made a surprise visit and held the Koreas' highest-level face-to-face talks in five years.

This spring, North Korea's women's ice hockey team came to the South to take part in the group rounds of the world championships, while the South's national women's soccer team traveled to the North for an Asian Cup qualifying match. One of the feel-good highlights of the Rio Games last year came when a 17-year-old South Korean gymnast named Lee Eun-ju took a selfie with North Korea's Hong Un Jong as they trained for competition. The photo captured global headlines, and Bach described it as a "great gesture." It's far from certain whether Pyeongchang will have any similar gestures. — AP



TRUEX MAKES IT LOOK EASY IN KENTUCKY SPEEDWAY WIN

SPARTA: Martin Truex Jr. boldly declared his Toyota the best car he had ever raced, and several statistics make it hard to dispute him. There also was plenty of visual evidence of how close to perfect his Saturday night went.

Truex was dominant throughout and had enough left on a final restart to win the NASCAR Cup race night at Kentucky Speedway. "It was very big to do what we did tonight," Truex said. "I can never recall saving fuel and pulling away from everybody before, so it was pretty amazing."

Second in points entering the 400-mile event, Truex started second beside Kyle Busch and won the first two stages. Truex led the final segment by as many as 15 seconds before a final caution created overtime and bunched the field together.

That made no difference as Truex got a push past Busch on the restart and went on to his third victory of the season and 10th of his career. He led five times for 152 of 274 laps and swept all three stages in the No. 78 Toyota to earn 60 points, including seven playoff points, and draw within one of standings leader Kyle Larson, who finished second in a Chevy.

Truex's dominant performance wasn't the only reason he was smiling. He was eager to get back and bring his girlfriend, Sherry Pollex, home after a medical procedure. Pollex has battled ovarian cancer and tweeted Saturday that there had been a recurrence requiring surgery.

"Everything went perfectly good, went as planned," he said. "I'm bringing her home tomorrow, so I'm excited to see her and everything's going great. She was pretty excited." Chase Elliott was third in a Chevy, followed by Denny Hamlin and Busch in Toyotas. Busch led 112 laps, but fell short of his third Kentucky victory.

Then again, Truex wasn't inclined to let anyone get close in earning his first Kentucky triumph. Pole winner Busch pounced right away and led the first 66 laps but often had Truex close by in the battle of Toyotas. Truex twice found the speed to make timely passes and ultimately took the first two stages, but he saved his best for the last segment.

Running seventh as the third stage began, Truex was back in front within several laps and merely got stronger as he went along. — AP

CHAMP AMANDA NUNES HOSPITALIZED, UFC 213 MAIN EVENT SCRAPPED

LAS VEGAS: Bantamweight champion Amanda Nunes was scratched from her title defense against Valentina Shevchenko after being hospitalized Saturday a few hours before UFC 213. The UFC vaguely cited an "illness" as the reason for Nunes' hospitalization in its statement. Shevchenko believes Nunes' condition resulted from a drastic weight cut.

Yoel Romero's interim middleweight title bout against Robert Whittaker became the main event of the pay-per-view show at T-Mobile Arena, although the UFC also offered ticket refunds to Las Vegas fans. Shevchenko expressed her displeasure over the loss of a big paycheck and a long-awaited title shot in a

post on her social media accounts.

"During the last three months of training, I did everything to be in my best shape for this fight," Shevchenko wrote. "Nunes couldn't cut weight correctly and was hospitalized. She wanted to cut weight and recover rapidly to have the advantage. The end result, everything went wrong. Even though she was medically cleared to fight, she backed out. ... I did my part and am very upset that I can't fight for the title today on this great event."

UFC President Dana White speculated that the bout could be moved to UFC 215 in Edmonton, Alberta, on Sept. 9, but a plan hasn't been finalized. After Nunes was hospitalized, White said 115-pound

champion Joanna Jedrzejczyk lobbied him to give her a late-notice fight against the 135-pound Shevchenko.

The Nevada Athletic Commission would never allow such a thing, but Jedrzejczyk and Shevchenko already fought each other in many Thai competition during their martial arts careers. Nunes (14-4), a Brazilian fighting out of Florida, claimed the 135-pound belt from Miesha Tate last July. After Nunes violently stopped Ronda Rousey in December, she was scheduled to make her second title defense in a rematch of her March 2016 victory over Shevchenko (14-2).

Instead, for the third straight year, the UFC has been forced to cancel the main event of its annual International Fight

Week show on short notice. Last July, Jon Jones was removed from his bout against Daniel Cormier three days before UFC 200 for violating the promotion's anti-doping policy. Jones was slapped with a one-year suspension, but his rematch with Cormier is scheduled for July 29 at UFC 214 in Anaheim, California.

The UFC also made multiple changes to its July 2015 main event at UFC 189, eventually showcasing Conor McGregor's victory over Chad Mendes. UFC 213 lost its likely main event for the first time in late May when men's bantamweight champion Cody Garbrandt decided his back injury wouldn't allow him to prepare for a bout against T.J. Dillashaw.

The cancellation of Nunes' defense

pushes Romero and Whittaker into the spotlight, and that's a fortunate break for a showdown between two elite fighters on long winning streaks. The 40-year-old Romero (12-1), a Cuban living in Miami, has won eight straight fights, including six by stoppage. Whittaker (19-4), a New Zealand-born Australian, has won seven fights in a row, with back-to-back stoppage victories over top contenders Jacare Souza and Derek Brunson.

The winner will be the interim 185-pound champion while champ Michael Bisping recovers from injury. Bisping has defended his belt just once since claiming it in an upset of Luke Rockhold last July, beating 46-year-old Dan Henderson by decision last October. — AP

RUGBY

GATLAND'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN AFTER DRAWN TEST SERIES

AUCKLAND: With a plastic clown nose perched above a wry smile, it was hard to find a happier man at Eden Park on Saturday than British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland. Heavily criticized from the moment they arrived in New Zealand, and given no hope of beating rugby's reigning world champions, the Lions defied the odds to draw the final Test 15-15 and tie the three-match series.

For most of the players and spectators who had expected to see a clear winner, there was an overwhelming feeling of bewilderment, frustration and disappointment. But not for Gatland, a New Zealander himself. Lampooned as a clown by one New Zealand newspaper, he couldn't resist the chance to poke fun at his detractors. "For us to come here to New Zealand, against the back-to-back world champions, and draw a series, I think is an unbelievable achievement considering we were completely written off," Gatland said. "Everyone was talking about this being a 3-0 whitewash ... this group of players has shown unbelievable character."

Everything seemed to be going according to the script for the home team when the All Blacks convincingly won the first test 30-15, but the Lions outscored New Zealand two tries to nil to win the second test 24-21 and force a decider which ended in a thrilling but also anticlimactic stalemate, resulting in just the second drawn series in the almost 120-year history of Lions tours.

"I can understand everyone feels a bit flat because you want a result," Gatland said. "But I think we'll reflect on it and say it was pretty special to put a team together to play against the best team in the world in their backyard and particularly here at Eden Park where they

have a phenomenal record in terms of their success over a number of years.

"I think we'll wake up tomorrow and think that's not bad. If we'd been asked six weeks ago 'would you take a drawn series 1-1?' you'd probably say 'yeah,' that would reflect a pretty successful series for the Lions."

Perhaps fittingly after an epic series that captivated the rugby world, there was a hint of controversy right at the end when French referee Romain Poite initially awarded a late penalty to New Zealand that would have given the All Blacks a shot at victory only to reverse the decision after consulting the video review official.

New Zealand captain Kieran Read thought the penalty should have stood but All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said his team should have already wrapped up the match after scoring two unanswered tries and wasting several other chances. "We could have won if we'd taken the opportunities we created," Hansen said. "It was an average way for it to finish, but that's sport. We've got to accept that and move on and get better at what we're trying to do."

New Zealand's next assignment is the annual Rugby Championship, which includes Australia, South Africa and Argentina, while the Lions will not tour again until 2021 when they visit South Africa. Gatland coached the Lions victory over Australia in 2013 and said he might consider doing the job again in four years. "There's a lot of water to go under the bridge before that," he said. "My focus now is on Wales and the autumn and looking towards (the 2019 World Cup). I'm definitely finishing there unless they get rid of me before that time ... you never say never." — AP



LAS VEGAS: Robert Whittaker kicks Yoel Romero in their interim UFC middleweight championship bout during the UFC 213 event at T-Mobile Arena yesterday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

ROBERT WHITTAKER EDGES ROMERO, GRABS INTERIM BELT AT UFC 213

LAS VEGAS: Robert Whittaker won the UFC interim middleweight title Saturday night, surging in the late rounds to earn a unanimous decision over Yoel Romero at UFC 213. Whittaker (20-4) recovered from a hyperextended knee in the first round with a strong striking performance, peppering Romero (12-2) with punches and kicks over the final three rounds. The Australian won his eighth consecutive fight, earning the victory 48-47 on all three judges' scorecards at T-Mobile Arena.

"It's a moment I've always dreamed of," Whittaker said. "My knee was definitely hurt. I injured it in camp, and Romero's kick set it back weeks. I know that Romero will capitalize on any weakness he sees, so I had to play it off. That's just what champions are made of."

The main event of the UFC's traditional July showcase was canceled earlier in the day when bantamweight champion Amanda Nunes was hospitalized. She was scratched from her second title defense against Valentina Shevchenko, who criticized the champion's preparation for the bout. Alistair Overeem beat Fabricio Werdum by narrow majority decision in the third career meeting of two veteran heavyweights. Former lightweight champion Anthony Pettis also returned to the division with a unanimous decision victory over Jim Miller in the final show of International Fight Week, the annual mixed martial arts celebration in the UFC's hometown. Whittaker took advantage of his bout's promotion to the main event by claiming the belt in front of a pay-per-view audience. He earned the chance to fight for the full 185-pound title held for the past year by Michael Bisping, who is injured. Bisping stepped into the cage afterward and congratulated Whittaker in his own irascible style. "The fact that you're standing there with a belt on makes me sick," Bisping said, throwing his own belt on the canvas. "Take that belt. Fight for it."

GRACIOUS

The 40-year-old Romero was gracious after his eight-fight winning streak ended, praising his opponent. Bisping watched UFC 213 next to UFC President Dana White, his championship belt in front of him. Romero's aggression kept Whittaker on the defensive for much of the first two rounds, but Whittaker landed several impressive strikes. Whittaker increased his striking output while Romero sat back in the third and fourth, with Whittaker also defending Romero's takedowns adroitly. Romero was cut on his left eyebrow and the right side of his scalp, while Whittaker had a bloody nose and mouth in the final round, which was fought largely on the feet. Romero slipped onto his back with 90 seconds left, and Whittaker jumped on top to rain down blows.

Whittaker will get the chance to remove the interim designation from his belt when Bisping returns from injury, although it might not happen this year. The middleweight division has been in limbo ever since Bisping shockingly beat champion Luke Rockhold last summer and then fought old rival Dan Henderson instead of Romero, Whittaker or another top contender. For the third straight year, the UFC had to change the main event of its annual July show in Las Vegas at short notice. Last year, Jon Jones was sidelined by a violation of the promotion's anti-doping policy three days before his bout against Daniel Cormier at UFC 200.

Shevchenko still showed up at T-Mobile Arena after being denied her long-awaited title shot when Nunes fell ill in the hours before their bout, which will be a rematch of Nunes' narrow win over Shevchenko in March 2016.

Shevchenko was furious with Nunes, claiming

the champion's drastic weight cut was responsible for her illness. She also echoed UFC President Dana White's statement that Nunes was medically cleared to fight, but declined to go from the hospital to the cage. "You can't just say, 'I don't want to fight,'" Shevchenko said. "I couldn't believe at the very last moment that this would happen to me. Of course I am upset. ... I understand what she wanted. She wanted to cut (weight) in a very short time. You can-

not do this. Our bodies need more time to recover." Shevchenko was greeted with loud cheers when she was shown on the arena's video boards before the main event. Overeem (43-15) and Werdum (21-7-1) finished a trilogy of fights between two of the most accomplished mixed martial artists of their generation. Werdum won their first meeting in the Pride promotion in 2006, and Overeem won their Strikeforce heavyweight rematch in 2011. — AP



AUCKLAND: British and Irish Lions head coach Warren Gatland, right, talks with former All Blacks captain Sean Fitzpatrick ahead of the third and final rugby test between the British and Irish Lions and the All Blacks at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Saturday. — AP

GOLF

MUNOZ CARRIES TWO-SHOT LEAD INTO FINAL ROUND

WASHINGTON: PGA Tour rookie Sebastian Munoz fired a two-under 68 on Saturday to maintain his lead at the Greenbrier Classic as he seeks to become the first wire-to-wire winner of the event. Munoz reached 14-under 196 and had a two-shot lead over Robert Streb, of the US, who shot a five-under 65 and was alone in second place at the Old White TPC course in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

"I think I had a good round today by the way I just hit the ball from the tee again," he said. "A lot of missed fairways in the first nine. Then we kind of managed to settle in with a couple clutch putts, save par, and good chips." Americans Xander Schauffele and Jamie Love, who both shot 66, were tied for third place at 11-under 199, just three shots back of Munoz. Kelly Kraft (67), Russell Henley (68) and 53-year-old Davis Love (68) were tied for fifth at 10-under 200.

The 24-year-old Munoz is hoping to join compatriot Camilo Villegas as the only Colombians to win on the USPGA Tour. Villegas has won four times on the Tour, including the 2008 Tour Championship and the 2014 Wyndham Championship.

Munoz's opened his week with a record setting 61 that marked the lowest first round score in tournament history. But he will have to battle tournament past to claim his first victory as the Greenbrier Classic has never had a first, second or third round leader go on to win. Munoz rolled in four birdies on Saturday to raise his three round birdie total to a tournament-leading 19. He began his Saturday round with a birdie on the par-four opening hole but then ran into trouble on the front nine with bogeys on No. 2 and No. 5.

He made birdie on the par-four sixth and then added two more birdies (13th and 15th) on the back nine. He finished with two

bogeys and 12 pars. "I try to play boring golf. I try to hit the fairway and hit the greens," Munoz said. "Even though I try, I just seem to put myself into some trouble and then trying to make something happen and then kind of get on a good run, sometimes bad runs."

Munoz will be paired with the 30-year-old Streb in the final round today. This is Streb's fourth start at the Greenbrier Classic with his best finish coming in 2015 when he tied for second. Love could become the oldest winner on the PGA Tour in his 741st tournament if he is able to come from behind in the final round. Sam Snead holds the record at 52 years, 10 months and eight days at the 1965 Wyndham Championship. — AFP



Sebastian Munoz

CYCLING

'MONSTER' MONT DU CHAT LOOMS FOR CHRIS FROOME

NANTUA: It's been described as "savage" and a "monster" and the Mont du Chat climb on yesterday's ninth stage of the Tour de France has the peloton quaking in its boots. It is 8.7km long and has an average gradient of 10.3 percent, but it is its position at the end of the 181.5km stage from Nantua to Chambéry that makes it most daunting, according to race leader Chris Froome, because it will be the seventh climb of the day-and third hors category one. "Given where Mont du Chat is in the stage, coming after four big climbs already, and especially after the stage we've just had (on Saturday), it could be a very decisive climb of the Tour," warned Froome, the reigning champion. "Most of the time the gradient is around 10 percent and it's not a short climb either-it takes over half an hour to get up there, 30-35 minutes or so. I think we could see some really big differences, especially knowing from there it's just descending and then 10 kilometres of flat to the finish. "I'm expecting the general classification to get blown wide open!" Froome and many of his rivals tackled the Mont du Chat at the Critérium du Dauphiné last month, with Denmark's Jakob Fuglsang winning the stage there, which also ended in a valley.

But Froome, Italian Fabio Aru, currently third overall, and Australia's Richie Porte, who is fifth, all finished alongside the Dane in a

four-man sprint finish. Aru, who won Wednesday's fifth stage of the Tour, the only summit finish so far, was actually first over the Mont du Chat so may have the edge in confidence coming into the stage, although it's far tougher than the stage in which the climb featured at the Dauphiné.

"It's really a monster of a stage, for sure there's going to be some changes on GC (the overall standings)," said Briton Simon Yates, the young rider leader. He finished more than two and a half minutes behind Fuglsang on that softer stage six of the Dauphiné.

"It's right up there with the hardest stages (of the Tour)," added Froome. The Mont du Chat has earned everyone's respect. "That climb's savage, especially coming quite late in the race," added Froome.

Saturday's stage was faster and tougher than most contenders were expecting, covering more than 46km in the first hour of racing, despite its lumpy nature. "We'll feel that one in the legs for sure (on Sunday)," said Porte. Two-time former winner Alberto Contador concurred: "We finished ahead of schedule because it went fast all day. We'll pay for that (on Sunday)." And with rain predicted, although cooler temperatures to accompany that, the change in weather could also have an impact after the last four baking hot days. — AFP



CHAMBERY: Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, speeds downhill during the ninth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 181.5 kilometers (112.8 miles) with start in Nantua and finish in Chambéry, France, yesterday. — AP

ROCKETS SIGN HARDEN TO \$228 MILLION DEAL, NBA'S RICHEST

LAS VEGAS: The Beard has the richest contract in NBA history. The Houston Rockets signed guard James Harden to a four-year contract extension for about \$160 million Saturday, giving him a total six-year deal with \$228 million guaranteed. With Harden under contract on his existing deal for another two seasons, the extension will not affect Houston's aggressive pursuit of free agents this summer as the Rockets try to make a run at the Golden State Warriors.

"Since he arrived in Houston, James has exhibited the incredible work ethic, desire to win, and passion to be the best

that has made him one of the most unique and talented superstars in the history of the game," Rockets owner Leslie Alexander said in a statement issued by the team. "Additionally, the commitment he has shown to our organization, the city of Houston, and Rockets fans all over the world makes him a perfect leader in our pursuit of another championship."

Harden is coming off of his finest season. Moving to point guard for new coach Mike D'Antoni, Harden averaged 29.1 points, an NBA-leading 11.2 assists and 8.1 rebounds and finished second

in the MVP race to former Oklahoma City teammate Russell Westbrook.

Harden's do-it-all season helped the Rockets bounce back from a massively disappointing 2015-16 season that collapsed under the weight of chemistry issues with the All-Star guard and big man Dwight Howard. With Howard gone, the Rockets put Harden at the center of everything they do on offense, and it paid off in a major way.

Houston went 55-27 in the regular season and beat Westbrook and the Thunder in the first round of the Western Conference semifinals.

"Houston is home for me," Harden said. "Mr. Alexander has shown he is fully committed to winning and my teammates and I are going to keep putting in the work to get better and compete for the title."

ESPN first reported the contract details. Harden seemed to run out of gas a bit in their semifinals loss to the San Antonio Spurs, and GM Daryl Morey has worked quickly to get him some help this summer.

Morey traded for All-Star point guard Chris Paul, a bold move that gives the Rockets as talented a backcourt as any

team in the league. Morey also signed rugged forward P.J. Tucker to boost the defense and brought Nene back as well.

And he's not done yet. This mechanics for this extension are new to the NBA in the latest version of the collective bargaining agreement. Harden was named first team All-NBA, making him eligible for a lucrative, four-year "super-max" extension that gives him long-term security and also sends a message to the rest of the league that the Rockets are committed to stability as they try to challenge the Warriors in the West. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Dee Gordon #9 of the Miami Marlins dives and throws to first base throwing out Brandon Crawford #35 of the San Francisco Giants on the play in the bottom of the six inning at AT&T Park on Saturday in San Francisco, California. — AFP

BASEBALL

FRAZIER'S 3-RUN HOMER GIVES YANKEES WIN OVER BREWERS

NEW YORK: Clint Frazier hit a three-run homer off Corey Knebel with one out in the ninth, lifting the New York Yankees over the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 on Saturday. Frazier turned on a 1-0 pitch from Knebel (0-2) for his second career homer and first game-ending shot. He threw his helmet as he approached his teammates at home plate, unveiling his mop of red hair, which was then doused in yellow Gatorade. Frazier had three hits and a career-high four RBIs in his sixth game. Dellin Betances struck out two in a perfect eighth for New York, and Aroldis Chapman (2-0) struck out the side in the ninth. Milwaukee left-hander Brent Suter allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. The NL Central-leading Brewers had won five in a row.

MARLINS 5, GIANTS 4

Justin Bour hit his 20th home run, Marcell Ozuna drove in two runs and the Miami Marlins held on to beat the San Francisco Giants. Christian Yelich and J.T. Realmuto added two hits apiece and All-Star Giancarlo Stanton doubled and scored while helping Chris O'Grady to a victory in his major league debut for the Marlins. San Francisco scored a run in the ninth off closer A.J. Ramos and had runners at the corners with two outs before Hunter Pence struck out looking to end the game. Three months after being released outright by the Los Angeles Angels' Double-A team before signing a minor league contract with Miami in May, O'Grady (1-0) allowed three runs on five hits over 5 1/3 innings with four strikeouts and two walks. Jeff Samardzija (4-10) allowed four runs in seven innings.

DODGERS 5, ROYALS 4

All-Star rookie Cody Bellinger drew a bases-

loaded walk to force in the winning run in the 10th inning and the NL West-leading Dodgers rallied to beat Kansas City for their fifth straight victory. The Dodgers (60-29) reached the 60-win mark before the All-Star break for the first time since 1974. They are just the third team in franchise history to do so since 1933, joining the 1973 and '74 squads that had 63 wins each. Royals reliever Scott Alexander (1-3) loaded the bases on consecutive walks to Chase Utley, Corey Seager and Justin Turner leading off the inning. He was replaced by Kelvin Herrera. With the infield drawn in, fans chanted "Cody! Cody!" as Bellinger worked a full count before walking to force in Utley. Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the second for the Dodgers, who blew a 3-0 lead before tying the game 4-4 on Bellinger's 25th homer in the eighth. Ross Stripling (1-3) got the win with one strikeout on 14 pitches in the 10th. Salvador Perez hit a go-ahead homer in the top of the eighth off Pedro Baez, giving Kansas City a 4-3 lead.

RAYS 1, RED SOX 0

Alex Cobb pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning and the Rays beat the Red Sox with some help from a replay reversal. Cobb (7-6) retired 11 straight over one stretch. Alex Colome got the final four outs for his 24th save, finishing Tampa Bay's three-hitter. The Red Sox put runners on second and third with one out in the ninth. Hanley Ramirez then struck out swinging. After rookie Andrew Benintendi was walked intentionally, Chris Young popped out to end the game. Boston's Rick Porcello (4-11) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked none in his first complete game of the season. Jesus Sucre drove in the game's only run with a sacrifice fly in the sec-

ond. The inning was kept alive by a replay reversal of a double-play call.

BRAVES 13, NATIONALS 0

Julio Teheran pitched seven strong innings and drove in a career-high three runs, leading Atlanta to the easy victory. Nick Markakis and Johnn Camargo each had three hits for the Braves, who had dropped three of four. Teheran (7-6) gave up four hits while walking two and striking out five to improve to 6-0 in nine road starts this season. He singled twice against Stephen Strasburg to improve to 4 for 7 in his career against him. Strasburg (9-3) was hit on his hip by a line drive from Markakis in the third and left after the inning. He gave up seven hits and six runs - three earned - in his shortest outing of season.

BLUE JAYS 7, ASTROS 2

Josh Donaldson and Troy Tulowitzki homered, helping the Blue Jays to the win. Donaldson hit a three-run shot in the fifth inning for his first homer since June 11 at Seattle and No. 150 for his career. Tulowitzki connected for the second straight game as Toronto bounced back from Friday night's 12-2 loss. Marcus Stroman (9-5) pitched seven effective innings as the Blue Jays beat the Astros for the 10th time in their last 13 meetings. The right-hander, who was removed from his previous start because of a blister on his pitching hand, allowed one run and six hits. Marwin Gonzalez homered in the ninth for Houston, which hit into four double plays over the first five innings. Mike Fiers (5-4) yielded three runs and five hits in six innings.

