

Egypt police probe motives of Red Sea beach attacker



Muguruza stuns Venus to win first Wimbledon crown



la **FRANCE**
Supplement inside



MOH HITS OUT AT 'SABOTAGE' AMID FAKE DOCTOR REPORTS

MOI BEGINS OPERATING NEW TRAFFIC CAMERAS



Min 31°
Max 48°
High Tide 04:38 & 16:07
Low Tide 10:33 & 23:01

TURKEY MARKS YEAR SINCE 'EPIC' COUP DEFEAT

ISTANBUL: Turkey yesterday marked one year since the defeat of the coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, seeking to showcase national unity and his grip on power in an increasingly polarized society. The authorities have declared July 15 an annual national holiday of "democracy and unity", billing the foiling of the putsch as a historic victory of Turkish democracy. "It's one year since the darkest night was turned into an epic," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told a special session of parliament that kicked off a day of celebrations set to last until dawn.



ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan walk to a ceremony site on the July 15 Martyrs Bridge (Bosphorus Bridge) yesterday. — AFP

He said the night of July 15 was a "second War of Independence" after the war that led to the creation of the modern Turkish state in the ruins of the Ottoman Empire in 1923. Two hundred and forty nine people, not including the plotters, were killed when a disgruntled faction in the army sent tanks into the streets and war planes into the sky in a bid to overthrow Erdogan after one-and-a-half decades in power.

But they were thwarted within hours as the authorities regrouped and people poured into the streets in support of Erdogan, who blamed followers of his ally-turned-nemesis, the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen. Erdogan, at the center of the commemorations, took part in a "people's march" on the Istanbul bridge across

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By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health yesterday condemned efforts to discredit its services and malign the integrity of its staff. A statement issued by the ministry urged citizens and residents not to pay heed to attempts to undermine public confidence in the country's healthcare services. The statement noted that the ministry "reserves the right to mount legal action against all those involved in sharing untrue and baseless information that is detrimental to its reputation". The ministry added that it is open to all suggestions and complaints regarding the quality of healthcare provided in the state.

Earlier yesterday, a ministry official said that the ministry was handling with "full urgency and concern" alleged social media reports of a foreign national posing as a doctor. The ministry has made contacts with several bodies in order to gather information before issuing a statement regarding the rumors, ministry spokesman Ahmad Al-Shatti said in a statement. Shatti added that those revealed to have been involved in the incident and allowing it to take place will face legal charges.

Separately, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said the traffic department has begun operating new traffic cameras on major roads, including the Fifth Ring Road near Avenues mall, Qurtuba; Fourth Ring Road near Surra; and King Fahd Road near Bayan Palace. It said the new cameras monitor speeding in all lanes in both directions, including the emergency lanes.



AMMAN: Protestors chant slogans in the Jordanian capital yesterday during a demonstration against the closure of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. — AFP

TIGHT SECURITY IN JERUSALEM AS HOLY SITE CLOSED AFTER ATTACK

JERUSALEM: Security forces locked down parts of Jerusalem's Old City yesterday and an ultra-sensitive holy site remained closed after an attack that killed two police officers and heightened Israeli-Palestinian tensions. Three Arab Israelis opened fire on Israeli police Friday in the Old City before fleeing to the nearby Haram Al-Sharif, where they were shot dead by police. Israeli authorities said they had come from the flash-point holy site, which includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, to commit the attack.

The authorities took the highly unusual decision to close the Al-Aqsa mosque compound for Friday prayers, leading to anger from Muslims and Jordan, the holy site's custodian. Wael Arabiyat, Jordan's Islamic affairs minister, warned that

keeping Al-Aqsa mosque closed is "dangerous" and "unprecedented", a day after Amman on Friday called for its immediate reopening. Hundreds of Jordanians, responding to a Muslim Brotherhood call, demonstrated in Amman after mid-day prayers yesterday, calling for the "liberation of Al-Aqsa".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has indicated the site will stay closed until at least today while security was assessed, and rejected Jordan's criticism. "Instead of denouncing the terrorist attack, Jordan chose to attack Israel," Netanyahu was quoted as saying by officials, and called for restraint. Netanyahu also spoke of increasing security at entrances to the site when it reopens - likely to be a controversial move.

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FRANCE WADES INTO GULF ROW

PARIS AIMS TO BE 'FACILITATOR' IN CRISIS TALKS

MATHS 'GENIUS' MIRZAKHANI DIES

WASHINGTON: Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian-born mathematician who was the first woman to win the coveted Fields Medal, died yesterday in a US hospital after a battle with cancer. She was 40. Mirzakhani's friend Firouz Naderi, a former director of Solar Systems



Maryam Mirzakhani

Exploration at NASA, announced her death on Instagram. "A light was turned off today. It breaks my heart gone far too soon," he wrote, later adding: "A genius? Yes. But also a daughter, a mother and a wife."