CARDINALS 4, METS 1

Cardinals rookie Paul DeJong homered as part of a four-hit game, and Adam Wainwright won his third consecutive start. Wainwright (10-5) struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings. He allowed one run and five hits. Seung Hwan Oh pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 21 chances. Jay Bruce hit his 23rd homer for New York, and T.J. Rivera had three hits. Zack Wheeler (4-7) pitched six innings of two-run ball in his second start since returning from the disabled list after being sidelined by biceps tendinitis.

ORIOLES 5, TWINS 1

Jonathan Schoop and Mark Trumbo homered, Wade Miley produced his best start in more than five weeks and Baltimore stopped a five-game losing streak. Manny Machado added an RBI double to help the Orioles beat the Twins for the first time in six meetings this season. This was just their third win in 11 games. After Miley (4-7) allowed Miguel Sano's 21st home run, the most by a Twins player before the break since Justin Morneau with 21 in 2009, Schoop trumped his American League All-Star teammate with a towering two-run shot in the fourth inning off Adalberto Mejia

(4-4). The ball reached the third deck above left field, estimated by Major League Baseball's Statcast system at 462 feet. Miley was charged with eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

PADRES 2, PHILLIES 1

Austin Hedges drove in the winning run for San Diego for the second straight game, and Jhoulys Chacin pitched 6 1/3 strong innings. Carlos Asuaje added an RBI triple for the Padres, who have won five of six. Maikel Franco homered and Tommy Joseph had two hits for Philadelphia, which has lost five straight and seven of nine. Chacin (8-7) allowed one run and three hits. Brandon Maurer pitched a scoreless ninth for his 19th save. Aaron Nola (6-6) tied career highs by going eight innings and striking out nine, but he was the hard-luck loser. Nola gave up four hits and walked two.

PIRATES 4, CUBS 2

Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and Ivan Nova pitched three-hit ball into the seventh, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates past the Chicago Cubs. Josh Bell had three hits and two runs scored, while Francisco Cervelli and Jordy Mercer each drove in a run for the Pirates. Ian Happ and Kyle Schwarber had back-to-back home runs for Chicago, which has not won consecutive games since a three-game streak June 18-20. Nova (9-6) struck out six and walked one in 6 2/3 innings. Besides the homers, the only other hit he allowed was a second-inning single to Schwarber. Felipe Rivero, who reached 102 on the radar gun, got the final four outs for his sixth save. Cubs starter Jake Arrieta (8-7) allowed four runs (three earned) and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 4, TIGERS 0

Mike Clevinger held Detroit to three hits in six innings and outpitched Justin Verlander, All-Star Michael Brantley broke a scoreless tie with an RBI double, and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Tigers. Clevinger (5-3) allowed only one runner to reach second base and won his third straight decision. Verlander (5-6) gave up one run in 6 2/3 innings and lost to Cleveland for the second time this week. The right-hander struck out six after the Indians snapped his streak of 331 consecutive games with at least one strikeout last Sunday.

RANGERS 5, ANGELS 2

Adrian Beltre and Drew Robinson hit two-run homers and the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels. It was the Rangers' fifth straight game with multiple homers as they moved within a game of .500. The Angels dropped to three games below .500 for the first time since May 13. Beltre homered against Angels starter Jesse Chavez in the third inning to give Texas a 3-1 lead. It was his 452nd career home run, moving him into a tie with Carl

Yastrzemski for 38th all-time. Tyson Ross (2-1) limited Los Angeles to four hits and one run in 5 2/3 innings. Chavez (5-10) allowed seven hits and three runs in five innings. He struck out six and walked two.

WHITE SOX 5, ROCKIES 4

Tim Anderson homered off Colorado closer Greg Holland leading off the ninth inning, lifting the Chicago White Sox past the Rockies. Anderson, who also hit a home run in Friday night's loss to Colorado, drove a 1-2 pitch from Holland (1-1) into the stand of evergreens beyond the center-field wall. The win snapped a three-game losing streak by the White Sox and denied the Rockies' bid for successive wins for the first time in three weeks. David Robertson pitched a perfect ninth for his 13th save, striking out the last two batters, including Charlie Blackmon on a disputed called third strike. Blackmon heatedly argued the call with plate umpire Sam Holbrook, claiming it was low, and threw his helmet and bat to the ground after getting tossed. Manager Bud Black also was ejected for arguing the call with Holbrook. Trailing 4-3 in the eighth, Colorado evened the score when Mark Reynolds hit a leadoff triple off reliever Tommy Kahnle (1-3) and scored on Gerardo Parra's sacrifice fly.

REDS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 0

Joey Votto, Scooter Gennett and Tucker Barnhart homered, helping rookie Luis Castillo to his first major league win in the Cincinnati Reds' victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks. Castillo (1-1) allowed three hits over 6 2-3 innings, striking out eight with a walk. It was his longest outing of the season. The Diamondbacks managed only the three hits and lost their fourth game in the past five. The Reds took control quickly, their first three batters of the game against Diamondbacks starter Tajuan Walker (6-4) coming around to score. Billy Hamilton started the game with a walk, stole second base and scored on Zack Cozart's triple. Votto's National League-leading 26th home run of the year gave the Reds a 3-0 lead with an out yet to be recorded.

ATHLETICS 4, MARINERS 3

Ryon Healy bounced a ground-rule RBI double to right-center with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Oakland Athletics a victory over the Seattle Mariners. Rajai Davis opened the ninth with a slow-rolling infield single to third off Edwin Diaz (2-4), who relieved to open the inning. Davis stole second as Matt Joyce struck out. Yonder Alonso was walked intentionally with two outs and Healy then ripped an 0-2 pitch into the gap. Sean Doolittle (1-0) pitched the eighth for the victory. Santiago Casilla finished for his 15th save, despite allowing a two-out double. Alonso and Marcus Semien had solo homers for the Athletics off rookie Andrew Moore, who allowed three runs in six innings in his third start. —AP

MLB Results/Standings

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

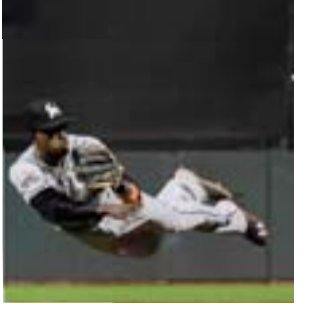
American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	51	36	.586
Boston	50	38	.568	Atlanta	42	44	.488
NY Yankees	45	40	.529	Chicago Cubs	40	46	.465
Tampa Bay	46	43	.517	St. Louis	39	46	.459
Toronto	41	46	.471	Pittsburgh	28	58	.326
Baltimore	41	46	.471	Cincinnati	38	49	.437
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	47	39	.547	Milwaukee	49	41	.544
Minnesota	45	42	.517	Chicago Cubs	43	44	.494
Kansas City	44	42	.512	St. Louis	42	45	.483
Detroit	38	48	.442	Pittsburgh	41	47	.466
Chicago White Sox	38	48	.442	Cincinnati	38	49	.437
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	59	29	.670	LA Dodgers	60	29	.674
Texas	43	44	.494	Arizona	53	35	.602
LA Angels	44	47	.484	Colorado	51	39	.567
Seattle	42	47	.472	San Diego	38	49	.437
Oakland	39	49	.443	San Francisco	34	55	.382

Sports

Robert Whittaker edges Romero, grabs interim belt at UFC 213



Frazier's 3-run homer gives Yankees win over Brewers



MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

PYEONGCHANG OLYMPICS ARE ICY PATH TO WARMER KOREAN RELATIONS

Page 13



SPIELBERG: (From L) Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel (2nd), Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas (1st) and Red Bull's Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo (3rd) celebrate on the podium after the Formula One Austria Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, yesterday. — AFP

MOTOR RACING

BOTTAS WINS AUSTRIAN GP, VETTEL SECOND

SPIELBERG: Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas made a great start from pole position to win the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday, while Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished just behind in second to extend his championship lead over main rival Lewis Hamilton to 20 points.

Bottas did just enough to hold off Vettel's late charge, with the German driver crossing the line 0.6 seconds behind. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo showed great ability to defend third place from Hamilton, who almost passed the Australian driver on the last two laps but had to settle for fourth.

Bottas clinched the second victory of his career - both have come since he joined Mercedes from Williams this season. His first career podium was on the same Spielberg track, when he finished third for Williams in 2014. Bottas is now only 15 points behind Hamilton in the overall standings and is close to getting into contention for the title. Hamilton started from eighth on the grid yesterday. The British driver had the third fastest qualifying time behind Vettel and Bottas, but was demoted five places for an unauthorized gearbox change after the last race in Azerbaijan two weeks ago, which Ricciardo won. Ricciardo, who is fourth overall, has been consistent this season, clinching his fifth straight podium. At the start of the race, Fernando Alonso had to retire his McLaren

after a collision caused by Toro Rosso driver Daniil Kvyat. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was slowed at the start by a clutch problem, which dropped him back in the field where he was collected by Alonso's out-of-control McLaren - the fifth time in the last seven races Verstappen has failed to finish. Bottas got away cleanly as Vettel made a somewhat sluggish start. Vettel contested the Mercedes driver's start on his radio, saying Bottas had jumped the lights, but the Finnish driver was later cleared by stewards of any wrongdoing.

It was a chaotic start in midfield as Alonso's car was sent spinning and others avoided him. Stewards decided Kvyat caused the crash and he was given a drive through penalty. Alonso has completed only two races in a frustrating season - but at least this time the Honda engine on his McLaren was not to blame.

By lap 10 of 71, Hamilton had passed Sergio Perez's Force India and Haas driver Romain Grosjean to move into fifth behind Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen and Ricciardo. Up ahead, Bottas was eight seconds clear of Vettel on the picturesque 4.3-kilometer (2.7-mile) track nestled amid the rolling hills and forests beneath the Styrian Alps.

Hamilton was the first of the top five to go into the pits, changing his tires on Lap



SPIELBERG: Drivers steer their cars after the start during the Formula One Austria Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg.—AFP

32. Ricciardo and Vettel made their changes soon after. This shook up the order, with Bottas now leading from Finnish countryman Raikkonen - both yet to change their tires. Vettel was in third ahead of Ricciardo and Hamilton, who was complaining about a balance problem on the rear of his car.

Bottas could not last much longer on his tires and finally came in on Lap 41. After a

somewhat cumbersome tire change, he came out behind new leader Raikkonen then overtook him again on Lap 44 to regain control of the race.

That prompted Ferrari to pit Raikkonen, jumping Vettel up to second, about 4 seconds behind Bottas. Vettel was working hard to close the gap on Bottas, while Hamilton complained of increased blistering on his

front tires. Still, Hamilton in fourth was gaining time on Ricciardo, despite the problem. In the end, Hamilton crossed the line 1.4 seconds behind. Williams drivers Felipe Massa and Lance Stroll made fine starts from 17th and 18th on the grid, and both finished in the top 10. Danish driver Kevin Magnussen (Haas) and Spaniard Carlos Sainz Jr. (Toro Rosso) also failed to finish. — AP



LONDON: This file photo taken on January 21, 2017 shows a combination of pictures created in London on January 21, 2017 shows Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney celebrating after scoring. — AFP

SOCCER

ROONEY REJOINS EVERTON FROM MANCHESTER UNITED

LONDON: England and Manchester United's record goalscorer Wayne Rooney completed a move back to his first club Everton yesterday. The 31-year-old who had become a peripheral figure under Jose Mourinho last season signed a two-year contract on a free transfer according to the BBC bringing the curtain down on 13 trophy-laden years at Old Trafford. Rooney whose move comes the day after United announced they had agreed terms with Everton over buying their leading scorer Romelu Lukaku will hope the switch also revives his international career which also stalled last season.

"It is some time since I said that the only Premier League club I would play for other than Manchester United was Everton, so I am delighted that the move has happened," he said in a statement to The Press Association. "Thirteen years ago I went to United with the intention of winning trophies and I have been fortunate to be a part

of one of the most successful periods in the club's history.

"I have come back to Everton because I believe (Everton manager) Ronald Koeman is building a team that can win something and I look forward to playing my part in making that a reality for the club. I have supported since a boy," Koeman said in Rooney who in his time at United won among other trophies five Premier League titles and a Champions League - he was buying a player with a surefire winner's mentality.

"Wayne has shown me that ambition that we need and that winning mentality - he knows how to win titles and I'm really happy he's decided to come home," said Koeman.

"He loves Everton and he was desperate to come back. He is still only 31 and I don't have any doubts about his qualities. It's fantastic he's here," Mourinho for his part said he admired Rooney but understood both his

desire for playing more football and to return to the club that nurtured his talent. "It is no secret that I have long been an admirer of Wayne," said Mourinho. "He has been a model professional throughout his time at the club and will remain in the history books for many years to come. "It is never easy to see a great player playing less football than he would like and I could not stand in his way when he asked to go back to Everton. "His experience, focus and determination will be missed and I wish him well for the future."

Rooney, who had at one point been linked with a move to China though interest cooled, largely had a season to forget last year. He made just 15 Premier League starts and came on in another 10 - and was a non-used substitute in the League Cup win over Southampton and was sent on in the 90th minute of the 2-0 victory over Ajax in the Europa League final. — AFP



TESLA REGISTRATIONS DROP IN KEY MARKET



JAKARTA: Indonesians purchase clothes at a traditional market. — AFP

AIR INDIA BREAK-UP AN IMPENDING OPTION

MODI WANTS SALE PROCESS TO START BY EARLY 2018

NEW DELHI: India is considering selling state-owned Air India in parts to make it attractive to potential buyers, as it reviews options to divest the loss-making flagship carrier, several government officials familiar with the situation said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet gave the go-ahead last month for the government to try to sell the airline, after successive governments spent billions of dollars in recent years to keep the airline going.

Air India - founded in the 1930s and known to generations of Indians for its Maharajah mascot - is saddled with a debt burden of \$8.5 billion and a bloated cost structure. The government has injected \$3.6 billion since 2012 to bail out the airline. Once the nation's largest carrier, its market share in the booming domestic market has slumped to 13 percent as private carriers such as InterGlobe Aviation's IndiGo and Jet Airways have grown.

Ambitious timeline

Previous attempts to offload the airline have been unsuccessful. If Modi can pull this off, it will buttress his credentials as a reformer brave enough to wade into some of the country's most intractable problems. His office has set a deadline of early next year to get the sale process underway, the officials said, declining to be named as they were not authorized to speak publicly about the plans.

The timeline is ambitious and the process fraught, with opinion divided on the best way forward: should the government retain a stake

or exit completely, and should it risk being left with the unprofitable pieces while buyers pick off the better businesses, officials said. Already, a labor union that represents 2,500 of the airline's 40,000 employees has opposed the idea of a sale even though it is ideologically aligned to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Officials who have to make it happen are grappling with the sheer scale of the exercise. Air India has six subsidiaries - three of which are loss-making - with assets worth about \$4.6 billion. It has an estimated \$1.24 billion worth of real estate, including two hotels, where ownership is split among various government entities. No one has properly valued the company's various businesses and assets before, two officials with direct knowledge of the process said. Earlier this month, about \$30 million worth of art, including paintings by artist MF Husain, went missing from its Mumbai offices, chairman Ashwani Lohani said. "The exercise is complex and there is no easy way out," said Jitendra Bhargava, operational head of Air India in 1997-2010.

"At this juncture, selling even part of Air India is far from certain," Lohani declined to comment on the sale process. The prime minister's office and the civil aviation ministry also declined to comment.

Back to Tata?

A committee of five senior federal ministers, led by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, is expected to meet this month and begin iron-



NEW DELHI: In this photograph released by the Indian Press Information Bureau on July 4, 2017, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he leaves for a visit to Israel on an Air India plane. — AFP

ing out the finer details of the plan. Besides deciding about the size of the stake sale, the panel will set the bidding norms. It will also take a call on the carrier's debt, demerger and divestment of its three profit-making sub-

siidiaries. Modi's office has said the government has no business being in hospitality and travel, suggesting the prime minister wants to sell as much of Air India as possible, the officials said. Analysts say the government may

prefer to keep the airline in Indian hands. At least two potential Indian suitors - the Tata Sons conglomerate and IndiGo - have shown early interest.

In recent weeks, officials in Modi's office and from the civil aviation ministry met Ratan Tata, the patriarch of the \$100 billion-a-year Tata Sons, to gauge the company's interest in a deal, a close aide to Modi said. Tata would be an attractive buyer for the government. The company founded and operated Air India before it was nationalized in 1953. "Seems like Tata will come forward and make the best offer," the aide said, adding the government would be keen to see that jobs are not lost. Tata, however, already has two other airline joint ventures in India, and it's not clear what parts of Air India it would be interested in. A Tata spokeswoman declined to comment.

IndiGo said on Thursday it was interested in the international operations and in Air India Express, a low-cost carrier. Modi's office has told officials to work out exactly how much each of Air India's subsidiaries are worth to make it easier to break up the carrier if needed, two of the officials said. The government is expected to appoint outside consultants to help with the exercise. Anshuman Deb, aviation analyst at ICICI Securities, said splitting the airline will maximize value for the government. "Let us be realistic. It's very clear that a single buyer cannot buy an entire state-owned company," said a senior aviation ministry official involved in the process. — Reuters

GROWING CHORUS DENOUNCES SEXIST SILICON VALLEY CULTURE

SAN FRANCISCO: A growing chorus of voices denouncing sexist culture is echoing through male-dominated Silicon Valley, knocking a number of internet industry executives from their perches. Accusations concerning the lack of women in tech jobs and unfair, or downright crude, treatment endured by some in the industry have simmered for years, occasionally reaching a boil.

Now increasing numbers of women are going public with complaints of gender-based discrimination-in some cases leading men to step down. Uber's embattled chief executive Travis Kalanick resigned last month, yielding to pressure from investors seeking to clean up the company's allegedly toxic corporate culture.

His departure capped a rocky period for the global ridesharing giant, which has been roiled by disturbing reports of cutthroat workplace conditions, harassment and discrimination. Before Kalanick's departure, Uber said it had fired 20 people after examining 215 claims of discrimination, harassment, unprofessional behavior and bullying.

'Despicably unfair'

June also saw venture capitalist Justin Caldbeck take an indefinite leave of absence from Binary Capital in Silicon Valley in the face of allegations he made sexual advances towards female entrepreneurs interested in funding.

"To say I'm sorry about my behavior is a categorical understatement," Caldbeck said in released statement. "The power dynamic that exists in venture capital is despicably unfair." In his statement, Caldbeck referred to the influence gap between male venture capitalists and female entrepreneurs as "frightening," and called the environment "gender-hostile."

A few days later, tech sector investor Dave McClure confessed to being "a creep" for making "advances towards multiple women in work-related situations, where it was clearly inappropriate." "I selfishly took advantage of those situations where I should have known better," McClure said in an apology posted online. "My behavior was inexcusable and wrong."

The public apologies came in the wake of a New York Times article in which a dozen women in the technology world denounced what they saw as a culture of harassment, some pointing specifically at McClure or Caldbeck. "It's important to expose the type of behavior that's been reported in the last few weeks, so the community can recognize and address these problems," Stitch Fix founder and chief executive Katrina Lake was quoted as saying in the Times story.

Double-whammy

Women in Silicon Valley face a double-whammy, said French entrepreneur Eliane Fiolet, because the tech companies as well as the world of finance here are male dominated. Fiolet-who settled here and co-founded successful technology website Ubergizmo-estimated that women represent a scant 10 percent or so of the tech sector. Concerns about a lack of diversity in Silicon Valley have caused tech giants to implement programs to cultivate richer gender and racial mixes on company campuses. — AFP

EGYPT TO DOUBLE ITS HIGH-QUALITY COTTON PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

CAIRO: Egypt aims to double production of its most famous export, the silky soft cotton once known as "white gold", after a period of slumping output, an Agriculture Ministry spokesman said on Saturday. Hamed Abdel-Dayem told Reuters production should rise to 1.4 million qintar (160 kg) in the 2017-18 fiscal year that started in July from 700,000 qintar a year earlier. All the cotton will be exported.

The government aims to increase the price of the long staple cotton to more than 3000 Egyptian pounds (\$168.07) per qintar, which will all be exported, the spokesman said. Production of the cotton, used in luxury bedding, has fallen sharply since 2011, a year of political upheaval that coincided with looser regulations that degraded the quality of local cotton.

Egypt's sunny skies and superior seed help it grow a cotton known for unusually long fibers that produce a light durable

fabric with an attractive sheen and soft touch. Long-staple sells at 155 US cents per lb, about twice the price of common short-staple cotton. Its return to world markets could provide a lucrative export opportunity at a time when Egypt has a huge trade deficit and is seeking to re-launch its stagnant economy. In 2016 Egypt banned all but the highest quality cotton seed, dramatically shrinking the area under cultivation but restoring quality, in a bid to save its historic crop.

This year Egypt grew about 220,000 acres (89,000 hectares) of long-staple cotton compared with 130,000 acres (52,600 hectares) in 2016-2107, Abdel-Dayem said. Farmers, spinners, and exporters say the weakness of the Egyptian pound following its flotation in November and a scandal over the alleged sale of falsely labeled Egyptian cotton have increased demand for the real thing, injecting life into a historic industry on its deathbed.— Reuters



FOMC CLOUDS THE MARKET

NBK MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, central bank comments and rate expectations continued to dictate movements in the global financial markets. Meanwhile, the US dollar found renewed support amid better than expected ISM data and a mostly positive job report. However, the release of the June FOMC meeting minutes showed that Fed officials were divided on several fronts.

The timing of balance sheet reduction, the outlook for inflation and employment, and the impact of these economic conditions on the future of monetary policy were some of the main areas of conflict. These uncertainties have continued to weigh on the dollar. Market expectations remain skewed towards one more Fed rate hike this year. But the prospects of such a hike, given these uncertainties, are not as clear as they have previously been. Adding to doubts over Fed policy has been the recent US employment landscape as the past three months have seen relatively weak nonfarm payroll figures.

Meanwhile, the surge in global bond yields clearly reflects the movement towards withdrawal from monetary stimulus by major central banks. Specifically, German 10 year bund yields surged to an 18-month high amid the release of the ECB's hawkish meeting minutes, German yields closed the week at 0.57%, rising from 0.23%. Similarly, US treasury yields rose closed the week at 2.393% after reaching a low of 2.130%.

Additionally, Fed Vice Chairman Fischer said Thursday in a speech that the uncertainty about US fiscal policy could be holding back economic growth, as a result of the negative impact on business investment. "By one measure, US policy uncertainty was elevated for much of the recovery, subsided in 2013, and then rose again late last year, underpinned by uncertainty about policies associated with health care, regulation, taxes, and trade" he said and added that "mitigating the damping effect of uncertainty by providing more clarity on the future direction of government policy is highly desirable."

On the currency front, the US Dollar initially gained across the board after the upbeat ISM data reaching 96.519. The currency then lost traction after disappointing ADP non-farm data and the release of the FOMC minutes from June's meeting reaching a low 95.811. On Friday, the currency traded in a volatile manner after the non-farm report and closed the week at 96.00. The Euro opened the week on a strong footing at 1.1418. The single currency then reached a high of 1.1427 as minutes from the European Central Bank's June meeting revealed that members discussed removing the easing bias from its latest monetary policy statement. However, the currency lost some its momentum and closed the week at 1.1399.

The Sterling Pound traded in a relatively tight range initially. The currency then dropped dramatically after a string of weaker-than-expected economic data that raised doubt on whether the Bank of England is ready to raise rates. The Pound finally settled at 1.2891 at the end of the week.

The Japanese Yen dropped across the board last week as central bank expectations pushed global bond yields sharply higher. The drop in the Yen indicates that the market expects the divergence in policy between the Bank of Japan and other major central banks to widen further amid comments from the BoJ that it will continue its QE program until its 2% inflation target is

met. The Yen opened the week at 112.12 and closed at 113.91.

On the commodities side, oil prices closed lower as data showed US production and rig counts rose last week while OPEC exports hit a 2017 high, casting doubt over efforts by producers to curb global oversupply. Brent futures closed the week at \$46.83 after falling to a low of \$46.28. Similarly, West Texas Intermediate closed at \$44.36, after falling to \$43.78.

Manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMI surge

The ISM manufacturing index surged to 57.8 in June from 54.9 in May, the highest reading in nearly 3 years, and well above analysts' forecasts. The employment component of the ISM survey rose sharply in June which bodes well for non-farm payrolls data which is due to be released on Friday. As for the non-manufacturing PMI the reading increases by half a point from May's 56.9 to June's 57.4 reading.

Mixed jobs data

Jobs data in the US has softened approaching the summer time. The private sector in the US added 158K jobs in June, versus the forecasted 184K. That was the lowest reading since January 2017. Companies added 158,000 positions for the month, a number that economists who released the report said was still strong but stood well below the robust 230,000 number the report showed in May. All of the June jobs in the ADP's count came from services, with professional and business positions showing the biggest gain at 69,000. Administrative and support services contributed 43,000 while the trade, transportation and utilities category grew by 30,000.

Non-farm payroll report for June has shown the economy created 222K jobs from 152K in the previous month, beating the market expectations of 175K. Employment rose in health care, social assistance, financial activities, and mining. Employment growth has averaged 180,000 per month thus far this year, in line with the average monthly gain of 187,000 in 2016. The unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.4% in June from 4.3% in the prior month.

Wages however, grew a consistent 0.2% though below expectations for a 0.3% increase. Year over year, wages have grown around 2.5%. This marks the eighth year in which wages have not grown over 4% year over year. Slow wages growth may limit how high the Fed can hike rates and raises questions about the longer-term health of the US economy. This suggests more progress can be extracted from the job market.

EUROPE & UK

Euro area manufacturing on the rise
Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index was slightly higher than forecast at 57.4 in the previous month. The sector improved to its fastest in over six years in June, indicating continued strong manufacturing growth last month. Output expanded on the back of growing inflows of new work, boosting companies to keep the pace of job creation close to May's 20-year survey record high. The PMI has now remained above the neutral 50.0 mark throughout the past four years.

Euro PPI declines

In Europe, the Producer Price Index contin-

ued to post declines for the fourth month in a row. The figure, released at -0.4% missed the estimate of -0.2%, underscoring weak inflation in the Eurozone. Meanwhile, ECB Board Member Praet said on Tuesday that a continued recovery in euro zone inflation is "crucially contingent" on low borrowing costs and, in turn, on an easy monetary policy from the European Central Bank.

UK PMIs send mixed signals

The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index showed further expansions of both production and new order volumes in the prior month. However, the PMI was disappointing in contrast, dropping to 54.3 from 56.7 in May. The average PMI for second quarter came at 55.9, the highest in 3 years suggesting that the weakness in the pound has supported manufacturing exports and domestic demand has remained relatively strong.

Slowing momentum across UK's service sector in June indicates that Brexit uncertainty and weak consumer confidence is starting to take its toll on the economy. Activity in the service sector fell to four months low from a previous reading of 54.5 to 53.9. Moreover, growth in new orders fell to a nine months low, indicating weaker prospects of future activity. Overall, the economy is likely to lose momentum in the second half of 2017 that could disappoint some BoE officials who want to raise interest rates to control inflation.

ASIA

The RBA keeps its policy unchanged

The Reserve Bank of Australia kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged as it held the cash rate at 1.5 percent. Unemployment rate fell to 5.5 percent in the previous month, the RBA is waiting to see if wages will respond as a result. At the same time, retail sales exceeded expectations, rising 0.6 percent, following a strong figure prior month as well.

Chinese PMI data improves

Last week economic data out of Asia came in better than market forecasts. China's Caixin manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index increased to 50.4 in June from 49.6 in prior month, indicating a growth in the manufacturing sector in the previous month. Firms noted slightly stronger rises in production and new orders. This prompted companies to increase their purchasing activity.

Sharp increase Japan's manufacturing sector

The Tankan Manufacturing Index pointed to improved business conditions in second quarter 2017 for both manufacturing and service sector firms. The Tankan index for large manufacturers increased for a third straight quarter, it came at 17 from 12 in the first quarter, the highest reading in more than three years.

The BoJ on Friday announced its first 'fixed-rate' bond buying operation since February, offering to buy an unlimited amount of 5-10y JGBs at 11bp. Nominal and real Japanese yields fell 1-2bp in response, which given the bear moves in global bond markets, lifted USDJPY. The BoJ has previously communicated that it sees discussions around a policy exit as premature until sustainable 2% inflation is achieved, regardless of global developments.

MTGOX CEO HEADS TO TRIAL IN JAPAN OVER MISSING BITCOINS

TOKYO: The former CEO of collapsed Bitcoin exchange MtGox heads to trial in Tokyo next week on charges stemming from the disappearance of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of the virtual currency from its digital vaults. Frenchman Mark Karpeles-once the high-flying head of the world's busiest Bitcoin trading platform, who reportedly lived in an \$11,000-a-month penthouse and spent money lavishly, including on prostitutes-is facing embezzlement and data manipulation charges.

"He is keeping calm as the trial gets underway," his lawyer Kiichi Iino told AFP, adding that Karpeles plans to plead his innocence. The 32-year-old was first arrested in August 2015 and released on bail nearly a year later over allegations he fraudulently manipulated data and pocketed millions worth of Bitcoins.

MtGox, which claimed it once hosted around 80 percent of global Bitcoin trading, shuttered in 2014 after admitting that 850,000 coins-worth around \$480 million at the time-had disappeared from its vaults. The company initially said there was a bug in the software underpinning Bitcoins that allowed hackers to pilfer them.

Karpeles later claimed he had found some 200,000 of the lost coins in a "cold wallet"-a storage device, such as a memory stick, that is not connected to other computers. Tokyo-based MtGox filed for bankruptcy protection soon after the cyber-money went missing, leaving a trail of angry investors calling for answers and denting the virtual currency's reputation.

Still missing

Karpeles, who said he is working as an IT consultant, is active on social media and has commented on issues concerning Bitcoin but not on details of his criminal case. "The charges (against Karpeles) only cover a subset of the issues which were happening at MtGox, so I don't expect that we will find out most of the information we want to know," said Kolin Burges, a British investor who said he lost several hundred Bitcoins in the MtGox collapse. "I've not had any back yet but hopefully, eventually all the creditors will get a small percentage of

their money back from the bankruptcy distribution," he told AFP. Around the time of his 2015 arrest, Karpeles' mother told Japan's top-selling Yomiuri newspaper that her son was a "genius" who learned computer languages at age three and started making simple programmes by the time he was five. In 2006, Karpeles wrote on his blog that computer crime was "totally contrary to my ethical principles". But four years later, a Paris court sentenced him in absentia to a year in prison for hacking. He had come to Japan to work for a web development company around 2009 and later got involved with the Bitcoin exchange.

In the wake of the MtGox scandal, Japan passed a bill stipulating that all virtual currency exchanges must be regulated by its Financial Services Agency. Virtual currencies are generated by complex chains of interactions among a huge network of computers around the world, and are not backed by any government or central bank, unlike traditional currencies. Bitcoin has suffered hacking incidents including one last year in which a major Hong Kong-based exchange Bitfinex suspended trading after \$65 million in the virtual unit was stolen.

Soaring popularity

Despite the demise of MtGox and concerns about security, Bitcoin and hundreds of rival digital currencies are becoming increasingly popular and accepted by merchants worldwide. Bitcoin remains the most popular. Its market value has ballooned to more than \$42.9 billion, according to the website coinmarketcap.com.

The unit has seen wild volatility during its short life, soaring from just a few US cents to around \$2,500 now, more than double its value just a few months ago. Backers say virtual currencies offer an efficient and anonymous way to store and transfer funds online. Critics argue the lack of legal framework governing the currency, the opaque way it is traded and its volatility make it dangerous. Bitcoin's reputation was damaged when US authorities seized funds as part of an investigation into the online black market Silk Road. — AFP



SINGAPORE: An image of Bitcoin and US currencies is displayed on a screen as delegates listen to a panel of speakers during the Interpol World Congress. — AFP

GERMAN INDUSTRY PICKS UNITY OVER BREXIT TRADE

LONDON: German industries will prioritize European unity over trade with Britain post-Brexit, business leaders told the Observer newspaper in interviews published yesterday. British Brexit minister David Davis had claimed that German businesses, especially carmakers, would pressure the German government to keep trade open with one of its key export markets, but two of Germany's biggest industry groups cast down on his claims. Dieter Kempf, president of the BDI federation of German industries, told the newspaper: "Defending the single market, a key European project, must be the priority for the European Union."

"It is the responsibility of the British government to limit the damage on both

sides of the Channel. "Over the coming months, it will be extraordinarily difficult to avert negative effects on British businesses in particular," he added. Ingo Kramer, president of the BDA confederation of German employers' associations, added that access to the single market "requires the acceptance of all four single market freedoms."

"The UK will remain a very important partner for us, but we need a fair deal for both sides respecting this principle," he said. "The cohesion of the remaining 27 EU member states has highest priority." Britain last month began negotiations with the EU to set the terms of its divorce and set a potential timetable for discussing a future free trade deal. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

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

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

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

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

Swiss Franc	318.330
Australian Dollar	234.720
US Dollar Buying	302.650

GOLD	
20 Gram	254.190
10 Gram	130.01
5 Gram	65.850

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.110
Thai Bhat	9.925
Turkish Lira	85.715

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.386296	0.396296
Czech Korune	0.005309	0.017309
Danish Krone	0.042675	0.047675
Euro	0.341695	0.350695
Norwegian Krone	0.032382	0.037582
Romanian Leu	0.084278	0.084278
Slovakia	0.009085	0.019085
Swedish Krona	0.032070	0.037070
Swiss Franc	0.309450	0.320450
Turkish Lira	0.080639	0.090939
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223403	0.235403
New Zealand Dollar	0.215603	0.225103
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.231035	0.240035
Georgina Lari	0.137347	0.137347
US Dollars	0.300000	0.304420
US Dollars Mint	0.300500	0.304420
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003429	0.004013
Chinese Yuan	0.043216	0.046716
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037098	0.039848

Indian Rupee	0.004212	0.004900
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002590	0.002770
Kenyan Shilling	0.002985	0.002985
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067221	0.073221
Nepalese Rupee	0.002944	0.003114
Pakistan Rupee	0.002690	0.002980
Philippine Peso	0.005982	0.006282
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.214935	0.224935
South African Rand	0.016836	0.025336
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001607	0.002187
Taiwan	0.009735	0.009915
Thai Baht	0.008596	0.009146
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.799528	0.808028
Egyptian Pound	0.015200	0.021108
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.424311	0.433311
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000258
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019770	0.043770
Nigerian Naira	0.001257	0.001892
Omani Riyal	0.783450	0.789130
Qatar Riyal	0.079239	0.084179
Saudi Riyal	0.080007	0.081307
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.122212	0.130212
Turkish Lira	0.080639	0.090939
UAE Dirhams	0.081370	0.083070
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

LUPIN SETS OFF DOWN INDIAN PHARMA'S ROAD TO REDEMPTION

GOA: In 28 years in India's pharmaceuticals sector, Rajiv Desai has never been busier. Most of the last six months on his desk calendar is marked green, indicating visits to the 12 plants of Lupin, India's No. 2 drugmaker, where Desai is a senior quality control executive.

Only one day is red - a day off. That's what is needed these days to satisfy the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that standards are being met.

"In this sector, you're only as good as your last inspection," Desai said in his office in suburban Mumbai. Often dubbed "the pharmacy of the world", India is home to the most FDA-approved plants outside of the United States and supplies about 40 percent of the \$70 billion worth of generic drugs sold in the country. But sanctions and bans have badly damaged India's reputation and slowed growth in the \$16 billion sector. Drug exports fell in the fiscal year ending in March 2017.

Millions in training

More than 40 plants have been banned by the FDA for issues ranging from data fraud to hygiene since India's then-largest drugmaker Ranbaxy was pulled up for serious violations in 2008. Drug companies have spent millions of dollars on

training, new equipment and foreign consultants. Yet the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance of the top 20 firms says its members still need at least five more years to get manufacturing standards and data reliability up to scratch.

The case of Lupin, whose shares are down about 27 percent since 2015 compared to a 13 percent drop in the Nifty Pharma index, shows why. The FDA is in the next few months expected to clear Lupin's Goa plant, which supplies around a third of its US sales, of problems found in 2015, Desai said. However, the agency also published a new notice just last week citing issues with data storage at its plant in Pithampur, central India. If companies want to continue to sell into the world's biggest health care market, they must keep constant vigilance.

Many in the industry expect to see consolidation among manufacturers after a wave of mergers among US drug distributors and increasing price pressures. "A lot of companies will struggle to meet the requirements that are the need of the day, and I would expect to see additional consolidation on the supply side," Lupin's Chief Executive Vinita Gupta told analysts last month. Asked about Lupin's case, the FDA said in a statement it did not "comment on compliance mat-

ters", but said generally: "India's regulatory infrastructure must keep pace to ensure that relevant quality and safety standards are met."

Quality controls

India has its own standards body, the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which maintains that its quality controls are stringent enough to ensure drugs are safe. "India's standards are different," CDSCO head G.N. Singh said in an interview in his New Delhi office. "Indian companies are compliant with our manufacturing standards. We cannot regulate them according to the US standards."

The FDA has taken matters into its own hands and gradually expanded in India to more than a dozen full-time staff. Inspections are frequent and increasingly unannounced. If the agency finds problems, it issues a Form 483 - a notice outlining the violations - which if not resolved can lead to a "warning letter" and in worst case, a ban. Violations range from hygiene, such as rat traps and dirty laboratories, to inadequate controls on systems that store data, leaving it open to tampering. None of the violations the FDA has cited in India have explicitly said the drugs are unsafe, and when compa-

nies are banned by the FDA they can sell into other markets, including in the developing world, until the bans are lifted. There are also no studies showing that the drugs have harmed anyone in the world. But by definition, the notices are issued when the FDA finds conditions that might harm public health.

Don't tell anyone

Industry watchers say Lupin, which specializes in oral contraceptives and drugs for diabetes and hypertension, is doing better than most. So far none of its infractions have extended to a ban. On a recent visit by Reuters to its Goa plant, blue-uniformed employees could be seen working on giant machines, then making notes in hardbound registers. These are being phased out as Lupin transitions to more secure e-files.

Employees are often videotaped to ensure they follow standard operating procedure. Manufacturers have cut back to focus on quality over quantity: Five years ago, Lupin was making one billion pills a month at one of its Goa plants. Now it makes just 450 million. Both the company and employees needed to be willing to acknowledge errors, Desai said. The first impulse in the past was often

"don't tell anyone", he said.

"We're humans after all, not robots. We make mistakes," said Amol Kolkar, a production head at the Goa site. As recently as three years ago, training was a "formality", Desai said. Now, when an error is traced to an employee, the entire team undergoes fresh training. "I have worked at a pharma company before, but this is the first time I went through such a training," said another Lupin quality control officer, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"They told us a lot about the Lupin culture and quality, and also stressed on good manufacturing practices." The quality control role is key. "They (Lupin) have had a practice where company's quality heads report directly to Nilesch Gupta (the managing director)," said Amey Chalke, an analyst at HDFC Securities.

"Some other companies have also started doing that now." The companies also have to be willing to spend big. Lachman, PwC and Boston Consulting conduct mock audits at the Goa plant every three to six months, at a cost of up to \$400 an hour. "These days the FDA is giving us 483 on small, small things," a third quality control officer said. "So we are always auditing." — Reuters

POVERTY-HIT ARGENTINA CHASES ELUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

BUENOS AIRES: Mauricio Macri promised a free-market revolution in Latin America's third-biggest economy when he took over as president of Argentina. A year and half on, Macri is facing midterm elections in October, and his people are still waiting a third of them living in poverty.

The millionaire businessman and former football executive vowed to achieve "zero poverty" by rolling back 12 years of leftist policies after he took office in December 2015. But the great recovery is slow in coming. "You don't get to paradise from one day to the next," Macri's chief of staff Marcos Pena admitted recently. "We still face enormous challenges."

Cuts

On taking office, Macri insisted that stabilizing the public finances was the way back to growth and prosperity. He launched unpopular public budget cuts and settled debts to foreign creditors whom his predecessor Cristina Kirchner had defiantly branded "vultures." He scrapped export and currency controls, devaluing the peso to try to make Argentina more competitive. And he tried to rein in inflation which at 40 percent last year was sorely hurting Argentines' wallets.

Pena said in May that Argentina had exited recession. But economists are not convinced of the strength of the recovery. "Eighteen months into the government's term, Argentina has lifted exchange-rate restrictions and paid off its debts to the 'vulture funds,'" economist Pablo Tigani told AFP. "But the macroeconomic situation has got worse."

Debt

Macri's government caused a stir last month by issuing a 100-year sovereign bond. Investors lapped it up. "The govern-

ment is taking advantage of the low level of debt that the Kirchners left," said Carugati. "But maintaining the deficit through debt only works as a temporary measure." The debt sale raised jitters among Argentines with painful memories of the country's catastrophic default in 2001. The economy ministry says Argentina's public debt, at 54 percent of gross domestic product, is currently lower than that of various emerging economies such as Brazil. "We should stay calm," said Nicolas Dujovne, commenting on the debt sale. "We can use this mechanism as a transition measure until we finish lowering the deficit and defeating inflation."

Despite the sale, US investment bank Morgan Stanley the next day maintained its rating of Argentina as a "frontier economy." "That is a real insult because a frontier country is like a crazy country," said Tigani. "It is not even an 'emerging' one, which is a euphemism for 'poor.'"

Poverty

A study by the Argentine Catholic University indicated that a third of people in the country are living in poverty. UNICEF estimates that half of all children in Argentina are living in poverty. Unions say that 11,000 public- and 200,000 private-sector employees have been laid off since Macri took over.

Some 6,000 small and medium-sized businesses went bust last year, said Mariano Mayer, a junior business minister. Multinational food and drink giant Pepsico last month closed a factory in Buenos Aires. "Six hundred of us workers have ended up in the street," a union delegate for workers at the factory, Camilo Montes, told AFP. "We do not want to be just paid off because then a year from now we will have nothing to eat." — AFP



SPITSBERGEN: This file photo taken on July 23, 2015 shows a view of the Kronebreen Glacier, on the Spitsbergen island, Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, northern Norway. — AFP

EU-NORWAY CRAB ROW COULD FUEL OIL TENSIONS IN ARCTIC

'NO COUNTRY WANTS TO GIVE UP RESOURCES'

OSLO: On the face of it, a relentless battle between the European Union and Norway in a remote part of the Arctic is about snow crabs. But the real fight may go beyond who gets to catch the modest crustaceans around Svalbard, a unique Norwegian archipelago in the Barents Sea. What is really at stake is oil, some experts say, and a coming race for the commodity of which there is a lot in the polar region.

"No country wants to give up resources without receiving anything in return. That is the principle here too," Norwegian Fisheries Minister Per Sandberg tells AFP. Norway, which is not a member of the EU, has slammed Brussels for authorizing European vessels from mainly Baltic nations to fish for crabs in the Svalbard area, saying it violates its national sovereignty.

A Latvian ship has already paid the price. In January, a ship called "The Senator" was intercepted by Norwegian coast guards while crab fishing around Svalbard, and recently received a hefty fine. "What happened is totally new," says Sandberg. "The EU is unabashed to make this kind of a decision without consulting us." The EU and Norway's conflicting interpretations of the 1920 Svalbard Treaty signed in Paris are at the heart of the problem.

The treaty recognizes Norway's "full and absolute sovereignty," but gives the signatory nations an equal right to economic activities on Svalbard and

its territorial waters. The core issue is to agree on the geographical scope of the treaty and how far all signatory states benefit from an equal access to resources. With a strict interpretation of the treaty, Oslo says the agreement applies only to the 12-mile limits of the territorial waters surrounding Svalbard and not any further. But Brussels has a more loose interpretation of the treaty and says it covers 200 miles around Svalbard, in line with the concept of an economic zone that did not exist when the treaty was signed.

Oil in the line of sight

The snow crab, first recorded in the Barents Sea in 1996, is an invasive, and more importantly, a sedentary species as it lives in permanent contact with the seabed. This means that the rules that apply to snow crabs are more similar to oil than to fishing. The crab dispute could create a "precedent" that "would have implications for oil and gas," warns Harald Sakarias Brovig Hansen, a researcher at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute.

"We fear a domino effect. If an actor is recognized as having the right to fish for snow crabs in accordance with the treaty, then numerous others, will probably come and claim a share of the cake," he says, referring to oil. The cake could prove to be very appetizing as the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in April doubled its estimates of hydro-

carbon reserves in the Norwegian part of the Barents Sea. A large amount of the 17.7 billion barrels in the region could be in southeastern Svalbard, according to the directorate. Oil companies are lurking. Norway has already granted exploration licenses that extend in the contentious area and the national energy giant Statoil, always pushing further north, plans to drill in the area this summer.

This drilling in the Korpfell prospect, considered highly promising, could irritate the other signatories of the Svalbard Treaty and lead them to claim an equal access to oil. "I think snow crab is a trial balloon," says Per Arne Totland, an author and expert on Svalbard issues.

"In this case, Russia, the United States, the EU and China share a common interest in obtaining the widest access to the resources that the treaty could give them."

In a gesture of conciliation to the EU, Oslo has proposed reserving some of its snow crab quota — 500 tons out of a total of 4,000 tons — to other European countries in return for fish quotas. But the EU has refused the proposal because accepting the deal would strengthen the Norwegian take on the treaty. Brussels wants "a practical arrangement with Norway that would allow the continuation of fishing activities for snow crab, without giving up the EU's interpretation of the 1920 (treaty)," European Commission spokesman Enrico Brivio said. — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: A man rummages through a garbage bin in Buenos Aires. — AFP

HEALTH CARE, BUDGET AWAIT US CONGRESS LAWMAKERS

WASHINGTON: Congress is still trying to send President Donald Trump his first unqualified legislative triumph, nearly six months after Republicans grabbed full control of Washington. Now, lawmakers are returning from their July 4 recess with an added objective - averting some full-blown political disasters.

The GOP campaign to repeal Democrat Barack Obama's health care law is bogged down in the Senate and flirting with collapse. Efforts to pass a budget are stuck, there's no tax code overhaul package, spending bills are in limbo and it's unclear how leaders will find the votes to avert a federal default.

The difficulties flow from Republican divisions. Collectively, the problems are threatening to sink top GOP priorities and undermine the party's ability to show it can govern effectively. Lawmakers have three weeks of work before an August recess. Some Republicans are making noise about shortening that respite, but doing so would be a step shy of sacrilege on Capitol Hill.

Health care nail-biter

It took the House several tries to pass its bill aiming to annul much of Obama's health care law. Now, Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell is struggling to find GOP votes for a similar package replacing that 2010 statute with one easing insurance coverage requirements, cutting Medicaid, erasing penalties on people not buying insurance and repealing tax increases on the well-off.