Mirzakhani, a professor at Stanford University in California, died after the cancer she had been battling for four years spread to her bone marrow, Iranian media said. In 2014 Mirzakhani won the Fields Medal, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for Mathematics, which is awarded by the International Congress of Mathematicians. The award recognized her sophisticated and original contributions to the fields of geometry and dynamical systems, particularly in understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces such as spheres.

Born in 1977 and raised in Tehran, Mirzakhani initially dreamed of becoming a writer, but by the time she started high school and showed an affinity for solving math problems she shifted her sights. "It is fun - it's like solving a puzzle or connecting the dots in a detective case," she said when she won the Fields Medal. "I felt that this was something I could do, and I wanted to pursue this path."

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DOHA: France's foreign minister yesterday called on Qatar's neighbors to immediately lift measures impacting thousands of people in the Gulf, becoming the latest foreign diplomat to visit the region and attempt to find a resolution to a crisis that has dragged on for more than a month. Jean-Yves Le Drian said in Doha yesterday that Paris wants to assist Kuwait-led mediation on the crisis. "France should be a facilitator in the mediation" led by Kuwait, Le Drian told reporters following talks with his Qatari

counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

In early June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar and moved to isolate the small, but wealthy Gulf nation, canceling air routes between their capitals and Qatar's and closing their airspace to Qatari flights. Saudi Arabia also sealed Qatar's only land border, impacting a key source of food imports in the mostly desert nation.

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DOHA: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani meets French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian in the Qatari capital yesterday. — KUNA



HONOLULU: The charred exterior of the Marco Polo Building is pictured after a fire broke out on the upper floors on Friday. — AFP

HONOLULU TOWER BLAZE KILLS THREE

HONOLULU: Flames ripped through three floors of a Honolulu tower block, killing three people including a mother and her adult son on Friday, officials and media said. The blaze at the 36-storey Marco Polo condominium complex sent thick black smoke pouring over the city, a month to the day after a deadly high-rise fire in London. Firefighters sprayed water onto the flames from nearby balconies and brought them under control at about 6.30 pm local time (0430 GMT yesterday), four hours after the fire began, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell told reporters.

"I looked down I could see the billowing smoke coming up," resident Ron Chiarotino said. "I heard three women's voices screaming, pleading, moaning, 'Please help me, please' continuous screaming for five or ten minutes, and then I didn't hear anymore."

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser newspaper said a mother and her adult son were among the three people who perished on the 26th floor, where the fire started. At least 12 other people were injured, it added.

Fire Chief Manuel Neves told reporters that the building did not have a sprinkler system. "Without a doubt if there was sprinklers in this apartment, the fire would be contained to the unit of origin ... the unit (where) the fire started," he said. More than 100 firefighters tackled the fire and officers were conducting a room-by-room search, a task that could take several hours, he added.

The building was constructed in 1971, before the city began requiring sprinkler systems, the Star-Advertiser newspaper said. In London, at least 80 people were killed when a fire gutted the 24-story Grenfell Tower block on June 14. That building was

also built in the 1970s and did not have a sprinkler system. Images posted online on Friday showed orange flames raging on several floors and debris falling from windows. There were no immediate reports on what caused the blaze in Honolulu.

"We were all trying to help as much as we could ... but there was a fire and you could see it spreading," said 72-year-old resident Karen Hastings, who was in the building when the fire broke out. One firefighter and four residents were taken to hospital while eight other residents were treated at the scene, the Star-Advertiser said. Volunteers were looking after residents at a nearby park, the Hawaii Red Cross said on Twitter. The fire forced the closure of a major road in front of the condominium complex, the Honolulu police department said on Twitter. — Reuters



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

AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of condolences to Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi over the victims of the armed attack that targeted a security checkpoint in the city of El Badrashin, Giza Governorate, killing five policemen. His Highness the Amir voiced Kuwait's strong condemnation of such criminal acts that aim at disrupting security and stability in the country. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent

two similar cables to the Egyptian President. Meanwhile, an official source at the Foreign Ministry voiced Kuwait's strong condemnation of the terrorist attack. The source reiterated Kuwait's support to the "brothers in Egypt" and all the measures Cairo might take to protect the country's security and stability. The foreign ministry source reaffirmed Kuwait's initial, and unwavering stance, that rejects violence and all forms of terrorism, and offered condolences to the Egyptian leadership, government and people as well as the victims' families, praying for everlasting security and stability in the country. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Swaziland to Kuwait Sodja Dlamini recently visited Kuwait Times where he met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Kuwait Times columnist Muna Al-Fuzai met with Diger Zettel (R), Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission and Horst Karl Blasinger, Head of Cultural Section with the German Embassy at Kuwait Times headquarters in Industrial Shuwaikh. The German government has kindly invited Fuzai for a visit to learn more about Germany, its culture, business and society. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

PREVENTING IS FROM RISING AGAIN IS BIGGEST CHALLENGE: IRAQI AMBASSADOR

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi has declared victory over the Islamic State (IS) group in Mosul, but in the fight against a militant organization that has reincarnated itself before, the biggest challenge may not be defeating IS, but preventing it from rising again.