McConnell, R-Ky, unexpectedly called off a pre-recess vote on the measure - which he'd written privately - as it became clear it would lose. With Democrats arrayed unanimously against him, McConnell needs at least 50 of the 52 GOP senators to vote yes or witness the mortifying crumpling of his party's high-decibel pledge to uproot Obama's law.

McConnell has been calibrating changes that might win over worried Republicans, but there's no sign he's made progress. Revisions under consideration would lessen the bill's Medicaid cuts, boost spending for programs combating drug abuse, fatten health care subsidies for low earners and make it easier for insurers to sell skimpier, lower-cost policies. A vote is expected no earlier than the week of July 16. McConnell has said if the measure flops, he'd push a narrower bill propping up ailing health insurance marketplaces.

A budget morass

Republicans are stuck on a fiscal blueprint

for the coming budget year, with disputes between conservatives and moderates over how deeply to cut programs like food stamps. None of the 12 annual spending bills financing federal agencies is finished.

Disagreements have slowed work on a tax overhaul. And no one knows what bargains will be needed to assure autumn passage of a bill extending government borrowing authority and avoiding a crushing federal default. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis, told reporters Friday that he'd "prefer" to pass the budget in July, suggesting it might linger until fall, adding to Congress' late-year mountain of work.

Billions more for military

Defense hawks scoffed at Trump's proposed 2018 military budget as insufficient. They're adding billions more. The House is slated to vote this week on a sweeping policy bill that takes issue with Trump's proposed trim to missile defense spending as North Korea pushes its development of weapons capable of striking the United States.

The defense bill would provide \$696 billion for the Pentagon. It has \$28.5 billion more for core Pentagon operations than Trump requested, including an additional

\$2.5 billion for programs aimed at shielding the homeland from missiles. There's extra money for new jet fighters, ships and additional active duty troops. Less certain is how quickly Republicans move on legislation passed by the Senate that would hit Russia and Iran with new sanctions. Democrats are pressing for fast action, but the measure was not on the House schedule for the week. The legislation easily cleared the Senate in June.

FBI nominee

Christopher Wray gets his turn in the spotlight as a Senate panel holds a confirmation hearing on Trump's choice to replace ousted FBI Director James Comey. Wray, a white-collar defense lawyer with a strong law enforcement background, was a high-ranking official in George W. Bush's Justice Department.

He later represented New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the Bridgeway scandal. Trump fired Comey in May as the FBI investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election pressed on. Members of the Judiciary Committee are certain to press Wray on how independent he would be from Trump. — AP

CANADA JOBLESS RATE FALLS TO 6.5%

MONTREAL: Canada's unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points in June to 6.5 percent, official data showed Friday, with 45,000 new jobs added compared to the previous month, mainly in part-time work and among women. The number of jobs added was almost four times greater than economists' predictions, which foresaw a modest rise of 12,000.

"In the second quarter of 2017, overall employment grew by 103,000 (+0.6 percent), the fourth consecutive quarter of strong employment growth and the largest quarterly increase since 2010," Statistics Canada said. The latest gains come after 55,000 new jobs were added in May, a sign of the economy's growing strength over the past year.

Rising employment could soon see the central bank tighten monetary policy, with the first rate hike in nearly seven years probable next week, according to analysts with CIBC bank. Employment gains in June were led by women aged 55 and older, with the group seeing an increase of 31,000. The number of employed women aged 25 to 54 edged up by 17,000 — a gain of 0.6 percent, though the rate for men in the same age group remained steady. Youth unemployment remained steady at 12 percent. The biggest increase took place in the professional, scientific and technical services sector which added 27,000 jobs, while agriculture saw a significant bump of 12,000 positions. — AFP

TESLA REGISTRATIONS DROP IN KEY MARKET

SAN FRANCISCO: Registrations of Tesla Inc vehicles in California, by far the largest market of the luxury electric car maker, fell 24 percent in April from a year ago, according to data from IHS Markit. Tesla said in a statement on Friday that it was extremely misleading to look at registration data from one month, that deliveries varied month-to-month for operational reasons, and that deliveries increased by more than 53 percent in the second quarter compared with a year earlier.

"Looking at the quarter in total is the smallest time frame in which to obtain reliable, meaningful information about our deliveries. Deliveries naturally fluctuate from month to month for a variety of normal operational reasons. "In the first month of the quarter, Tesla builds cars primarily for overseas markets, in the second month for North American markets (not including the West Coast) and in the third month for the West Coast," Tesla said in the statement to Reuters. Focusing on April registrations "cherry

picks" data, it said. Tesla earlier this week reported first-half global deliveries of its Model S and its Model X SUV at the low end of its own forecast, driving down the stock and raising questions about demand for the older models. The findings come as investors worry that demand for Tesla's luxury Model S sedan is waning ahead of the mass market Model 3 launch.

Tesla's share price more than doubled between early December and late June as investors bet on Chief Executive Elon Musk's

strategy to transform the low-volume luxury electric car maker into a diversified producer of mass market vehicles, storage batteries, electric commercial trucks and rooftop solar panels. The company's market value rose past larger rivals General Motors Co and Ford Motor Co.

Falling shares

Since June 23, however, Tesla shares have fallen by nearly 20 percent amid concerns that demand for the company's existing models is weakening. Overall sales of electric vehicles in the United States remain stuck at less than 1 percent of total vehicle sales, despite a growing number of models fielded by Tesla and other car makers.

Tesla said earlier this week that battery pack production problems held back vehicle output in the second quarter until early June. California, a haven for environmentalists and techies, is one of the company's leading markets. The company does not break out results by geographic area. IHS analyst Stephanie Brinley cautioned that a single month of data could not fully explain Tesla demand.

"If Tesla had an issue with its production for the month, that could explain" the drop in registrations, she said, noting in particular the problems with battery pack output. Still, she said, Tesla's Model S, launched in 2012, could be in need of a refresh. "They haven't changed much on the exterior or much on the package," and it is a high-fashion car, she said. "I can certainly understand where Model S sales may be softening a little bit because it's an older product. That could be contributing to the issue."

Industry data reviewed separately by Reuters showed that the Model S registra-

tions in California were uneven over the first four months of 2017, varying by more than 1,000 units month-to-month. In percentage terms Model S growth peaked in February, decelerated in March and turned negative in April in California.

Reflected demand

Brinley said it was difficult to assess whether that reflected demand or availability. IHS measures vehicle registration, which comes after a sale. Registration in California and overall in the United States rose sharply for the combined first four months of the year, but April showed steep declines. IHS has not released data for May or June.

Chief Executive Musk in May stoked concerns that the Model 3 would cannibalize demand for the Model S when he told investors that some "confused" Tesla buyers regarded the new Model 3 as an upgrade to the Model S, affecting Model S orders. The new car is a \$35,000 mass market vehicle, which costs about half the price of the Model S. Tesla reported first-half 2017 global deliveries rose to 47,100 in 2017. Tesla had predicted 47,000 to 50,000. Musk in May said there would be demand for 100,000 luxury Teslas.

IHS reported April Tesla registrations fell to 2,177 from 2,867 in California. Nationally they dropped nearly 10 percent to 3,911 from 4,334.

For the first four months, California registrations rose to 6,926 from 5,804 and US registrations rose to 15,288 from 10,937. Tesla shares fell 5.6 percent to close at \$308.83 on Thursday, although the stock is up about 45 percent for the year to date. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report				Global			
Sunday 09 July 2017							
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades	
Price Index	▲ 43.44	6,723.57	6,680.13	51,243,287	7,240,773	2,010	
Weighted Index	▲ 1.95	399.16	397.21				
KSX 15	▲ 2.18	909.50	907.32				
Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	1,609	1,609	20	32	1	1,609	▲ 119.0
ENERGYH	38.5	37.8	3,025	116	15	37.8	▼ -1.1
GPI	40.5	39.1	282,904	11,167	8	40.5	▲ 0.7
ABAR	89	80	3,823	308	4	80	▼ -2.0
Oil & Gas			289,772	11,623	28	1052.12	▲ 40.60
KFOUC	270	251	12,950	3,299	4	251	▼ -19.0
BPCO	570	570	441,142	251,451	27	570	▲ 5.0
ALQOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▲ 0.0
ALOURAIN	334	334	38,329	12,802	14	334	▲ 0.0
Basic Materials			492,421	267,551	45	1210.50	▼ -14.30
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	▲ 0.0
CABLE	433	407	15,002	6,166	4	433	▼ -2.0
SHP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	▲ 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	900	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
MRC	88	75	130	10	2	88	▲ 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▲ 0.0
NICBM	188	180	34,979	6,416	2	180	▼ -18.0
EQUIPMENT	49.5	46.2	100,050	4,626	4	46.5	▼ -0.4
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	119	▲ 0.0
GYPBUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	60	58	419,921	24,895	13	60	▲ 1.5
ADLTY	749	725	193,323	143,205	36	749	▲ 23.0
EDU	375	365	422,047	155,989	51	367	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	41.0	40.1	1,018,296	41,734	6	41.0	▼ -2.0
KDL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
KDPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	4196	▲ 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0
GFC	70	68	8,739	610	3	70	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	27.0	26.0	208,328	5,450	16	26.0	▼ -0.9
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	619	▲ 0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	851	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	316	315	38,963	12,293	7	316	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	73	68	167,750	12,066	9	72	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
SPEC	88	87	101,000	8,764	6	88	▲ 1.8
Industrials			2,728,528	422,022	159	1889.95	▼ -2.20
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
CATL	220	219	201,000	44,219	3	220	▲ 0.0
DANAH	73	70	84,000	5,951	7	70	▼ -2.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,400	▲ 0.0
Consumer Goods			285,000	50,170	10	1064.39	▼ -4.90
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	485	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0
YIACO	182	182	50	9	1	182	▲ 5.0
Health Care			50	9	1	1723.51	▲ 5.10
KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,670	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	31.0	28.0	47,591	1,387	13	31.0	▲ 1.0
EYAS	900	789	194,820	159,101	56	890	▲ 100.0
FAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0
OLAFUEL	119	117	182,387	21,538	18	119	▲ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	475	475	15,000	7,125	2	475	▲ 5.0
SOOR	119	119	21,841	2,575	6	119	▼ -1.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	105	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	121	121	3,644	441	1	121	▲ 2.0
ZIMAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0
Mazzan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
Consumer Services			465,083	192,167	96	1058.65	▲ 26.10
ZAIN	412	409	413,292	169,804	49	412	▲ 2.0
OOREDOO	1,095	1,055	3,152	3,381	7	1,088	▲ 78.0
HITSTELEC	39.0	37.6	514,357	19,580	25	38.6	▲ 0.0
VIVA	820	792	14,599	11,601	25	820	▲ 20.0
Telecommunications			945,400	204,367	106	583.13	▲ 14.40
NBK	680	683	447,575	306,407	59	684	▼ -5.0
GBK	237	237	337,000	79,869	23	237	▼ -1.0
CBK	309	309	3,000	927	1	309	▲ 1.0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	327	▲ 0.0
ALMUTAHED	395	387	140,860	55,593	11	385	▲ 1.0
KIB	245	245	12,672	3,105	4	245	▼ -4.0
BURG	333	332	21,890	7,287	3	332	▼ -1.0
KFIN	484	480	372,980	372,549	70	484	▲ 3.0
BOLBYAN	405	405	138,305	56,052	20	405	▲ 1.0
AUB	208	206	2,952,446	608,877	85	208	▲ 3.0
ITHMR	44.0	43.0	83,410	2,741	18	44.0	▲ 0.0
WARBANK	281	253	1,188,887	308,434	109	258	▲ 5.0
Banks			6,079,626	1,801,842	383	912.70	▲ 2.90
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	530	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	▲ 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0
FTI	49.5	49.5	2,700	134	3	49.5	▲ 2.5
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	▲ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			2,700	134	3	1014.82	▲ 4.90
SOKOUK	47.0	44.6	19468	908	2	47.0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	33.0	33.0	21	1	1	33.0	▲ 0.8
ERESCO	41.0	39.1	491,016	19,888	20	41.0	▲ 1.0
MABANEE	795	748	274,800	205,962	17	755	▲ 10.0
INUJAZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	22.9	22.6	316,000	7,177	8	22.7	▼ -0.3
IRC	32.8	31.2	30,050	938	2	32.8	▼ -0.2
ALTUARIA	74	73	150,975	11,013	9	73	▲ 0.2
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	82	82	5,000	410	1	82	▲ 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▲ 0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▲ 0.0
MAZAYA	111	111	1,400	155	1	111	▲ 1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
TLARA	56	54	52,025	2,809	2	56	▲ 0.5
TAAMEER	32.9	32.1	1,129,350	36,059	39	32.5	▲ 0.5
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0
ABYAR	23.6	23.0	3,337,788	78,232	64	23.4	▲ 0.4
MUNSHAAT	55	51	1,088,748	55,575	40	52	▼ -4.3
FIRSTDUBAI	46.9	46.0	485,900	22,535	25	46.8	▲ 0.8
KBT	47.0	46.7	28,770	1,351	5	47.0	▲ 0.5
REAM	390	280	311	115	5	388	▲ 38.0
MENA	23.0	21.5	140,000	3,067	7	23.0	▲ 1.0
ALMUDON	37.0	36.0	204,010	7,448	9	37.0	▲ 1.5
MARAKEZ							



RENAULT AL BABBAIN PARTNERS WITH CARRIAGE

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the exclusive and authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is proud of the partnership established with Carriage Co. specialized in food delivery service in Kuwait. The partnership, the first of its kind between the two companies, included the delivery of a fleet of Renault "Symbol" cars. This partnership is also an effective way to enhance the success of the Renault brand as a versatile vehicle of high quality.

Carriage
Carriage was the very first service of its kind in the State of Kuwait. It was the first platform to combine both online food ordering and food delivery. It was also the first to offer the live-tracking feature, so you know where your order is every step of the way. It started out with a small collection of some of the best local restaurants in Kuwait that offered delivery exclusively through it, and now they have over 270 restaurants and counting. They have new restaurants joining every day. Each one of

their restaurants is carefully chosen to constantly provide only the best for their customers - the newest, most exciting concepts in Kuwait. The partnership between Renault Al Babbain and Carriage is due to the combination of top vehicles' quality and the excellent services provided by both businesses. Renault Symbol, is a tailored sedan for the GCC countries. Renault Symbol comes with a modern design. Its sleek body lines enhancing its dynamic appearance enable you to stand out from the crowd: new

Renault C-shaped signature for front & rear lights, DRL with front LEDS, new front & rear bumpers as well as a new boot door with chrome embellisher driving in style has never been so affordable! When it comes to comfort, design & safety, the latest generation of specs is provided from entry level. Renault Symbol is fitted with a 1.6L 16V 105 HP engine, placing the new Renault Symbol among the highest size of engines available in the B Sedan category. Particular care was taken to improve the fuel consumption, which is now at the level

of 6.4L / 100km (extra-urban cycle). Packed with topnotch technology and innovation, it offers an enjoyable ride, significant power while maintaining low levels of fuel consumption. Renault vehicles are known for its European style and Japanese quality, and it succeeded to build strong presence due to its ability to meet all tastes and meet customer's satisfaction in different categories of practical vehicles. It proved its strong presence in the market as it offered the clients practical products for affordable prices.



BB ANNOUNCES NAMES OF DAILY LUCKY WINNERS OF YAWMI DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners are:

1. Abdulvahed Sobaiti Ghenivati
2. Maha Abdulrahman Al Bader
3. Hasan Abdullah Ashkanani
4. Eid Dekheel Al Saedi
5. Dhari Ibrahim Al Duaij

Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The

Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

CHINESE PREMIER'S SPEECH AT OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW CHAMPIONS

At the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2017 held on June 27th in the city of Dalian, China, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang stressed the importance of promoting inclusive growth and achieving sustainable development in the new round of industrial revolution which is arising in the era of economic globalization. Li said, more inclusive growth in China has been an important reason why the Chinese economy has maintained steady growth in recent years despite the sluggish world economy.

growth driving factor, contributing 64.6% to economic growth. The added value of the service sector accounted for more than 51.6% of GDP. Current account balance to GDP ratio dropped to 1.8%, showing that domestic demand has become a strong pillar of the Chinese economy. These major changes point to the qualitative improvement in the Chinese economy and have made the growth more stable and sustainable.

The Chinese economy has maintained a momentum of steady and sound growth this year. The first quarter saw 6.9% growth with marked improvement in economic performance, and major economic indicators have continued to move in a positive direction in the second quarter. In particular, the unemployment rate for urban areas in China has fallen to 4.91% in May, the lowest level in years. And over 13 million new urban jobs have been created on a yearly basis over the past few years. A number of international organizations and research institutions have recently revised up China's growth forecasts.

China has continued to raise the standards of basic social welfare for the people. In the past 30 years and more, over 700 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty, creating a Chinese miracle in the history of poverty reduction. In the past five years, China has invested over six trillion Yuan in cumulative terms to ensure proper housing for over 80 million people by rebuilding more than 30 million housing units.

China has implemented the strategy of innovation-driven development, encouraging more people to go for entrepreneurship and innovation. For the past three years, an average of over 40,000 new market entities have been set up every day, including some 14,000 newly registered enterprises. China's entrepreneurship and innovation have greatly advanced economic transformation and upgrading.

Li emphasized that all countries must better adapt to and steer economic globalization forward and promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and put in place better institutional arrangements providing opportunities for equal participation by all, give more support to vulnerable groups and develop a model of balanced and inclusive growth.

China has also achieved valuable changes in the economic structure. Last year, consumption became a primary

Li also said, China will introduce one-trillion-yuan reduction in taxes and fees for business this year, which will be applied equally to foreign-invested companies. And in the coming five years, China will import 8 trillion US dollars worth of goods. A Chinese economy which enjoys a sound momentum in the long run and becomes increasingly open will remain the most attractive investment destination.

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are

Sardar Hussain Qaisullah KD 7000/-
Ali Marzouq Hameed KD 7000/-
Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

Nawaf Saleh Daham Mezaal KD 7000/-
Hamdan Nasser Al Hajry KD 7000/-
Duaij Mohammad Al Duaij KD 7000/-

BAN ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES LIFTED ON QATAR AIRWAYS FLIGHTS TO US

KUWAIT: Qatar Airways, the World's Best Airline as voted by Skytrax 2017, is delighted to confirm it has been approved by the US Department of Homeland Security to permit passengers to carry personal electronic items on board US-bound flights, departing from its hub Hamad International Airport in Doha, Qatar. The airline gained the exemption earlier today after US officials inspected the security measures in full operation at Qatar's state-of-the-art Hamad International Airport (HIA), an airport recently awarded five stars by Skytrax, the first airport in the Middle East to be bestowed with this recognition.



With the lifting of the electronics restrictions, passengers departing from HIA to all Qatar Airways' US destinations will be able to carry their personal electronic devices on board, and have uninterrupted use of them for business and leisure purposes throughout their flight. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive His Excellency Akbar Al Baker said: "We are pleased to announce that the electronics ban has been lifted from Qatar Airways flights departing to all destinations in the US Safety and security are always our highest priority. They are expressed throughout all of our corporate values, and must never be compromised.

"The security measures in place in Doha allow us to continue to provide our renowned world-class service for all our passengers travelling to the U.S. We look forward to providing our passengers an even greater choice of US destinations soon, with the addition of San Francisco to our expanding network, on board the most modern of aircraft including the Airbus A350 and our Qsuite retro-fitted Boeing 777 aircraft."

Qatar Airways recently announced its intention to make an initial investment of up to 4.75 per cent in its oneworld partner American Airlines, crediting the airline's fundamentals, while intending to build a passive position within the company. Qatar Airways has long considered American Airlines to be a good oneworld Alliance partner, and looks forward to continuing this relationship.

Qatar Airways has developed a reputation for enhanced cooperation with industry and U.S. regulators over the past 20 years, consistently being at the forefront of implementing new measures to enhance the safety and security of its passengers. Qatar Airways was the first airline to achieve 100 per cent compliance with the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) when the programme was first implemented in 2003, and has since maintained its 100 per cent compliance record.

Adjustable panels and movable TV monitors on the centre four seats allow colleagues, friends or families travelling together to transform their space into a private suite, allowing them to work, dine and socialize together. These new features provide the ultimate customizable travel experience that enables passengers to create an environment that suits their own unique needs.

The airline will also bring its award-winning, patented new Qsuite Business Class seat to New York in September, retro-fitted on a Boeing 777 aircraft. Qsuite features the industry's first-ever double bed available in Business Class, with privacy panels that stow away, allowing passengers in adjoining seats to create their own private room.

Qatar Airways, which celebrates 10 years of service to the US this year, will launch flights to San Francisco in 2018, as part of its continuing expansion within the US. The US expansion is just part of the airline's global growth plans, which include new routes to Canberra (Australia), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Douala (Cameroon), Libreville (Gabon), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Santiago (Chile), as well as many other exciting destinations.

QATAR AIRWAYS CELEBRATES LAUNCH OF DIRECT DAILY ROUTE TO DUBLIN

KUWAIT: Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, landed in Dublin on Thursday to host a press conference celebrating the airline's new direct service between Dublin and Doha. HE Al Baker was welcomed at the airport by Dublin Airport Chief Executive, Kevin Toland; Dublin Airport Managing Director, Mr. Vincent Harrison and Sheikh Salman bin Jassim Al-Thani from the Qatari embassy in London. HE Al Baker hosted a crowded press conference on Thursday at the InterContinental Dublin for Irish and international media from Australia and Qatar who were keen to hear the latest plans for the airline.



During the conference HE Al Baker confirmed that Qatar Airways is committed to bringing more visitors to Dublin, boosting tourism to the already popular Irish capital and its neighboring cities. The new route will also give the people of Ireland the opportunity to connect to more than 150 destinations on the airline's global network via its hub in Doha, Hamad International Airport.

HE Al Baker, said: "Dublin has long been on our list of destinations to add to our route map, and I am proud that we are here today to celebrate this important milestone in the history of our airline. We are here to serve the people of Ireland with a world-class service connecting them to business and leisure destinations on our global network. "It is also our pleasure to promote Ireland as a tourism destination to our loyal passengers who have already shown their appetite for Dublin."

Dublin Airport Chief Executive, Kevin Toland, who joined the press conference in Dublin, said: "We want to express our warmest welcome to Qatar Airways and its new daily route between Dublin and Doha. We welcome tourists from Doha and beyond to enjoy Ireland's traditions and lively culture. "There are many great reasons to take a break in Dublin which is a wonderful, vibrant and exciting city. Visitors can explore the city's exceptional museums, take a cycle around town on the city bikes, or take a walk on cobbled roads. A stunning countryside of mountains, lakes and quaint villages are a short trip away from Dublin for everyone to enjoy." Qatar Airways, one of the fastest-growing airlines in the history of aviation, will continue to expand its global network in 2017 and 2018, giving Irish passengers and expats living in Dublin the opportunity to travel

seamlessly to more than 150 destinations. An additional 26 new destinations will be launched in 2017 and 2018 including Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Accra, Ghana; Canberra, Australia; Chiang Mai, Thailand; and Mombasa, Kenya.

The new direct flights to Dublin will also provide Qatar Airways Cargo's customers 80 tons of belly-hold capacity each week. Temperature-controlled products are the major exports out of Ireland and the cargo carrier is proficient in supporting the air logistics through its specialist solutions QR Pharma, for pharmaceuticals and QR Fresh, for perishables. Customers are offered a seamless cool chain transfer for their temperature-sensitive products via the state-of-the-art and fully automated hub in Doha. Its facility at Hamad International Airport is wholly compliant with both, IATA Chapter 17 standards and Good Distribution Practice (GDP). Qatar Airways has already made an impact in Ireland with its new service flying at almost full capacity in the last few weeks since its launch. The airline has also made its presence in the market felt with key sponsorships at exciting events around the city including the Dublin Horse Show and the Darley Irish Oaks Day at the Curragh Racetrack.



FACEBOOK TO BUILD HOUSE IN SILICON VALLEY FOR FIRST TIME

SAN FRANCISCO: The shortage of housing in California's Silicon Valley has gotten so severe that Facebook Inc on Friday proposed taking homebuilding into its own hands for the first time with a plan to construct 1,500 units near its headquarters. The growth of Facebook, Alphabet Inc's Google and other tech companies has strained neighborhoods in the San



MENLO PARK: This file photo taken on June 19, 2013 shows Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaking at Facebook's corporate headquarters during a media event. — AFP

Francisco Bay area that were not prepared for an influx of tens of thousands of workers during the past decade. Home prices and commute times have risen. Tech companies have responded with measures such as internet-equipped buses for employees with long commutes. Facebook has offered at least \$100,000 in incentives to workers who move closer to its offices.

Those steps, though, have not reduced complaints that tech companies are making communities unaffordable, and they have mostly failed to address the area's housing shortage. "The problem with Silicon Valley is you don't have enough supply to keep up with the demand," said Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at real estate research firm CoreLogic.

Global facilities

With Facebook's construction plan, the company said it wanted to invest in Menlo Park, the city some 45 miles south of San Francisco where it moved in 2011. The company said it wants to build a "village" that will also have 1.75 million square feet of office space and 125,000 square feet of retail space. "Part of our vision is to create a neighborhood center that provides long-needed community services," John Tenanes, Facebook's vice president for global facilities, said in a statement.

The 1,500 Facebook housing units would be open to anyone, not just employees, and 15 percent of them would be offered at below market rates, the company said. Facebook said it expects the review process to take two years. Alphabet has taken a smaller step, buying 300 modular apartment units for short-term employee housing, the Wall Street Journal reported last month.

Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith said in an interview that there were concerns about whether the Facebook plan would increase traffic, a subject the city's planning department would study. She said, though, that Facebook's plan fits with the city's own long-term plan for development, and that the city was excited about the additional housing. Facebook's Tenanes said the density of the proposed development could also entice spending on transit projects. "The region's failure to continue to invest in our transportation infrastructure alongside growth has led to congestion and delay," he said. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: This image released by CBS shows Paul Abrahamian, a contestant on "Big Brother 18" and competing in the new game show, "Candy Crush". — AP

CANDY CRUSH GETS NEW OUTLET AS VIDEO GAME COMES TO TV

TV ADAPTATION SUPERSIZES VISUALS AND ACTION

LOS ANGELES: Candy Crush addicts, and you know who you are, put down your mobile device immediately. Then you can watch "Candy Crush," the TV game show. Expect breezy, energetic fun from the CBS series debuting 9 pm EDT Sunday with host Mario Lopez, said executive producer Matt Kunitz, whose credits include "Wipeout" and "Fear Factor." Nearly 200 billion game rounds were played in the Candy Crush Saga last year, according to its maker, King. To entice people to watch it on TV, "Candy Crush" supersedes the visuals and the action.

Two specially designed video walls, each made up of 55 monitors and measuring more than 20-by-25 feet, require contestants to physically scramble as they compete for the weekly \$100,000 prize. One wall is placed horizontally on the stage floor, the other is perpendicular to it, and players in safety harnesses scoot across and up and down the screens. They make candy matches by swiping squares a la the mobile game.

The stunt team that handled Lady Gaga's rig during her airborne entrance to this year's Super Bowl halftime show did the same for "Candy Crush," with the same injury-free success, Kunitz and CBS said. Taping is completed. When the show was pitched to the network, Kunitz said, they asked CBS executives to imagine "if you were playing on your phone and got sucked through and were in a Candy Crush arena." The video walls were, he said.

Their surfaces needed to withstand running, jumping and sliding and respond only to the swipe of contestants' hands. Producers ended up going with a company, MultiTaction, that had created a 44-monitor wall for the Australia's Queensland University of Technology. That was the world's biggest, Kunitz said, until "Candy Crush" came along - and he points to a Guinness World Records citation attesting to that.

Translating the game's simplicity

Each monitor has 32 cameras to record the flurry of hand

swipes. Many video games have been translated to the movie screen, from "Super Mario Brothers" to "Tomb Raider" to "The Angry Birds Movie," but it's rare, if not unprecedented, for a game to come to television, said Sebastian Knutsson, a King executive who helped develop Candy Crush. The game's simplicity "actually translates very well" to TV, he said, and the audience's perspective allows them to see opportunities more readily than the contestants who are so close to the oversized boards.

How protective did he feel of his baby during its TV adaptation? "It's been very important to us that this stay true to the core of how you play the game, and that it wouldn't break what we think of as the core rules of Candy Crush," Knutsson said from Stockholm. That doesn't mean the TV show had carte blanche.

King shared a Candy Crush style guide with details on the color and size of each candy character, Kunitz said. It was so precise that it dictated the dimension of the line around each character and their size in relation to each other. It was understood that some things might change slightly on TV, Kunitz said, and, in turn, he appreciated what was at stake.

"There's a huge expectation from the audience of what this show should be, because hundreds of millions of people play the game," he said. "I wanted to make it bigger and more spectacular and prime-time. That's a fine balance. You don't want to mess up the brand. And it is a brand, a massive brand!"

Nearly two-dozen different challenges for players help make each episode feel unique, he said. While great effort went into the production, Kunitz said he hopes that viewers will be unaware of all the work and simply enjoy the show. "It's just fun. That's all it is," he said. "We're not grossing any one out, no one's wiping out, no one's 300 feet in the air hanging from a helicopter. It's just pure summer fun." — AP

MICROSOFT IMPLEMENTS 'SOME' JOB CUTS, REORGANIZES SALES

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft said Thursday it was cutting an unspecified number of jobs amid reports the US tech giant was reorganizing its global sales operations. "Today, we are taking steps to notify some employees that their jobs are under consideration or that their positions will be eliminated," Microsoft said in an email response to an AFP inquiry. Earlier, CNBC television said the company would be cutting some 3,000 positions, mostly from its non-US sales staff.

"Like all companies, we evaluate our business on a regular basis. This can result in increased investment in some places and, from time-to-time, re-deployment in others," the company said in a statement. The layoffs come as the US software colossus refocuses its sales force on making Microsoft a pivotal part of businesses relying on cloud computing, according to media reports. Microsoft had more than 121,000 employees worldwide at the end of March, according to its website.

Chief executive Satya Nadella has sought to reduce the tech giant's focus on software, shifting to cloud computing and business services. "From large multinationals to small and medium businesses to non-profits all over the world, organizations are using Microsoft's cloud platforms to power their digital transformation," Nadella said when the company reported its earnings for the first three months of this year.

Overhaul in tech

Global Equities research analyst Trip Chowdhry saw layoffs such as those taking place at Microsoft as symptoms of a technology industry undergoing a "major overhaul" caused by a shift to computing and online services being hosted in the internet cloud. "This is not the end," Chowdhry predicted. "At companies transitioning from the old world to the new world you will see layoffs accelerate; it's a slow and gradual and painful experience for them."

Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services are the dominant "super-clouds" for computing, according to the analyst. With super-cloud computing platforms, resources can be focused on refining and supporting a single version of operating software instead of versions released every year or so to be installed on machines in homes or businesses, he reasoned.

"You look at Microsoft, and you realize that certain things that worked in the past are not going to be relevant in the future," Chowdhry said. Microsoft has been shifting to a cloud-based model under Nadella, as the industry moves away from packaged software that once was the core of its business. Microsoft said revenue from its "Intelligent Cloud" rose 11 percent from a year earlier to \$6.8 billion.

Microsoft is to release its earnings for the recently-ended quarter on July 20. Microsoft's cloud platform, called Azure, faces competition from technology powerhouses Amazon and Google. Each of the companies has also been investing in artificial intelligence which can make services hosted in the internet cloud more intuitive and insightful when it comes to handling data or catering to needs of users.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft has announced thousands of jobs cuts in recent years, the most severe being 18,000 positions eliminated in 2014 related to its acquisition of Nokia and failed efforts in the smartphone market. The technology giant cut 7,800 jobs in 2015, and 4,700 last year. Microsoft completed its \$26 billion acquisition of the professional social network LinkedIn late last year as part of its new strategy. — AFP



DIGITAL SHADOWS ANNOUNCES INDUSTRY'S BROADEST EVER DIGITAL RISK COVERAGE

DUBAI: Digital Shadows, the industry leader in digital risk management, yesterday announced comprehensive enhancements of its award-winning SearchLight solution's dark web coverage capabilities with a focus on scalable data analytics plus human led data collection and contextual interaction to best protect an organization's business, brand, and reputation.

Starting today, with continuous coverage updates added daily, Digital Shadows SearchLight(tm) has significantly expanded its automated dark web collection capabilities, complemented by human data scientist support to monitor, manage, and protect organizations against threats associated with forums and marketplaces across the open, deep, and dark web.

Organizations can now easily see many dark web incidents, with context, as they happen, wherever they happen. With these enhancements, customers will be quickly notified that they are at risk and intel will be shared with an up-to-date list of posts in the offending threads with key contextual information on each forum user. Within marketplaces, risky product listings will be flagged and key information will be displayed about the sellers' reputation.

When it comes to closed sources on the open, deep and dark web, automated collection alone is insufficient. Digital Shadows recognizes it is critical to complement automation with a team of data scientists and intelligence experts who gain access to closed sources, and qualify the data collected to enhance analytic capabilities. This gives customers the full breadth and context needed to address the digital risks that are most relevant and impactful to their business. Automation in digital risk management alone is not enough, as it cannot collect everything, and can lead to an unmanageable level of false positives.

"The threat intelligence component of digital risk management is all about giving organizations the insight to monitor, manage and protect against threats no matter where they are coming from. Vendors that only focus on the dark web don't provide a comprehensive understanding of risk and open their customers up to blindspots," said Rick Holland, VP Strategy at Digital Shadows. "Defense in Depth", the popular security mantra, is increasingly giving way to Expense in Depth as CISOs struggle to manage the disparate data coming from an overwhelming number of point solutions. Security professionals need comprehensive security solutions that consolidate and provide context across their digital risks without adding additional complexity and costs" Holland said.

Digital Shadows was recently recognized as a leader in the The Forrester Wave(tm): Digital Risk Monitoring, Q3 2016. In April, a report by Forrester's Senior Analyst Josh Zelonis entitled Achieve Early Success In Threat Intelligence With The Right Collection Strategy stated that "the value of threat intelligence only becomes apparent when you're developing a collection strategy based on strategic intelligence." A collection strategy that is only focused on dark web sources falls short and doesn't provide the complete picture including the strategic intelligence that organizations need.

LAWYERS CANNOT FIND NEO-NAZI SITE'S FOUNDER

BATON ROUGE: In April, a Montana woman sued the publisher of a leading neo-Nazi website for orchestrating an anti-Semitic online trolling campaign against her family. Nearly three months later, her attorneys are still trying to find him. A court filing Friday by lawyers from the Southern Poverty Law Center claims The Daily Stormer's founder, Andrew Anglin, is "actively concealing his whereabouts" and hasn't been served with Tanya Gersh's federal lawsuit. Gersh's attorneys are asking for more time to find Anglin so the case won't be temporarily dismissed.

The suit claims anonymous internet trolls bombarded Gersh's family with hateful and threatening messages after Anglin published their personal information in a post accusing her and other Jewish residents of Whitefish, Montana, of engaging in an "extortion racket" against the mother of white nationalist Richard Spencer. Gersh's lawsuit said she agreed to help Spencer's mother sell commercial property she owns in Whitefish amid talk of a protest outside the building. Sherry Spencer, however, later accused Gersh of threatening and harassing her into agreeing to sell the property.

Gersh's lawyers from the Alabama-based law center say her suit must be dismissed on procedural grounds if Anglin isn't served with a copy of it by July 17, but the court can extend that deadline. The law center's lawyers said they have looked for him at four addresses in Franklin County, Ohio, for which he apparently has a connection. Gersh's attorneys say they also tried in vain to contact Anglin's Las Vegas-based attorney, Marc Randazza, and confirm that he is authorized to accept service of the lawsuit on Anglin's behalf.

Randazza questioned whether the lawyers' request for a deadline extension is a "stunt." "If they can't serve him, I question whether they are actually trying," Randazza told The Associated Press on Friday. "We're going to defend (against) the case."

The suit accuses Anglin of invading Gersh's privacy, intentionally inflicting "emotional distress" and violating a Montana anti-intimidation law. Anglin's site takes its name from Der Stürmer, a newspaper that published Nazi propaganda. The site includes sections called "Jewish Problem" and "Race War." The Daily Stormer used a crowdfunding website, WeSearchr, to raise more than \$152,000 in donations from nearly 2,000 contributors to help pay for Anglin's legal expenses. Anglin didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Friday. — AP



CHICAGO: In this Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, file photo, a customer sets up his new iPhone 7 Plus, right, as he switches from the iPhone 6 at the Apple Store on Michigan Avenue during the release of the Apple iPhone 7 and the latest Apple Watches. — AP

QUALCOMM ASKS FOR IPHONE BAN

WASHINGTON: Qualcomm on Thursday escalated its legal battle with Apple, filing a patent infringement lawsuit and requesting a ban on the importation of some iPhones, claiming unlawful and unfair use of the chipmaker's technology. Qualcomm said it filed two separate legal actions including a complaint asking for the iPhone import ban with the US International Trade Commission, a quasi-judicial government agency which hears cases involving trade disputes.

The complaint alleges that iPhones, which are made in China, should not be allowed to be brought into the United States if they infringe on Qualcomm's patents. The chipmaker also filed a complaint against Apple in the US District Court for Southern California seeking damages from the same patent infringement allegations.

"Qualcomm's inventions are at the heart of every iPhone and extend well beyond modem technologies or cellular standards," said Don Rosenberg, executive vice president and general counsel of Qualcomm. "The patents we are asserting represent six important technologies, out of a portfolio of thousands, and each is vital to iPhone functions. Apple continues to use Qualcomm's technology while refusing to pay for it."

It was not immediately clear which iPhones would be affected. But Qualcomm alleges that it has six patents developed in the past four years that improve battery life in mobile devices and that "Apple uses these technologies in its devices but is not paying for them."

The fresh legal actions sharply escalated the war between the two California technology giants, which began in January when Apple filed a lawsuit accusing Qualcomm of abusing its market power to demand unfair royalties. Responding to the latest legal actions, Apple repeated its allegations against Qualcomm. "Qualcomm's illegal business practices are harming Apple and the entire industry," an Apple statement said.

"They supply us with a single connectivity component, but for years have been demanding a percentage of the total cost of our products—effectively taxing Apple's innovation." Apple chief executive Tim Cook earlier this year said Qualcomm provides "one small part of what an iPhone is," and that the chipmaker "has nothing to do with the display or the Touch ID or a gazillion other innovations that Apple has done."

The Apple suit echoed charges filed by antitrust regulators in the United States and other major markets around the world. Qualcomm responded in April that Apple had been providing "false and misleading information" to antitrust authorities in an effort to reduce its royalty payments to Qualcomm. The iPhone maker relies on Qualcomm for chip-based modems that enable its devices to communicate with telecommunications networks. — AFP

TUMOR GENE TESTING URGED TO TELL IF DRUG TARGETS YOUR CANCER

WASHINGTON: Colon cancer. Uterine cancer. Pancreatic cancer. Whatever the tumor, the more gene mutations lurking inside, the better chance your immune system has to fight back. That's the premise behind the recent approval of a landmark drug, the first cancer therapy ever cleared based on a tumor's genetics instead of the body part it struck first. Now thousands of patients with worsening cancer despite standard treatment can try this immunotherapy - as long as genetic testing of the tumor shows they're a candidate.

"It's like having a lottery ticket," said Johns Hopkins oncologist Dr Dung Le, who helped prove the new use for the immunotherapy Keytruda. "We've got to figure out how to find these patients, because it's such a great opportunity for them." Today, doctors diagnose tumors by where they originate - breast cancer in the breast, colon cancer in the colon - and use therapies specifically tested for that organ. In contrast, the Food and Drug Administration labeled Keytruda the first "tissue-agnostic" treatment, for adults and children.

The reason: Seemingly unrelated cancers occasionally carry a common genetic flaw called a mismatch repair defect. Despite small studies, FDA found the evidence convincing that for a subset of patients, that flaw can make solid tumors susceptible to immunotherapy doctors otherwise wouldn't have tried.

"We thought these would be the hardest tumors to treat. But it's like an Achilles heel," said Hopkins cancer geneticist Bert Vogelstein. And last month FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told a Senate subcommittee his agency will simplify drug development for diseases that "all have a similar genetic fingerprint even if they have a slightly different clinical expression." It's too early to know if what's being dubbed precision immunotherapy will have lasting benefits, but here's a look at the science.

Who's a candidate?

Hopkins estimates about 4 percent of cancers are mismatch repair-deficient, potentially adding up to 60,000 patients a year. Widely available tests that cost \$300 to \$600 can tell who's eligible. The FDA said the flaw is more common in colon, endometrial and gastrointestinal cancers but occasionally occurs in a list of others. "Say, 'have I been tested for this?'" is Le's advice for patients.

Mutations and more mutations

Most tumors bear 50 or so mutations in various genes, Vogelstein said. Melanomas and lung cancers, spurred by sunlight and tobacco smoke, may have twice as many. But tumors with a mismatch repair defect can harbor 1,500 mutations.

Why? When DNA copies itself, sometimes the strands pair up wrong to leave a typo - a mismatch. Normally the body spell checks and repairs those typos. Without that proofreading, mutations build up, not necessarily the kind that trigger cancer but bystanders in a growing tumor.

The plot thickens

Your immune system could be a potent cancer fighter except that too often, tumors shield themselves. Merck's Keytruda and other so-called checkpoint inhibitors can block one of those shields, allowing immune cells to recognize a tumor as a foreign invader and attack. Until now, those immunotherapies were approved only for a few select cancers - Keytruda



RICHMOND, Va: In this 2015 family photo, Catherine "Katie" Rosenbaum is seen at a cancer fundraiser by Swim Across America. — AP

hit the market for melanoma in 2014 - and they work incredibly well for some patients but fail in many others. Learning who's a good candidate is critical for drugs that can cost \$150,000 a year and sometimes cause serious side effects.

In 2012, Hopkins doctors testing various immunotherapies found the approach failed in all but one of 20 colon cancer patients. When perplexed oncologists told Vogelstein, "a light bulb went off."

Sure enough, the one patient who fared well had a mismatch repair defect and a "mind-boggling" number

of tumor mutations. The more mutations, the greater the chance that at least one produces a foreign-looking protein that is a beacon for immune cells, Vogelstein explained. It was time to see if other kinds of cancer might respond, too.

What's the data?

The strongest study, published in the journal Science, tested 86 such patients with a dozen different cancers, including some who had entered hospice. Half had their tumors at least shrink significantly, and 18 saw their cancer become undetectable.

It's not clear why the other half didn't respond. Researchers found a hint, in three patients, that new mutations might form that could resist treatment. But after two years of Keytruda infusions, 11 of the "complete responders" have stopped the drug and remain cancer-free for a median of eight months and counting. Catherine "Katie" Rosenbaum, 67, is one of those successes. The retired teacher had her uterus removed when endometrial cancer first struck, but five years later tumors returned, scattered through her pelvis and colon. She tried treatment after treatment until in 2014, her doctor urged the Hopkins study.

Rosenbaum took a train from Richmond, Virginia, to Baltimore for infusions every two weeks and then, after some fatigue and diarrhea side effects, once a month. Then the side effects eased and her tumors started disappearing.

A year into the study she was well enough to swim a mile for a Swim Across America cancer fundraiser. "Nothing else had worked, so I guess we could say it was a last hope," said Rosenbaum, who now wants other patients to know about the option. — AP



THANH HOA, Vietnam: This picture taken on July 8, 2017 shows a policeman (center) and a customs officer inspecting seized ivory transported on a truck (background) in the central province of Thanh Hoa. — AFP

THREE TONS OF IVORY SEIZED IN VIETNAM

HANOI: Vietnamese authorities have seized nearly three tons of ivory hidden among boxes of fruit, officials said yesterday, the latest haul to spotlight the country's key role in the global wildlife smuggling trade. Police in the central province of Thanh Hoa found 2.7 tons of tusks inside cartons on the back of a truck that was on its way to Hanoi, according to a report on their website. "This is the largest seizure of smuggled ivory ever in Thanh Hoa province," the report said.

State media said the elephant tusks originated from South Africa. The truck driver claimed he was unaware of what he was transporting, according to a report in state-controlled Tuoi Tre newspaper. Police declined to comment further when contacted by AFP yesterday.

The global trade in elephant ivory, with rare exceptions, has been outlawed since 1989 after populations of the African giants dropped from millions in the mid-20th century to around 600,000 by the end of the 1980s.

There are now believed to be some 415,000, with 30,000 illegally killed each year.

Prices for a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of ivory can reach as high as \$1,100. Vietnam outlawed the ivory trade in 1992 but the country remains a top market for ivory products prized locally for decorative purposes, or in traditional medicine despite having no proven medicinal qualities.

Weak law enforcement in the communist country has allowed a black market to flourish, and Vietnam is also a busy thoroughfare for tusks trafficked from Africa destined for other parts of Asia, mainly China. Last October, Vietnam customs authorities discovered about 3.5 tons of elephant tusks at Cat Lai port in Ho Chi Minh city, all in crates of wood, including a hefty two-ton haul packed into a single shipment.

In 2015, 2.2 tons of tusks, originating from Mozambique, were discovered and seized northern Hai Phong port. And last week authorities in Hong Kong seized 7.2 tons of ivory, the largest haul in the city for three decades. While low level couriers are sometimes arrested across Asia very few wildlife trafficking kingpins are brought to justice. — AFP

TRUMP OFFERS BOLD SPACE GOALS, FILLS IN FEW DETAILS

CAPE CANAVERAL: The White House has championed a new era of US leadership in space, but its aspirations are complicated by tight budgets, vacancies in top posts and the rising role of private industry in aerospace innovation, experts say. During a speech Thursday at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Vice President Mike Pence delighted hundreds of space agency employees and contractors by pledging that "under President Trump, we will achieve more in space than we ever thought possible," including a "return to the Moon" and "American boots on the face of Mars."

But as the flag-waving enthusiasm faded, some were left wondering what exactly Pence meant. "Moon" could mean anything-commercial, robotic, international or otherwise," said Phil Larson, a White House space adviser under President Barack Obama and formerly an official with privately owned SpaceX. Larson described a series of recent space-themed orations by Pence as "no cake, just icing." John Logsdon, former head of the George Washington University Space Policy Institute, agreed. "I think (Thursday's) speech was, of course, short on substance because there is no substance," Logsdon said.

No one in top slots

Some are skeptical of the White House's soaring rhetoric because crucial leadership positions remain unfilled. For instance, the US space agency set a dubious record on the Fourth of July: the longest span of time that a newly elected president has gone without naming a new NASA chief. The previous record was a 164-day stretch in 1971 under President Richard Nixon.

NASA is currently headed by an "acting administrator"-engineer Robert Lightfoot, who took over when former astronaut Charles Bolden, an Obama appointee, stepped down. Also empty is the chief of the White House's Office of Science and Technology and Policy, once a key player in crafting NASA's agenda.

It is common for incoming presidents to review their predecessor's space plans and issue a course correction early on. Although Trump may be late in the process, "he has now created a mechanism for



FLORIDA, United States: US Vice President Mike Pence (center) inspects an Orion spacecraft model as Kennedy Space Center Deputy Director Janet Petro (left) and Kennedy Space Center Director Robert Cabana (right) watch during a tour of the Operations and Checkout Building at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida on July 6, 2017. — AFP

taking a look at the current program," Logsdon explained. That mechanism is the revival of the National Space Council-announced last month accompanied by an external advisory group of industry experts.

Pence, a long-time space enthusiast, is heading the National Space Council, now in its third iteration after last shutting down in 1993. The council aims to guide space policy by including the secretaries of state, defense, commerce, transportation and homeland security, along with intelligence and military leaders and the NASA chief. The council will hold its first meeting before summer is out, Pence said.

Follow the money

After that, the dollars allocated to NASA-and the projects they fund-will tell much of the story. "Any big changes are likely to come next year," Logsdon said. Trump's proposed budget for NASA-which has yet to be hammered out by lawmakers-called for \$19.1 billion in spending, a 0.8 percent cut from the

previous year. The proposal canceled plans to drag a small asteroid into orbit around the Moon, where astronauts could study it at length; it also erased several Earth science missions and axed a NASA education office-but it laid out no new visions. The next budget for NASA is to be unveiled in February 2018. "Everybody is waiting, everybody is impatient in the space community," said Logsdon.

How big a private role?

On one side are champions of the old way of doing business, whereby NASA oversaw the building of rockets and spaceships, paid for by lucrative US government contracts. A modern-day example is aerospace giant Lockheed Martin being paid billions by the US government to construct NASA's Orion deep-space capsule, which may one day carry humans to Mars. On the other side is the burgeoning private space industry, with players like SpaceX and Boeing building the next generation of spaceships to ferry astronauts to low-Earth orbit and the International Space Station. — AFP

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Run, don't walk: Mastering the art of fast packing

Few things give freewheeling travelers greater pleasure than taking an order and turning it inside out. 'Walk, don't run!' say the disapproving teachers, officious swimming pool attendants, sanctimonious signposts and other agents of the fun police. Well 'bah' to that, because when it comes to exploring the outdoors, some of us feel like we can experience a whole lot more by lacing a pair of trail-running shoes to some fleet feet, packing light and moving fast.

Fast packing facts

It's a very simple concept: instead of walking a trail, you run it. Why? Because it feels good, and it allows you to cover greater ground, explore more far-flung corners and see the scenery from a completely different point of view. Running doesn't necessarily mean rushing. It can involve an engagement with the terrain that's far more tactile than traditional trekkers realize, with every root and rock analyzed before the foot falls on it.

A little bit of speed can quite easily lead to wealth of stealth too, and often fast packers will enjoy encounters with shy wildlife that chatty, clattering wanderers can but wonder about. Trail running allows a traveler to do a 'day walk' before breakfast. Fast packers - who take the notion to the next level and carry overnight gear - can tackle long-distance expeditions in days rather than weeks.

Where in the world

Places that have large swaths of wilderness and good networks of well-maintained long-distance footpaths are ideal for fast packing adventures. New Zealand is a standout example, with its system of Great Walks and myriad other top trails all looked after superbly by the Department of Conservation. World-famous routes such as the Milford, Routeburn, Tongariro Circuit and the Abel Tasman are, on paper, multiday commitments for hikers, but a reasonably fit fastpacker can complete them in one or two days, while still experiencing all the glory of the terrain they traverse.

Other great locales for fast packing can be found all over the globe in destinations as diverse as Australia, Canada, the US, UK, South Africa, Ireland, Japan, Germany, Kenya, Columbia, Italy, Ecuador, France and Peru. These countries all have sensational hut- and campsite-punctuated paths ripe for exploration by trail-running travelers. You can go anywhere with the right gear and attitude, but carefully consider the climate when planning when and where to go - avoiding extremes of heat or cold will obviously make the escapade a lot more enjoyable.



Comfortable and durable running shoes are essential for a successful fast packing trip. Everyone has a personal preference about how much padding he or she likes between their pinkies and the path, but unless you're a very experienced barefoot runner, this isn't the time to experiment with minimalist shoes. (In fact this isn't the time to be testing anything new -



make sure you've put all your equipment through its paces well before you leave - especially your footwear.) You'll want something that balances lightness with good levels of support and protection from the elements: the XA Pro 3D GTX by Salomon are perfect, but for extra bounce, try a trail shoe from Hoka One One.

layers you need, but a high-quality, breathable shell jacket (made with Gore-Tex, eVent or similar materials) is always an excellent investment - the Minimalist by Marmot (marmot.com) is a good option. Dry socks and a beanie-style hat are worth their weight in gold at the end of a day's running, and it's worth stashing thermals.

Packs for making tracks

Seek out a day-size backpack (10-30 liters, depending on the extent of your escapade), with a good harness (waist and sternum straps are essential to stop it jiggling while you're jogging), easily accessible pockets (for stashing trail snacks to eat on the hoof), a ventilated harness design (to stop your back sweating) and an in-built hydration system (secured water bladder with hose). Osprey and Camelbak both make excellent packs for this purpose.

The speed of light

Since you'll have to carry everything while running, it's essential to travel as light as possible, but don't skimp on quality - a gear or wardrobe malfunction in the wilderness can be serious. For overnight missions you'll need a sleeping bag that offers maximum bang for minimum baggage, so splash the cash on a good goose down number such as Alpkit's ultra light PipeDream.

Many long-distance trails have huts, which are super helpful, but if you're venturing into the genuine wilds for multiple days you'll need some form of lightweight shelter. In warmer areas a simple tarp like the Siltarp from Rab or the Escapist by Sea to Summit will suffice, but for more protection, go for a one-person tiny tent such as the Vaude Bivi. A stove is another consideration: the MicroRocket or WhisperLite by MSR are good options, and the same company makes excellent integrated cooking systems (pans and plates) which are compatible with their stoves for easy stashing.

Fueling up

You can spend a fortune on pre-prepared dehy-

drated meals - and some, such as those by Backcountry Cuisine are almost worth it - but it's also easy to take your own lightweight grub. Go for carbs (pasta, porridge oats, couscous) and protein (almonds, tuna sachets), but don't neglect taste: a few dried herbs weigh next to nothing.

Nay-sayers and trail manners

Fastpacking is a surprisingly contentious issue. Some dyed-in-the-wool walkers take exception to people trotting along trails, even though trail running is arguably a lower-impact pursuit than hiking. After all, you carry lighter gear and spend less time on the path and in huts/campsites, leaving a smaller footprint and burning less fuel.

Part of the argument seems to revolve around the fact that you 'should' spend more time appreciating the immersive experience of the route, but really, everyone is free to enjoy the wilderness in their own way: cyclists ride, walkers hike, runners run - no biggie. It goes without saying, however, that you should be courteous to other trail users, not barging past them, letting people know when you're approaching from behind and definitely not littering the track with gel wrappers or other waste.

Other tips

Stay safe: take a map and compass and know how to use them. Also pack a small first-aid kit, a space blanket and a phone, and let people know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

Record your route: a smart watch such as the Ambit by Suunto will show you exactly where you've been, how much elevation you achieved and how fast you travelled.

Enjoy it: unless you're attempting to break a record, it isn't a race. Stop sometimes, and drink in the views.— www.lonelyplanet.com





- 00:45 Wildest Indochina
- 01:40 Wildest Indochina
- 02:35 Wildest Indochina
- 03:25 Wildest Indochina
- 04:15 Wildest Indochina
- 05:02 Wildest Indochina
- 05:49 Catching Monsters
- 06:36 Night
- 07:00 Meet The Orangutans
- 07:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 08:15 Wildest Africa
- 09:10 Wildest Indochina
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 13:45 Catching Monsters
- 14:40 Wildest Indochina
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Catching Monsters
- 17:25 Animal Cops Houston
- 18:20 Lone Star Law
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 21:05 Animal Cops Houston
- 22:00 Lone Star Law
- 22:55 Wildest Latin America
- 23:50 Catching Monsters

- 20:20 The Locator
- 20:45 The Locator
- 21:10 Betrayed
- 22:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
- 22:50 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence



- 00:00 Hank Zipzer
- 00:25 Alex & Co.
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:55 Hank Zipzer
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Hank Zipzer
- 03:45 Alex & Co.
- 04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:25 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 The 7D
- 06:00 Jessie
- 06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 07:45 The Zhuzhus
- 08:10 Bizaardvark
- 08:35 Bunk'd
- 09:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 09:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 09:50 Best Friends Whenever
- 10:15 Liv And Maddie
- 10:40 Cheetah Girls
- 12:20 Jessie
- 13:10 Girl Meets World
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Austin & Ally
- 14:25 Lolo
- 14:50 The Zhuzhus
- 15:15 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
- 15:20 Bizaardvark
- 15:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 16:10 Liv And Maddie
- 16:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 16:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 17:30 Bunk'd
- 17:55 Girl Meets World
- 18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:25 Alex & Co.
- 18:50 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:15 Star Darlings
- 19:20 Liv And Maddie
- 19:45 Mako Mermaids
- 20:10 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
- 20:35 Tangled Before Ever After Sneak Peek
- 20:40 Bizaardvark
- 21:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 21:30 Stuck In The Middle
- 21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 22:00 Bunk'd
- 22:25 Bunk'd
- 22:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:35 Lolo

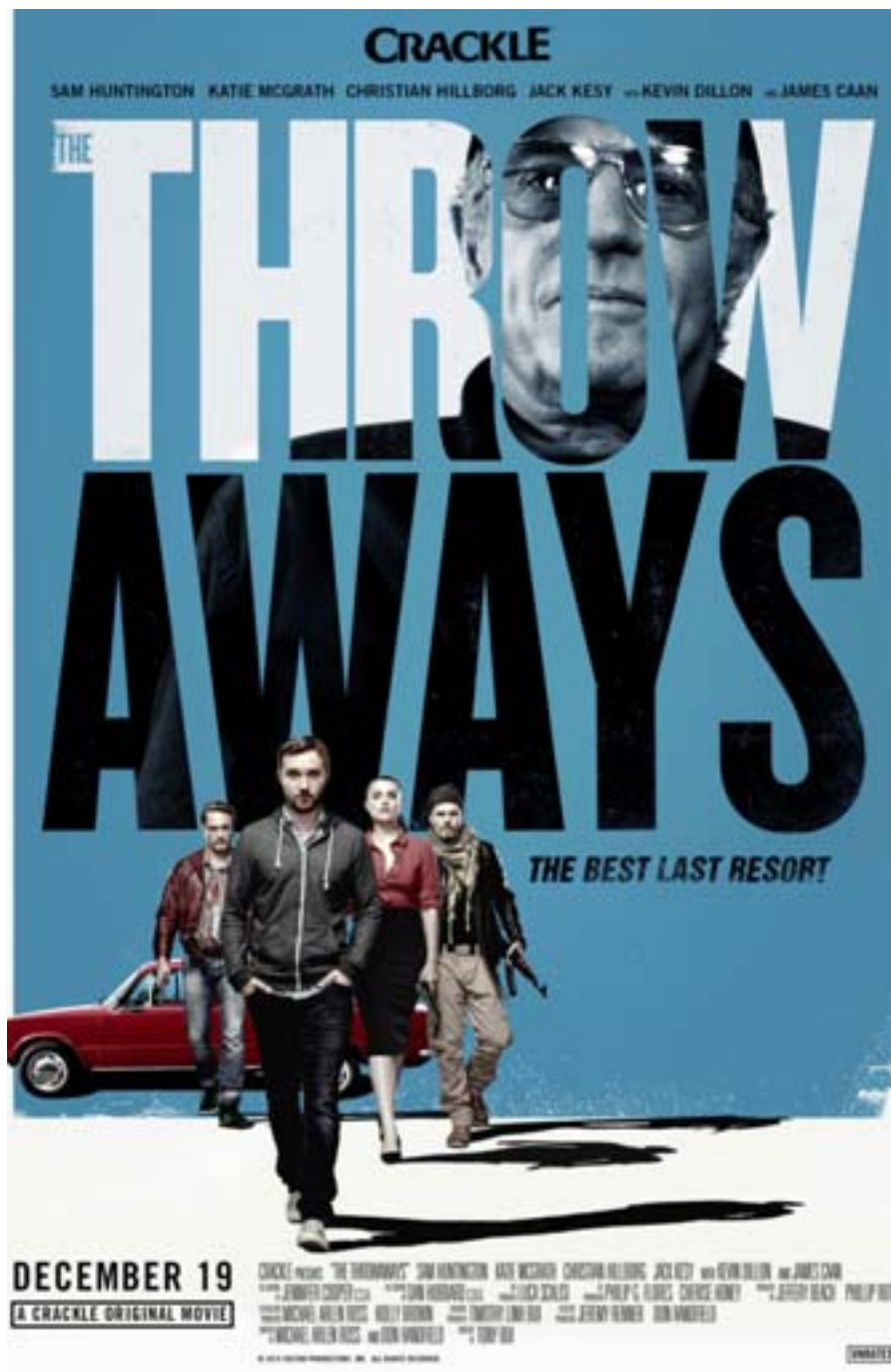
- 16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
- 16:05 Mickey's Pirate Adventure
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
- 17:35 The Lion Guard
- 18:05 PJ Masks
- 18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 19:05 Sofia The First
- 19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:05 The Lion Guard
- 20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 21:00 Goldie & Bear
- 21:25 Doc McStuffins
- 21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:00 Sofia The First



- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:05 Heavy Rescue
- 01:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 02:35 Ocean Warriors
- 03:20 Misfit Garage
- 04:05 Abandoned Engineering
- 04:50 Gold Rush
- 05:35 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:45 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:30 Misfit Garage
- 08:15 Abandoned Engineering
- 09:00 Baggage Battles
- 09:25 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 Fast N' Loud
- 10:55 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 11:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 12:25 How Do They Do It?
- 12:47 Baggage Battles
- 13:10 Gold Rush
- 13:55 Abandoned Engineering
- 14:40 Gold Divers
- 15:25 Fast N' Loud
- 16:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 17:00 How Do They Do It?
- 17:25 How Do They Do It?
- 17:50 Baggage Battles
- 18:20 Baggage Battles
- 18:50 Deadliest Job Interview
- 19:40 How Do They Do It?
- 20:10 How Do They Do It?
- 20:35 How Do They Do It?
- 21:00 Gold Divers
- 21:50 Deadliest Catch
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud



- 06:00 Gravity Falls
- 06:25 Star Darlings
- 06:50 Supa Strikas
- 07:15 Right Now Kapow
- 07:40 Future-Worm!
- 08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
- 09:00 Walk The Prank
- 09:25 Supa Strikas
- 09:50 Gravity Falls
- 10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
- 10:20 K.C. Undercover
- 10:45 Right Now Kapow
- 11:10 Lab Rats
- 11:35 Mech-X4
- 12:00 Avalon High
- 13:30 Milo Murphy's Law
- 13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything



THE THROWAWAYS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 18:00 Bolched
- 19:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 22:00 Bolched
- 23:00 El News
- 23:15 Rob & Chyna

- 11:50 Chopping Block
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Pick Me!
- 15:10 Chopping Block
- 16:00 Broadchurch
- 16:55 Victoria
- 18:10 Royal Stories
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Chopping Block
- 21:00 Broadchurch
- 21:55 Victoria
- 23:15 Coronation Street
- 23:40 Coronation Street

- 15:25 Rampage: President Down
- 17:10 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
- 18:35 Compadres
- 20:20 Judge Dredd
- 22:00 King Arthur



- 01:00 The World Made Straight
- 03:00 Jappeloup
- 05:15 The Better Angels
- 07:00 Penthouse North
- 09:00 The Love Guide
- 10:30 Jappeloup
- 13:00 The Better Angels
- 15:00 Fast Girls
- 17:00 The Love Guide
- 19:00 Fury
- 21:30 Big Eyes
- 23:30 Only God Forgives



- 01:15 Mousehunt
- 03:00 Eight Below
- 05:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 07:00 The Santa Clause 3
- 08:45 Mousehunt
- 10:45 Ice Age
- 12:15 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 14:15 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame II
- 15:30 Storm Rider
- 17:15 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
- 19:00 The Parent Trap
- 21:15 Storm Rider
- 23:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls



- 00:15 Poh & Co
- 00:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 01:10 Glamour Puds
- 01:40 A Is For Apple
- 02:05 Route Awakening
- 02:35 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 04:25 Street Food Around The World
- 04:50 Glamour Puds
- 05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 06:15 Island Hunter
- 07:10 A Is For Apple
- 07:35 Route Awakening
- 08:05 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
- 09:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:55 Street Food Around The World
- 10:20 Glamour Puds
- 10:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 11:45 Island Hunter
- 12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 13:35 Route Awakening
- 14:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:25 Street Food Around The World
- 15:50 Glamour Puds
- 16:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 17:15 Island Hunter
- 18:10 Bad Trip
- 19:05 Street Food Around The World
- 19:30 Glamour Puds
- 20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 21:00 Island Hunter
- 22:00 Bad Trip
- 22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces

- 01:15 Hudson Hawk
- 02:55 Hitman: Agent 47
- 04:35 The Throwaways
- 06:10 Forbidden Empire
- 08:10 Hudson Hawk
- 09:55 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
- 11:20 The Lovers
- 13:10 Rise Of The Legend



- 00:35 Black Mass
- 02:55 Up Close And Personal
- 05:10 Seventh Son
- 07:10 The Horse Whisperer
- 10:05 S.W.A.T.
- 12:10 127 Hours
- 13:55 Just Married
- 15:40 The Legend Of Zorro
- 17:55 The Intern
- 20:00 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 21:45 Jurassic World
- 23:50 A Night At The Roxbury



- 01:00 The To Do List
- 02:40 Fan Girl
- 04:20 Once Upon A Crime
- 06:05 The Duff
- 07:55 A Merry Christmas Miracle
- 09:25 Fan Girl
- 11:05 Once Upon A Crime
- 12:50 The Duff
- 14:35 Life
- 16:30 Miss You Already
- 18:25 Taxi
- 20:10 Barbershop 2: Back In Business
- 22:00 How To Make Love Like An Englishman
- 23:45 The Last Shot



- 01:35 Jappeloup
- 03:50 Wildlike
- 05:50 Chariots Of Fire
- 08:00 We Are Many
- 09:50 Oliver's Deal
- 11:35 Jappeloup
- 13:50 Boychior
- 15:40 We Are Many
- 17:30 Man In The Moon
- 19:15 Paper Towns
- 21:05 Margot At The Wedding
- 22:50 The Royal Tenenbaums



- 00:00 Ratchet And Clank
- 01:40 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails
- 03:20 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 04:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 06:00 Capture The Flag
- 07:40 Albert
- 09:05 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood
- 10:30 Ratchet And Clank
- 12:10 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails
- 13:55 Big Baby
- 15:20 Lego: Scooby Doo Haunted Hollywood
- 16:40 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 18:05 Izzie's Way Home
- 19:25 Big Baby
- 20:55 Albert
- 22:20 Smitty



- 00:00 The Night Shift
- 01:00 Training Day
- 02:00 Royal Pains
- 03:00 Better Call Saul
- 04:00 Chicago Med
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 07:00 The View
- 08:00 The Chew
- 09:00 Lie To Me
- 10:00 Chicago Med
- 11:00 APB
- 12:00 The Chew
- 13:00 The View
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Lie To Me
- 17:00 Chicago Med
- 18:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 19:00 Prison Break - Event Series
- 20:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
- 21:00 Falling Water
- 22:00 House Of Cards
- 23:00 House Of Cards
- OSN Movies Family HD
- 01:00 The Incredibles
- 03:00 Little Women
- 05:00 Frankweenie
- 06:30 The Incredibles
- 08:30 The Shaggy Dog

- 10:15 Inspector Gadget
- 11:45 Frankenweenie
- 13:30 The Rescuers
- 15:00 Tarzan
- 16:30 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 18:30 James And The Giant Peach
- 20:00 Hocus Pocus
- 21:45 Tarzan
- 23:15 James And The Giant Peach



- 00:30 Mega Engineering
- 01:20 Mega Engineering
- 02:10 Mythbusters: The Search
- 03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
- 03:48 Mythbusters
- 04:36 Mythbusters
- 05:24 Mythbusters
- 06:12 Mythbusters
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 08:14 Mythbusters
- 09:02 Mega Engineering
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
- 11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Mega Engineering
- 14:38 Da Vinci's Machines
- 15:26 Mythbusters
- 16:14 Mythbusters
- 17:02 Mega Engineering
- 17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
- 18:40 Mythbusters
- 19:30 Weird Or What?
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Mega Engineering
- 22:50 Weird Or What?
- 23:40 Mythbusters

- 00:12 Henry Danger
- 00:36 Get Blake
- 01:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 01:48 Breadwinners
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 Breadwinners
- 05:00 Breadwinners
- 05:24 Game Shakers
- 05:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:00 The Loud House
- 07:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 07:48 Get Blake
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 09:00 Frank The Prank
- 09:24 Henry Danger
- 09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 10:12 Game Shakers
- 10:36 Regal Academy
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 The Loud House
- 12:36 Breadwinners
- 13:00 School Of Rock
- 13:24 Hunter Street
- 13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 14:12 The Thundermans
- 14:36 Henry Danger
- 15:00 Best Player
- 16:36 The Loud House
- 17:00 Regal Academy
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 Hunter Street
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 School Of Rock
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 The Thundermans
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 The Loud House
- 21:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 21:48 Rabbids Invasion
- 22:12 Breadwinners
- 22:36 Harvey Beaks
- 23:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 23:24 Game Shakers
- 23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



- 00:00 Cursed
- 01:00 Paranormal State
- 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 03:00 Killers
- 04:00 Cursed
- 05:00 Paranormal State
- 06:00 The First 48
- 07:00 Evil Up Close
- 08:00 The First 48
- 09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 10:00 Cold Case Files
- 11:00 Cold Case Files
- 12:00 Cold Case Files
- 13:00 Cold Case Files
- 14:00 The First 48
- 15:00 When Life Means Life
- 16:00 Evil Up Close
- 17:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 Homicide Hunter
- 19:00 The First 48
- 20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 21:00 When Life Means Life
- 22:00 Homicide Hunter
- 23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos



- 00:30 Man v Expert
- 01:20 Man v Expert
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:10 How It's Made
- 07:50 Kids vs Film
- 08:40 Must Love Cats
- 09:30 How It's Made
- 10:20 Unchained Reaction
- 10:20 Mythbusters



BLACK MASS ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:10 Do You Know?
- 11:25 Do You Know?
- 11:40 Do You Know?
- 11:55 Do You Know?
- 12:15 Do You Know?
- 14:30 Doki
- 14:55 Kids vs Film
- 15:20 Must Love Cats
- 16:10 Unchained Reaction
- 17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 17:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
- 18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
- 18:40 Don't Blink
- 19:05 Don't Blink
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
- 22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
- 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival



- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:15 Calimero
- 00:30 Art Attack
- 00:50 Zou
- 01:05 Loopidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 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 Sofia The First
- 07:25 PJ Masks
- 07:50 The Lion Guard
- 08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Future-Worm!
- 14:40 Kirby Buckets
- 15:05 Lab Rats
- 15:30 Walk The Prank
- 15:55 Right Now Kapow
- 16:25 K.C. Undercover
- 16:50 Disney11
- 17:15 Mech-X4
- 17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Gravity Falls
- 18:35 Lab Rats
- 19:00 Supa Strikas
- 19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
- 19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Mech-X4
- 20:45 Disney11
- 21:10 Walk The Prank
- 21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Lab Rats
- 22:10 Lab Rats
- 22:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 00:55 Famously Single
- 01:50 El News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 Bolched
- 04:40 Bolched
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Bolched By Nature
- 06:55 El News
- 07:25 Bolched By Nature
- 08:20 Bolched By Nature
- 09:15 Bolched By Nature
- 10:10 El News
- 10:40 Celebrity Style Story
- 11:10 WAGs Miami
- 12:05 WAGs Miami
- 13:05 WAGs Miami
- 14:00 WAGs Miami
- 14:55 El News
- 15:00 Celebrity Style Story
- 16:30 Bolched
- 17:00 Bolched

- 02:00 Private Chef
- 02:30 Private Chef
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 The Great Food Truck Race
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 09:30 Siba's Table
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table
- 13:30 Siba's Table
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Chopped Junior
- 20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Chopped



- 00:10 Pick Me!
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Chopping Block
- 03:25 Inside Windsor Castle
- 04:20 Royal Stories
- 04:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 05:15 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
- 06:10 Pick Me!
- 07:05 Chopping Block
- 08:00 Inside Windsor Castle
- 09:00 Royal Stories
- 09:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 10:00 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
- 10:55 Pick Me!

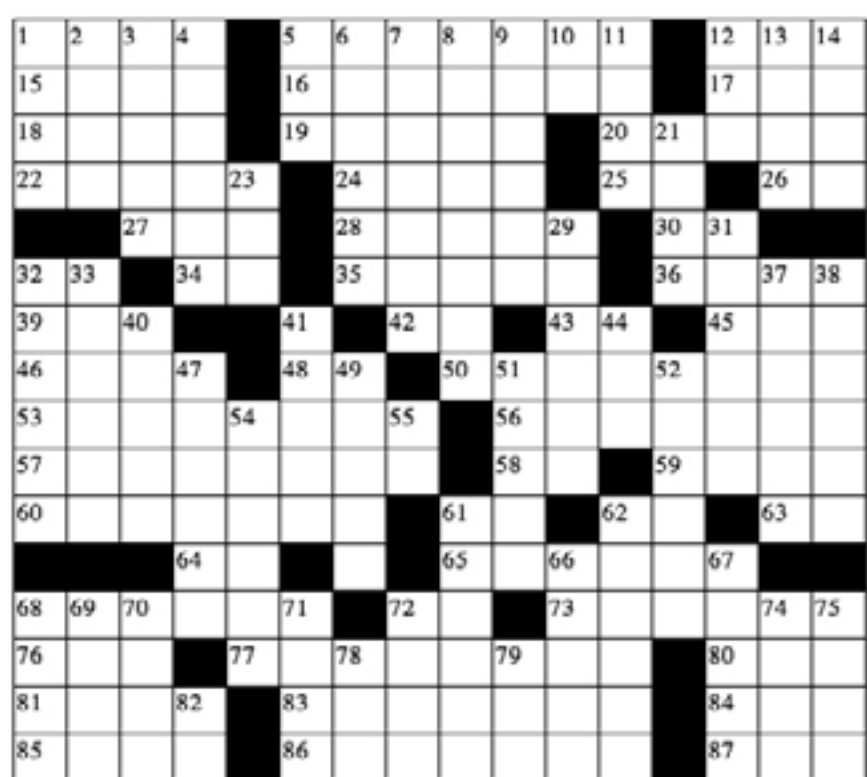


- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
- 01:20 Alaska Haunting
- 02:10 Adnan Syed: Innocent Or Guilty?
- 03:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
- 03:48 Grave Secrets
- 04:36 Murder Chose Me
- 05:24 Murder Book
- 06:12 Blood Relatives
- 07:00 Beauty Queen Murders
- 07:50 Beauty Queen Murders
- 08:40 Beauty Queen Murders
- 09:30 Beauty Queen Murders
- 10:20 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special
- 11:10 Nightmare Next Door
- 12:00 Blood Relatives
- 12:50 Blood Relatives
- 13:40 Blood Relatives
- 14:30 Blood Relatives
- 15:20 Laurn Is Lost: A Disappeared Special
- 16:10 Blood Relatives
- 17:00 California Investigator
- 17:25 California Investigator



- 00:15 Poh & Co
- 00:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 01:10 Glamour Puds
- 01:40 A Is For Apple
- 02:05 Route Awakening
- 02:35 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 04:25 Street Food Around The World
- 04:50 Glamour Puds
- 05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 06:15 Island Hunter
- 07:10 A Is For Apple
- 07:35 Route Awakening
- 08:05 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
- 09:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:55 Street Food Around The World
- 10:20 Glamour Puds
- 10:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 11:45 Island Hunter
- 12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 13:35 Route Awakening
- 14:00 Lee

CROSSWORD 1655



ACROSS

- Antelope with white markings like a harness and twisted horns.
- Lower in esteem.
5. American landscape architect primarily responsible for the design of Central Park in New York City (1822-1903).
12. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
15. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
16. German mathematician (1882-1935).
17. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
18. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
19. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
20. Lower in esteem.
22. A design fixed to some surface or a paper bearing the design to be transferred to the surface.
24. A humorous anecdote or remark.
25. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
26. A public promotion of some product or service.
27. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
28. At right angles to the length of a ship or airplane.
30. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
32. A physician who is not a specialist but treats all illnesses.
34. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
35. A member of the Dravidian people living in northern Bengal in eastern India.
36. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
39. Any of various trees of the genus Ulmus.
42. A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
43. 30 to 300 kilohertz.
45. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
46. Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
48. A state in northwestern North America.
50. A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
53. Placed in a grave.
56. A six-sided polygon.
57. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
58. Half the width of an em.
59. Moderate or restrain.
60. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
63. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
64. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
65. The selling of something purchased.
68. The capital of Croatia.
73. (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction".
76. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
77. A railroad depot in a theater of operations where military supplies are unloaded for distribution.
80. The cry made by sheep.
81. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
83. Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
84. A graphical record of electrical activity of the brain.
85. A French abbot.
86. Having the hair or wool cut or clipped off as if with shears or clippers.
87. Time for Earth to make a complete rotation on its axis.

DOWN

- A pointed instrument used to prod into motion.
- An instinctive motive.
- Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
- United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Any stoppage attributable to unusual activity.
- Large Old World bat of warm and tropical regions that feeds on fruit.
- Any of various plants of the genus Stapelia having succulent leafless toothed stems resembling cacti and large evil-smelling (often star-shaped) flowers.
- Something that is a source of danger.
- The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
- Having sections or patches colored differently and usually brightly.
- (informal) Exceptionally good.
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- Reduced to liquid form by heating.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- Involving two dimensions.
- Tropical fruit with a rough brownish skin and very sweet brownish pulp.
- A power tool for smoothing or shaping wood.
- God of justice.
- A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
- Duplicator that transmits the copy by wire or radio.
- (Norse mythology) An enormous wolf that was fathered by Loki and that killed Odin.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 100 thebe equal 1 pula.
- An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- Someone who takes spoils or plunder (as in war).
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- The Creator.
- Capital and largest city of Iraq.
- A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
- To fix or set securely or deeply.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Clothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion.
- South African term for 'boss'.
- A flat mass of ice (smaller than an ice field) floating at sea.
- The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- Showing self-interest and shrewdness in dealing with others.
- Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydrizid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself having fun with some of your co-worker friends today. Interactions at a park or a friendly ball game may create just what is needed to get to know your working teammates better. A barbeque after the games may put a pleasant ending to a pleasant day. It is easy to sit and talk with a few of your co-worker friends, and everyone feels relaxed and comfortable in expressing opinions. You always come up with new ideas to organize things better, make things work; practical thoughts. You may be quite pleased at the result of the gathering. People are kind and stay away from the gossip arena. Animals are the topic of conversation in your family tonight; someone saw an animal that person had never seen before.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be very much in demand as a counselor this day. Solving problems in a volunteer position becomes second nature and around your home the problems could be about which plants to grow or where the patio may be located. Perhaps you are a volunteer fireman on certain weekends... Whatever the case, people love your company and you enjoy adding to your relationships. This is a good day to get things done. There is good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort that will make most any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about this evening. Bicycling with young people, visiting friends or dinner out with a loved one is in order. Positive communications can be enjoyed, right up until bedtime.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You appreciate a caring attitude and this creates that service-oriented mind-set that others often enjoy from you. You just naturally look for ways to be helpful. The people that are your friends will enjoy a little time to laugh and share your time away from your work. Those that refresh others will be refreshed. This afternoon budget subjects come to the surface. If you have teenagers, this is a good time to include them in ways to make their money count. You might want to ask how they would change and improve their money habits. They may have understood budgeting better than you thought. Now however, it is time to dive deeper. Tonight your energies seem to be just right for ordering clothes over the internet-check out the new styles.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to work with others in any sort of group situation. There is a chance to be chosen or to choose a team and compete with whatever project is urgent and on the agenda for today. This day should move along very well. Your intuitive side kicks in this afternoon and you find an interest in some subject that is psychological. You may find yourself, not necessarily an advisor, but a gatherer of people's experiences. You will be listening, as usual, to all sorts of information regarding relationships, progress and positive outcomes. Since you are artistic, you might consider the study of different artists. You may become interested in writing a bit of poetry and reflecting on your day as you write. Be careful of quick responses later tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. There is a goal to expand your knowledge and experiences and your focus is on your special goals. You are connected to farseeing visions, worldviews and group work of all kinds. You may tend to be a bit independent when it comes to working with standard policies. Travel may soon be called for in your workplace, and you could be one of the first representatives for your company. Your sense of discrimination when it comes to practical issues is excellent-be quick to compliment the clearheaded thinking of others. Everything takes on an added value. Do not overspend today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this may take place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Communicating well is important to you. You make every effort to be patient and make sure you are understood. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and enthusiastic. You would do well in a career in music, poetry, psychology, social work, philosophy-and other realms of the imagination. You can help or teach others by sharing your understanding. Spiritual problems and questions are easy because you always seem to understand.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things are happening, and your career depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong at this time. You are able to take some time this morning for the family and then you might think of some ideas for the workplace. Your suggestions for next week could be written down and presented at an appropriate time later. You could make some monetary rewards for the company in which you work. Give this presentation some careful thought. Your own concentration with this project may appear to separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. Science projects seem to hold your attention later and you enjoy teaching or experimenting on some projects this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you meet with this day. You have chores to run and projects ongoing-keep moving forward. Soon, you will see the energies calm and a new understanding. You have a fundamental approach to group involvement. Progressive, with insights into uniting humanity, you understand the true meaning of democracy. Things will work out in your favor if you maintain low tones for now. You are always working for the benefit of all. You are very independent when it comes to your own security and family. That could mean an unconventional-style home or furnishings, or a different approach to sentiment, nostalgia and history. You may decide to invest in an art piece today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Obtaining and exchanging information with neighbors is fun this day as you may find some common interest. Some performance skill that you are familiar with may become the biggest topic of conversation. A few of your friends may want to get together and create some fun entertainment for each other. One familiar treat would be to take turns in performing skits. Some form of competition is enjoyed and a bit of wit is part of the fun. This time every year is usually reserved for deep consideration regarding vacation time. Perhaps a stay at home time this year will afford you the opportunity to catch up on upkeep of your property or a chance to enhance your home in some way. One item of interest is in preserving rain water.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are determined to see above this day, despite rain, a mind-numbing phone call, work issues, a new family member, neighbor problems, a marriage connection or your first home. This is life and you feel invigorated and ready to take on whatever is before you. Your attitude is upbeat and positive and anyone around you will probably take on the same attitude. It seems you are scheduled for a raise or some other boost in your workplace and this has you feeling very full of self-esteem. You, however, have worked hard to get into a new place and a new status. This evening after all the celebration, you don't stop... You still move into the thinking of what it takes to move forward and continue to grow. You like the upward movement.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your presence and importance in any group, while perhaps not verbalized, is always acknowledged. You can cause others to act, change or react just by being in their presence-nothing need be said. Yours is the mastery of the physical and the practical. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, tangible outer world. You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to get people and things moving. The circumstances of your life suggest extroversion. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think-your pattern seems to throw you in contact with people and the outer world. If you need to put the romance back into your marriage, now is the perfect time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is an ease with your personal project at this time that you may have never known before. Everything is running so smoothly that you may decide to take on another project or adventure. Being a Monday, you might also want to just walk at a slow pace. The events of the morning have the makings for a bright and witty day. Your communication skills are at a high energy level. This afternoon you are very out-front and candid with family. You should be able to share your thoughts and ideas with each other and make great headway in deepening your relationships. You enjoy doing research and may involve the whole family in learning about your ancestors. You enjoy discovering your background. Your passionate approach to life is obvious to all.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Hip-Hop Artists

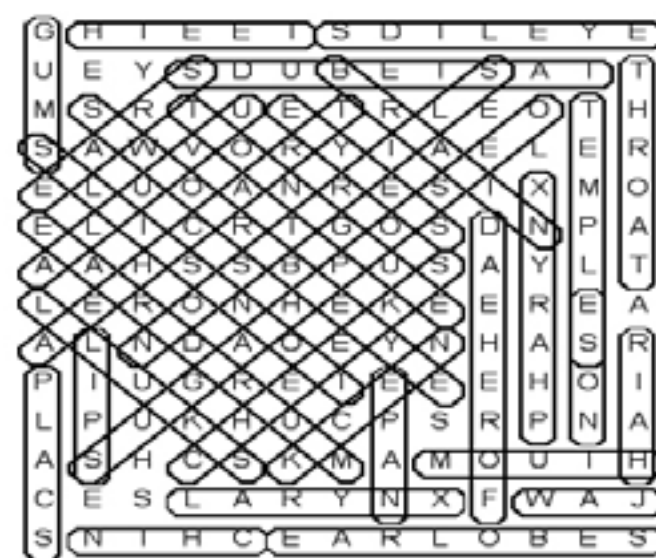
Find and circle all of the Hip-Hop Artists that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of a Lauryn Hill song.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| AFRIKA BAMBATA | FOXY BROWN | MISSY ELLIOTT | THE ALCHEMIST |
| BRAND NUBIAN | GANG STARR | HUGGS | THE FAT BOYS |
| BUSTA RHYMES | GRANDMASTER FLASH | NATURE | THE FUGEES |
| COOLIO | HEAVY D | NOTORIOUS B.I.G. | THE PHARCYDE |
| CORMEGA | KANYE WEST | ONX | THE ROOTS |
| CRAIG MACK | KILLARMY | QUEEN LATIFAH | TLC |
| DE LA SOUL | KURTIS BLOW | REDMAN | WILL SMITH |
| DJ SHADOW | LAURYN HILL | SALT N PEPA | WU-TANG CLAN |
| ERICK SERMON | LL COOL J | SPOONIE GEE | WYCLEF JEAN |
| FAT JOE | MASTER P | STETSASONIC | |

Yesterday's Solution

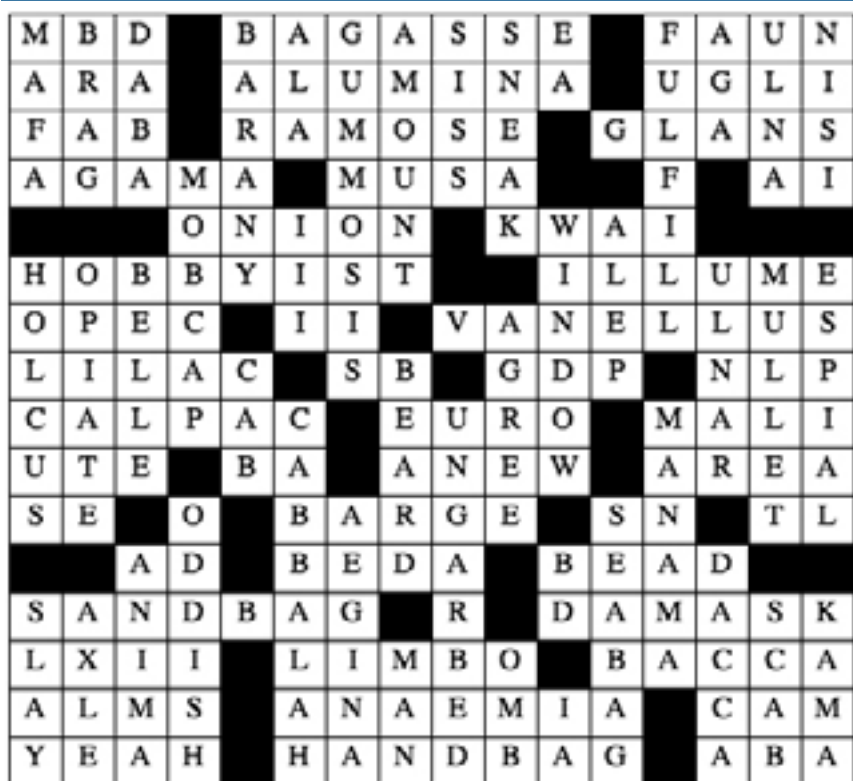
Head & Neck



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 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 | |

The hidden word is: EYELASHES

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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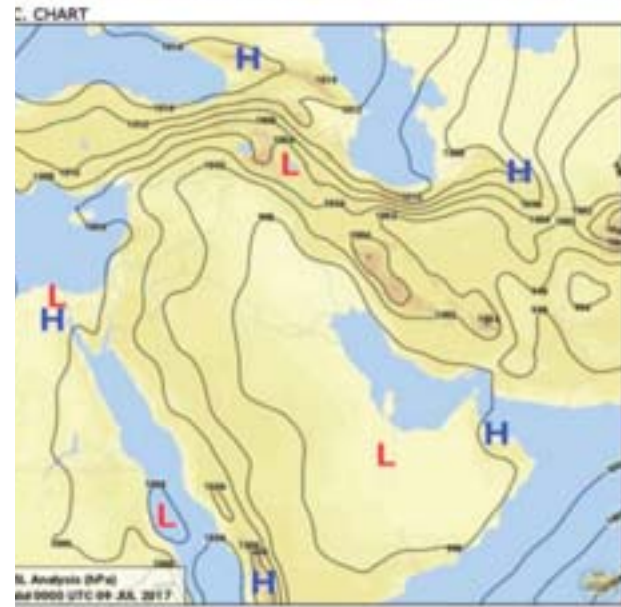


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 09/07/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Maximum Temperature 44 °C

Day: Hot and relatively humid and Visibility will improve gradually with light to moderate easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h.
Night: Relatively hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h with a chance for fog forming.



4-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	Very hot + causing rising dust	Very hot + causing rising dust	Very hot + causing rising dust over open areas
Min Temp °C	31	33	34	35
Max Temp °C	46	50	48	48
Wind Direction	variable to south easterly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	15 - 50	25 - 55	20 - 40

times are local time (GMT +3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	32	43
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30	44
ABDALLY	30	46
BUBYAN	31	38
JAHRA	31	47
FAILAKA ISLAND	30	40
SALMIYAH	31	41
AHMADI	31	39
JAL ALIYAH	29	45
QAROH ISLAND	32	35
UHM AL-MARADEM	32	35
NUWAISIB	31	45
WAFRA	29	46
SALMIY	31	46
MUTRIBA	29	47

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	45
Min Temp (°C)	31
Max Rel Hum (%)	85
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	57 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:56
Sunset	18:51

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:22
Sunrise	04:56
Zuhr	11:53
Aer	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
Antigua	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	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Family Doctor
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	Psychiatrists
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
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	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
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GOSSIP



Noel Gallagher performs Don't Look Back In Anger with U2

Noel Gallagher performed 'Don't Look Back In Anger' with U2 on Saturday at Twickenham Stadium in London. The former Oasis musician is supporting the Irish rockers on their 30th anniversary tour of their classic album 'The Joshua Tree' and following an encore which featured 'Beautiful Day', 'Vertigo' and 'One'. Bono invited Noel on stage to sing the song, which has become an anthem for the people of his native Manchester following the terror attack that followed Ariana Grande's concert in the city in May. Following the powerful rendition of the track, Bono dedicated it to "the people of Manchester, Grenfell Tower, and London Bridge", a trio of tragedies that have rocked the UK this summer. Saturday's encore performance was the first time Noel has sung the song in public, since the Manchester attack. He was recently slammed by his brother Liam for failing to perform at the One Love Manchester benefit concert hosted by Ariana at the Emirates Old Trafford

cricket ground to raise money for the victims. But rather than performing at the event in Manchester, Noel instead decided to donate all the profits from the hit song to the We Love Manchester campaign. The row over Noel's absence from the gig was initiated by Liam, who took to Twitter to apologize for his brother failing to appear at the event. Liam - who did perform at the event - tweeted: "What an amazing night last night pure love vibrations nobody comes close to Manchester love forever LG x "Oh and if anybody's seen rkid tell him he can come out now as you were LG x "Manchester id like to apologize for my brothers absence last night very disappointed stay beautiful stay safe LG x. "Noels out of the country weren't we all love get on a plane and play your tunes for the kids you sad (sic)" However, it was since revealed that Noel wasn't actually invited to perform at the show.

Kesha's album inspired by aliens



Kesha's new album was inspired by her encounters with aliens. The 30-year-old singer features spaceships on the artwork for her comeback album 'Rainbow' and she revealed that she has seen some in real life. Speaking on the 'Zach Sang Show', she said: "I was in Joshua Tree, totally sober, let me preface - completely sober ... I think people would be like, 'She was on acid' or something. I wasn't. I was on nothing. I was a totally sober Sally, just a lady in the desert. I look up in the sky and there's a bunch of spaceships. I swear to God, there were like five to seven, and I don't know why I didn't like try to take a picture of it - I just looked at it. I was sitting on a rock, and I was like, 'What in the hell is that?' I was trying to figure it out, and then they went away. And then they came back. "They came back in a different formation than the one they were in previously. I was like, 'Those are aliens! They were spaceships!" Kesha's new single 'Playing' is an emotional track, inspired by her feelings of "severe hopelessness and depression" and she revealed she has grown both as a person and an artist. She said: "I just feel like a totally different artist - and not in a good or bad way. I had a great time. The first record was super fun, and that's where I was at. This is where I am now." Speaking previously about her new single, Kesha said: "I have channeled my feelings of severe hopelessness and depression, I've overcome obstacles, and I have found strength in myself even when it felt out of reach. I've found what I had thought was an unobtainable place of peace. This song is about coming to feel empathy for someone else even if they hurt you or scare you. It's a song about learning to be proud of the person you are even during low moments when you feel alone. It's also about hoping everyone, even someone who hurt you, can heal." This is Kesha's first solo single since she embarked on a court battle with producer Dr Luke in 2013, after accusing him of sexually assaulting her.

MAISIE WILLIAMS BLASTS SEXUALIZATION OF YOUNG ACTRESSES

Maisie Williams has blasted the sexualization of young actresses in Hollywood. The 'Game of Thrones' actress says it is unfair that teen stars are "forced to play characters who are a lot more mature" and she feels lucky that this hasn't happened to her. Speaking to the Sunday Times Style magazine, Maisie said: "I have been really lucky, in that I play characters who aren't necessarily the eye candy. It's hard for young actresses who still feel like scrappy teenagers but are sort of forced to play characters who are a lot more mature, because, you know, 'young sexy woman' really sells in Hollywood." Maisie landed her role of Arya Stark in 'Game of Thrones' when she was just 12 and says she was a lot more fearless at the age of 12 than she is now at 20. She explained: "At 12, I was fearless and didn't care, so I really enjoyed it. But then, as each season passed, the pressure built and it became a little destructive. Everyone goes through that dip in confidence. That also came with puberty. It all fizzled out a bit, and I lost my confidence and now I'm slowly starting to get it back again. "But the first two years were weird. I was having the time of my life, but I look back and I think I wasn't really very happy because I didn't have many

friends. I had left school and I was working a lot and it was a strange time. I remember in maybe season two or three, other cast members coming up to me and saying, 'Your life is going to change', and to me that wasn't exciting. I was, like, 'I don't want it to change, I quite enjoy my life.'"



Holland wants Spider-Man and Hulk to team up



Tom Holland would love to see a movie featuring Spider-Man and Hulk. The 21-year-old actor plays the web-slinger in 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' and has expressed his desire to have Marvel's favorite green giant team up Peter Parker's alter-ego for a spin-off because he'd love to see them have a face-off, with Hulk squashing Spidey like a bug. Asked who he'd like to see join Spider-Man in the future, he told MTV: "I really like the idea of Spider-Man and Hulk. There's a really amazing picture from the comics where Spider-Man is sitting on a lamppost staring at Hulk, and I think that could be a really - there's so many jokes you can make about the big green guy, so I think that would be a lot of fun. "I think it would be quite interesting to see Hulk try and squash him like a bug, like a sort of big brother-little brother type fight situation rather than a proper fight, just to see them have it off with each other, it would be really fun." Tom recently revealed how he got over his 'Spider-Man' "doubts" following a frank chat with Robert Downey Jr. He had moments of anxiety as to whether he was cut out for the iconic role, but his 'Avengers: Infinity War' co-star helped ease his fears when he admitted to questioning himself in a similar way when he was first cast as Iron Man in the Marvel Universe. Tom said: "Robert Downey Jr has been really great, he's been there during a lot of this. "There have been moments, particularly during 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' where I've doubted my capabilities. We all have doubts. "And he pulled me aside one day and said, 'You know, you got this, this was meant to be. I had the same feelings doing 'Iron Man', the same anxieties, but know that they picked you for a reason - because it feels right, it works. It's not about how good you can do the web-slinging or the stunts, it's about the personality you bring to the character. "That eased by fears and wise words like that from Iron Man, you don't forget. They are there stored in the vault for repeat use."

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Prince's fans love 'mystique' of the vault

Prince's former keyboard player Tommy Barbarella believes the "mystique" surrounding the late music legend's vault of unreleased music is more interesting than the reality of it. Tommy recorded and toured with the 'Purple Rain' hitmaker from 1991 to 1996 and saw what tapes and recordings the songwriter had stored away at his Paisley Park estate in Chanhassen, Minnesota. The vault contains various demos, unheard songs, live recordings and footage of rehearsals and concerts that Prince never made public and since his death in April 2016 at the age of 57 his estate has been sorting through the material and planning releases. As a friend and employee of Prince, Tommy can understand the intrigue around the music that exists but he isn't sure if the reality can live up to the fantasy of the vault. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, the musician said: "What I think is, and I'm sure there's a lot of great stuff in the vault, but I think the idea of the vault - the mysterious mystique of it - is much more interesting to people than the content. I remember hearing about 'The

Black Album' for years, and people had bootleg copies and there was all this hype. Then, when I finally heard it, I thought it was good but it can't live up to the hype. Then it was released and did nothing." Tommy - who is touring Prince's music as part of a new line-up of The New Power Generation, which includes Morris Hayes and Andre Cymone among others - still finds it amusing that the vault is an actual physical entity filled with tapes, videos and DVDs. He said: "What I will say is that it is actually a vault, I mean who has a vault? It's like an Egyptian crypt or something. It does need to be catalogued and preserved." And Andre - who was part of Prince's first ever touring band before they parted ways in 1981 - isn't sure if all these unheard songs should be released. He said: "Some things might be better left alone; these songs are in the vault for a reason."



Emily Ratajkowski wants strong roles

Emily Ratajkowski only wants to make movies where her own character's perspective is important. The 26-year-old model-and-actress always applies the Bechdel test - where two or more women speak about something other than a man - when considering her roles and is very excited about her next project, which sees her star opposite Aaron Paul in psychological thriller 'Welcome Home'. She said: "I'm always looking for scripts that pass the Bechdel test and this is definitely one where, for the first time, you see my character in their own world and their story through their perspective - not just a male perspective, and that's exciting for me." And Emily doesn't want to get typecast as a "hot girl" so is thankful she still has a successful modeling career because it means she can afford to be choosy

about her acting work. She told Britain's Glamour magazine: "That's basically my strategy...and part of the reason I'm so grateful I have modeling and so many other things that I'm doing - because if I didn't have other ways of making money, I'd be like, 'OK, I guess I'm doing the bathing-suit-girl role.'" The brunette beauty is willing to wait as long as it takes to be able to "prove" herself as a credible and diverse actress. She added: "You really have to prove yourself in this industry and I'm very much up for the challenge. It takes a really long time to not only prove yourself, but also prove that you're more dynamic than just this one part of you that they see."

Christie's Star Wars role feels special

Gwendoline Christie thinks it is "special" to be a part of the 'Star Wars' franchise. The 38-year-old actress is still amazed she was cast as Captain Phasma in 'Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens' - a role she will reprise in the next installment, 'The Last Jedi' - and admits every day on set is still very "exciting". She said: "It's so special. Everyone there... I can't express to you... everyone there is so enthusiastic and delighted. "I loved 'Star Wars' from when I was really little. I didn't think I'd be in a 'Star Wars' film. "Whoever things they're going to be in a 'Star Wars' film? Every day is really exciting." And Gwendoline says her enthusiasm is shared by all of the cast and crew. She added to Total Film magazine: "There's a childlike enthusiasm as well, everyone from the

director down says, 'Woah, we're doing 'Star Wars'." "The 'Game of Thrones' star feels very grateful she's been offered a very diverse range of roles throughout her career. She said: "I've always been interested in playing as diverse a range of roles as possible. "I was very lucky to go to drama school and that instilled in me the desire to play as many roles as possible and to look at different kinds of human beings. "And I've been enormously lucky to be in 'Game of Thrones', to play that wonderful character (Brienne of Tarth). "I think it's also incredibly valuable for there to be characters that exhibit strength. "I think that is valuable in our entertainment at present to see that, particularly at the moment."



MUSIC & MOVIES

INDIA STAR AAMIR NOW BOLLYWOOD'S 'KING OF THE KHANS'

Three Indian actors sharing a surname have ruled Bollywood box offices across three decades, but the success of wrestling blockbuster "Dangal" means it's Aamir who's currently king of the Khans. Known as the "Khans of Bollywood", Aamir, Shah Rukh, and Salman have been the undoubted superstars of the Hindi film industry since the mid-1990s, taking it in turns to reign supreme. But with "Dangal" smashing records, Salman suffering a rare flop and Shah Rukh without a major hit in four years, the crown for now is firmly placed on Aamir's head.



This file photo shows Indian Bollywood actor Aamir Khan attending a poster launch of his upcoming biographical sports drama "Dangal" in Mumbai. — AFP

"The Khans used to be on a par but Aamir has moved ahead and Shah Rukh is kind of lagging behind recently," film trade analyst Ramesh Bala said of the trio who all turn 52 this year and who are not related. "Dangal" has set new and previously unimaginable parameters for the box office potential of a Bollywood movie since it was first released in India in December last year. It quickly became the highest-grossing Bollywood film ever, knocking another of Aamir's movies off the top spot, and has made close to 20 billion rupees (\$310 million) worldwide.

Khan plays the role of wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat who defies the odds by raising his daughters Geeta and Babita Phogat to become champion wrestlers. Geeta won gold for India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games while Babita topped the podium at the 2014 edition. Critics say the movie resonated

because it was a patriotic story about a triumphant underdog that dealt with India's skewed attitude towards girls, and credit a large part of Aamir's success to his careful choosing of movies with a message. "Aamir is one person who really puts a lot of thought and effort into selecting films that are relevant to an Indian audience. There are very few actors who really do enough of that," film distributor Akshaye Rathi told AFP.

Audiences lapped up Aamir's 2014 satirical science fiction comedy "PK", number two on the all-time Bollywood grossing list, for its questioning of religious superstitions. His 2009 hit "3 Idiots" appealed for its coming of age tale about students struggling to deal with the pressure of becoming engineers.

"Genius" Rathi also points to the fact that Aamir does one film every two years on average, while Salman and Shah Rukh regularly release two a year. "Aamir has been very consistent for a very long time. He doesn't do as many films as Shah Rukh or Salman and the more films you do the higher the chance that one misses," Rathi explained. Salman's annual Eid holiday release is usually a blockbuster shoo-in, but the latest, "Tubelight" bombed. Critics panned the script and said the star's portrayal of a "village idiot" failed to resonate with his largely young Indian male fan base.

Bala blames Shah Rukh's failure to register a hit since "Chennai Express" in 2013 on "experimenting with different genres", including romance, action and drama. Aamir is lauded for taking on challenging roles. For "Dangal" he gained and then lost again 25 kilograms (55 pounds) in weight while cinema-goers adored his portrayal of a humanoid alien stranded on Earth in "PK".

"As a star he doesn't enjoy so much of a fan following as he enjoys the trust of the audience for his craft. People believe at the back of their minds that if Aamir appears in a film there will be something, different, something novel in it," said Rathi. "Dangal" has made around \$180 million more than "PK" in global sales thanks to a record-breaking run in the hugely profitable Chinese market, where Aamir has worked hard at building his brand, becoming the biggest Indian star there. "Aamir has time and again proven his marketing genius and his genius when it comes to choosing the right script, delivering a terrific performance and enthralling the audience," said Rathi. — AFP



People gather at the Arena Stadium in Amsterdam during the last edition of the dance festival Sensation, The Final, on Saturday. — AFP

'True Blood' actor Nelsan Ellis dead at 39

Nelsan Ellis, an actor best known for his role in the vampire series "True Blood," has died. He was 39 years old. The actor died following complications from heart failure, his manager told CNN. His portrayal of Lafayette, a gay cook and medium, helped him spring onto the acting scene after his character became a favorite of fans of the HBO drama, which ran from 2008 to 2014. "We were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Nelsan Ellis," the HBO network said in a statement Saturday. "Nelsan was a long-time member of the HBO family whose groundbreaking portrayal of Lafayette will be remembered fondly within the overall legacy of True Blood."

"Nelsan will be dearly missed by his fans and all of us at HBO." As news of his death spread many fans posted a clip from the show where Ellis's character bursts out of his

restaurant kitchen to confront a table of homophobic diners. An alumnus of New York's prestigious Juilliard performing arts conservatory, Ellis's credits include silver screen appearances in 2009's "The Soloist" as well as 2011's Oscar-award winning film "The Help." "My heart breaks for his kids and his family," wrote his co-star in that film Octavia Spencer in an Instagram post. "He was soooooo funny. I miss him."

The Illinois native also depicted Martin Luther King Jr in "The Butler," released in 2013. "True Blood" co-star Joe Manganiello took to Twitter to pay tribute to the late actor: "Crushed today by the loss of my friend and castmate Nelsan Ellis." "He was a wonderful person, a pioneer, and a one of a kind artist." — AFP



In this Monday, July 21, 2014 file photo, actor Nelsan Ellis attends the world premiere of "Get On Up" at the Apollo Theater in New York. — AP

'Disorderly' US actor Shia LaBeouf arrested in Georgia



This file photo shows US actor Shia LaBeouf during a photocall for the film "American Honey" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

US film star Shia LaBeouf was arrested in Georgia early Saturday after becoming "aggressive" towards a police officer and behaving in a "disorderly" fashion, authorities said. According to the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, LaBeouf was arrested in the early hours after he approached a bystander and a police officer, asking for a cigarette. He was released hours later after posting a \$7,000 bond, Pete Nichols, spokesman for the Chatham County Sheriff's Department told AFP.

It is the latest in a series of arrests for "Transformers" star LaBeouf, with at least one past incident also involving "disorderly" behavior. "When LaBeouf wasn't given a cigarette, he became disorderly, using profanities and vulgar language in front of the women and children present," the police department said in a statement. The officer told LaBeouf to leave the area but he refused and grew aggressive, the statement read. When the officer attempted to

place LaBeouf under arrest, he ran to a nearby hotel before eventually getting arrested in the lobby.

LaBeouf was charged with obstruction, disorderly conduct, and public drunkenness. LaBeouf is in Georgia to film the "Peanut Butter Falcon," a movie co-starring Dakota Johnson. Also known for films such as "Disturbia" (2007) and Lars von Trier's "Nymphomaniac" (2013), LaBeouf was arrested in January when he allegedly grabbed and pushed a man outside the Museum of the Moving Image in New York, where the film star had set up an anti-Donald Trump installation. LaBeouf has said the charges against him were subsequently dropped. He was also arrested in June 2014 at a Broadway musical after causing a disturbance in the theater. — AFP



PITBULL, HUDSON, KRAVITZ PERFORMING AT ALL-STAR EVENTS

Pitbull will perform during ceremonies tonight before the All-Star Home Run Derby. Bebe Rexha will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" tomorrow night before the All-Star Game at Marlins Park and Jocelyn Alice will sing "O Canada." Jennifer Hudson will sing at a private party in Miami Beach hosted by Stand Up to Cancer and Mastercard, when there also will be a New Era event with Amine and Metro Boomin. Lenny Kravitz will perform tonight at the Major League Baseball Players Association party in Miami.

Rapper Lil Jon was to perform at the All-Star 5K on Saturday night and Don Omar at the All-Star Zumba experience yesterday, when Flo Rida is to give a show at Marlins Park between the All-Star Futures Game and the celebrity softball game. — AP



Actor Donal Logue

Missing teen daughter of actor Donal Logue found safe

The teenage daughter of actor Donal Logue has been found safe nearly two weeks after she went missing in New York City. The New York Police Department says 16-year-old Jade Logue was found Saturday. Logue had posted appeals to help find Jade on Facebook and Twitter after she disappeared on June 26.

He wrote on Facebook that the "net had been flung far and wide." Jade is transgender and was previously known as Arlo Logue. Police provided no details about how or where she was found. Donal Logue stars as Detective Harvey Bullock on "Gotham." He also had a recurring role as Lt. Declan Murphy on NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." — AP

Florida divers, snorkelers submerge for reef music festival

A local radio station's broadcast underwater in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on Saturday attracted about 400 divers and snorkelers who listened to music and announcements advocating reef preservation. The Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival at Looe Key Reef, part of the world's third-largest living coral barrier reef, featured four hours of music custom-programmed by station WWUS for subsea listening. "We have a captive audience down there," said Bill Becker, the event's co-founder and the station's news director. "We have divers and snorkelers listening to public service announcements

about reef preservation, coral reef etiquette and diver awareness.

"It's things that they can do to lessen their impact on the coral reef," he said. The aquatic-focused playlist included the theme from the "The Little Mermaid," the Beatles' "Octopus's Garden" and the theme from the iconic shark motion picture "Jaws." "We just wanted to get their (participants) attention," laughed Becker. Other songs included Jimmy Buffett's "Fins," the theme from the television classic "Flipper" and "Atlantis" by Donovan. Participants in the water could hear the commercial-free broadcast via

Lubbell Laboratory waterproof speakers strategically hung from boats floating above the reef.

Several divers were costumed, including two mermaids and a Sponge Bob cartoon character. Others pretended to play Florida Keys artist August Powers' sculpted musical instruments. Becker described the underwater listening experience at "ethereal," saying that the sound was not loud, but very clear and it seemed that music could be "felt through your body and not just through your ears." — AP



In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, a yellowtail snapper swims by participants pretending to play a local artist's musical instrument sculptures at the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival Saturday in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Big Pine Key, Fla. — AP photos



Mariah Reynolds pretends to play a local artist's musical instrument sculpture at the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival.

TRAVEL



Young surfers pose with their board for a picture during the international surf day competition on Kokrobite Beach, Ghana. — AFP photos



Surfers do flips as they wait to compete in the international surf day competition in Kokrobite Beach.



Surfers concentrate on their board before competing in the international surf day competition in Kokrobite Beach.



Surfers finish their semi-final set, during the annual international surf day competition.



Children enjoy body boarding during the annual international surf day competition on Kokrobite Beach.

Ghana eyes surfing to boost tourism numbers

Brett Davies paced up and down the sloping sands of Kokrobite beach in Ghana, organizing surfers from 20 different countries at his annual international competition. Along the beach, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) west of Accra, dotted with dug-out fishing boats, Rastafarians were selling T-shirts and small children were playing in the sand. Davies, 42, is leading the push to bring surfers to the West African nation as a way to help boost the country's underdeveloped tourism sector. The British national already runs a surf school at Kokrobite and has helped to bring surfing to Busua, near the border with Ivory Coast.

"The greatest thing about surfing in Ghana is that we have uncrowded world-class waves that appeal to the beginner and intermediate market," he told AFP. "Most well-known destinations are very localized and very intimidating to the average surfer." At the competition, which was held last month, local reggae boomed from the speakers stacked in the corner of a car-park. In the water, Emmanuel Ansa cut across the breaks, deftly maneuvering his board, trying to catch the eye of the judges sitting on a wooden platform, looking out to sea. The 19-year-old from Busua started surfing five years ago and described his first time on the waves as "like having a new girlfriend". "I was so happy," he said. Now he, too, wants to see Ghana become a surfing destination in its own right and one day represent the West African nation at overseas competitions.

Untapped potential

According to the World Bank, 897,000 international tourists visited Ghana in 2015. In comparison, just over 1.1 million went to Kenya and 8.9 million travelled to South Africa. But the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) estimates numbers for Ghana could jump to nearly 1.3 million this year and more than 2.0 million by 2027.

In the last few years travel and tourism have directly contributed \$1.3 billion to Ghana's economy—the equivalent of about 3.0 percent of gross domestic product.

Tourism generally focuses on natural attractions like waterfalls and national parks, historic slave forts and cultural activities. But with some 550 kilometers of unspoiled coastline, watersports on the Atlantic Ocean, off the palm tree-lined golden sands, are being seen as a major draw. "Surfing has a huge potential," said Ghana tourism specialist Gilbert Abeiku Aggrey. "We have not developed our beaches. We have not

done anything, it's a raw opportunity for anyone who wants to come."

Attracting surfers is seen as a good way to bring in middle-income earners to Ghana, plugging a growing gap between budget travellers, volunteers and those on business. "The gap between the low end and the high end is very huge, it's an untapped market," said Aggrey. "It is because people aim at making profit so they hike the price or rate looking for the high-end travellers."



Development plan

The high cost of flights and accommodation in Ghana has been blamed for deterring tourists. A stay at a standard three-star hotel in the capital can set travellers back \$100 (88 euros) a night, while flights even within West Africa can be eye-wateringly expensive. The head of the Ghana Tourism Authority, Kwesi Agyemang, said there are plans to start targeting different interest groups and improve regulation. The authority's work includes targeting other countries for visitors. The government's National Tourism Development Plan in 2012 noted there were "completely virgin" beaches in Ghana's Western Region because of lack of access.

They showed "great potential for development", it added. Ghana's new government, in power since January this year, has put a fresh emphasis on tourism and wants to develop Accra's under-developed and impoverished beach front. The Marine Drive Tourism Investment Project aims to develop nearly 100 hectares (250 acres) of the shoreline with hotels, shopping malls, theme parks, an office and casino. In the 2017 budget, Ghana's finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta said tourism could help address soaring levels of debt and high unemployment. Ghana, once celebrated for its rapidly growing economy, saw rates of growth slow to some 3.6 percent in 2016 – the lowest in two decades and well down on 14 percent in 2011. Davies accepted that government help was needed but, whatever happens, he will be encouraging people to ride the waves. "Ghana is just about to explode due to surfing tourism and it's very exciting times for surfing in Ghana," he added. — AFP

Ghanaian surfer Clement Slater competes in the international surf day competition on Kokrobite Beach.



Surfers wax their board before competing in the international surf day competition in Kokrobite Beach.



Surfers run to the waves to compete in the international surf day competition on Kokrobite Beach.



Emmanuel Ansa (Bebe) walks on the beach after he finishes his semi final set during the international surf day competition.



Ghanaian surfer Emmanuel Ansa prepares to compete in the international surf day competition.



Brett Davis speaks to the surfers before they compete in the international surf day competition in Kokrobite Beach.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017

Ghana eyes surfing to boost tourism numbers

31



After heavy rain earlier in the day, a child splashes through the water among some of the thousands of pinwheels in the Rose Garden area of Prospect Park, July 7, 2017 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. The art installation, titled "The Connective Project," is on display through July 17 as part of Prospect Park's 150th anniversary celebration. — AFP



Photo shows French dancer star Laurent Hilaire. — AFP

French ballet star wins plaudits with contemporary stagings in Moscow

French dancer star Laurent Hilaire, who this year joined Moscow's renowned Stanislavsky ballet troupe as artistic director, on Saturday wowed audiences with a program introducing top contemporary choreographers. Hilaire, a former principal dancer of the Paris Opera Ballet, became artistic director of the Stanislavsky Music Theatre six months ago in a rare choice of a foreigner to head a Russian ballet troupe. The audience responded with rapturous applause to his first program that premiered Saturday and saw works by two internationally renowned choreographers performed by the troupe for the first time.

The first Frenchman to head a Russian troupe for 150 years, Hilaire has vowed to "open up" the repertoire of the historic Stanislavsky theatre, which focuses on classics. On Saturday, Hilaire staged "Suite en Blanc" by the late French choreographer Serge Lifar as well as groundbreaking US choreographer William Forsythe's "The Second Detail" and Czech Jiri Kylian's "Petite mort." "This is a challenge for the troupe. They had never done Lifar, they had never done Forsythe," Hilaire told AFP, adding that the warm reception came as a pleasant surprise.

"People had told me the ballet audience in Russia was rather conservative," he said. Hilaire also revealed he plans to stage in the next season "Don Quixote" as it was choreographed by dance legend Rudolf Nureyev, the star who defected to the West from the Soviet Union in 1961 and died from an AIDS-related illness in 1993 aged 54. "This will be the first time there's been a Rudolf ballet here," he said. — AP

Eritrea's 'city of dreams' given UNESCO heritage listing

The people of Eritrea have long said their capital Asmara is like no other city in Africa, and on Saturday the UN agreed, designating it a World Heritage site. The proclamation ends a long-running quest by Eritrean authorities to have the city's unique architecture, which includes an art-deco bowling alley with coloured glass windows and a petrol station built to resemble a soaring aeroplane, recognized by the UN cultural body, UNESCO.

It's also a rare example of positive world recognition for the Horn of Africa nation that is a major source of migrants fleeing across the Mediterranean to Europe due to the country's repressive policies. "The city's recognition as a heritage site of outstanding universal value fills us with tremendous pride and joy, but also with a profound sense of responsibility and duty," said Hanna Simon, Eritrea's permanent delegate to UNESCO. The decision was taken at a meeting of the World Heritage Committee in the Polish city of Krakow. A former Italian colony, most of the futuristic designs of the Eritrean capital date back to the rule of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini from 1936 to 1941.

Architects whose designs were unwelcome in conservative European cities found a place in Asmara at a time when about half of the city's population was Italian and the city was known as "Piccola Roma", or "Little Rome". While the modernist architecture of other Eritrean cities was destroyed during a decades-long war of liberation from Ethiopia, Asmara's survived and was declared a national monument by the government in 2001, which refers to it as Africa's "City of Dream" (sic). But efforts to restore the marble facades and Roman-style pillars of the city's theatres and cinemas have been hampered by a shortage of money and local expertise, city authorities say. — AFP

'ATLANTIS'



These installations titled 'Atlantis' by Finnish artist Tea MAKIPAA is pictured at Museum Schloss Moyland in Bedburg-Hau, western Germany, on July 6, 2017. With her installation of a house sinking into the castle moat, the artist aims to draw a critical view of the limitedness of natural resources and consumer behaviour. The show will be open for the public from July 8 to November 19, 2017. — AFP photos