During a press conference held on Thursday at the Iraqi Embassy, Hashemi said members of the terrorist organization still exist in some areas. "We are seeing the end of the fake Daesh state," he said, referring to the terrorist group by its Arabic acronym. "We will not relent - our brave forces will bring victory. The security plan is needed at the moment and the experience gained by Iraqi forces and intelligence is very high. We were able to distinguish between militants and citizens who tried to escape during the liberation of Mosul - but many of them remain in hotspots that have not yet been liberated." Hashemi noted that Iraqi forces can deal with the situation, but it also requires regional and international efforts, because the issue is not limited to Iraq only, but many countries. He said these efforts are required in coordination with Iraq, which has gained experience during years of war against Al-Qaeda and Daesh. "The Amir of Kuwait has announced Kuwait's readiness to host a conference before the end of this year with the participation of many sponsors and supporters of Iraq to ensure its success," he added.

On the sidelines of the conference, Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Reza Enayati said the Iran-Iraq border is secure, but with the current situation, it requires to be more so, stressing that this will be through coordination with relevant authorities in Iraq. "We congratulate the Iraqi leadership, government and people on this important victory that was achieved in Mosul. Iraq deserves this victory. The brutal hand of terrorism has hit the good, civilized and ancient Iraq. We hope that such joy will spread throughout our region," Enayati said.

On participation of Iranian forces in the liberation of Mosul, he



KUWAIT: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi speaks during the press conference.



Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Ali Reza Enayati. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Kuwait Journalists Association's (KJA) Secretary Adnan Al-Rashed offers his congratulations.

said: "We have previously announced that Iran is present only in an advisory role and there are no ground troops in Iraq." On the Gulf crisis and regional interventions, Enayati confirmed that Iran is not a party in the conflict, but is assisting Qatar.

British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge said after his congratulations to the Iraqi Ambassador on the liberation of Mosul, that, "The aim of intensive visits by British officials to Kuwait last week is to support this country's mediation efforts and noble endeavors led by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to resolve the Gulf crisis. Unity of the Gulf Cooperation Council must be maintained and the dispute resolved as soon as possible."



British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge.



KUWAIT: Rania Machlab, Deputy Head of the regional delegation for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at the International Committee of the Red Crescent (ICRC) in Kuwait, recently visited Kuwait Times where she met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and presented to him a copy of ICRC's publication titled 'Humanity in War: Frontline Photography Since 1860'. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

STATE AUDIT BUREAU SET TO TAKE PART IN UN MEETING

KUWAIT: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) announced yesterday that it will take part in a higher financial and auditing bodies meeting at the UN headquarters in New York. SAB has been invited to the two-day gathering due on Thursday by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), a statement said. The meeting will review and audit the arrangements for the implementation of the UN 2030 Vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Kuwaiti delegation to the UN gathering will include SAB Acting President Adel Al-Sarawi, senior auditor at the performance control department Sultan Al-Otaibi and

public relations and media specialist Fatima Al-Nasser. The New York meeting is part of the ministerial side of the High-level Political Forum, the main platform dealing with the SDGs, the statement quoted Otaibi as saying.

It aims to discuss the key topics on the implementation of the SDGs, in addition to offering the opportunity for boosting the capabilities of the control higher bodies to conduct sound auditing of the SDGs. Otaibi pointed to the major goals of the cooperative performance auditing to be discussed by the meeting, to be achieved by some of the higher bodies supported by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). —KUNA



ANKARA: Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu shake hands on the sidelines of their press conference. —KUNA



ROME: Italy's Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano (right) speaks during a joint press conference with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

QATARI FM HOPES AMIR'S GULF ROW MEDIATION PROVES SUCCESSFUL

ANKARA/ROME: Qatar looks forward to seeing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis a success, the country's Foreign Minister said Friday. Qatar's chief diplomat was highly appreciative of His Highness the Amir's initiative, whom he described as a "father" to the Qatari people and its Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-

Thani, at a press conference alongside his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, also appreciated efforts being exerted by other countries like the US, the UK and Turkey. Qatar stands firm on its position, he reiterated, as it hopes for an end to the row. For his part, the Turkish foreign minister said that his President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to the Gulf to push ahead the row-solving efforts would be decided next week.

Cavusoglu expressed the view that the

involved parties should sit down together, at one table, to find a solution within a framework based on "logic and objectivity." He also sounded upbeat about US State Secretary Rex Tillerson's recent Gulf tour, saying it would bear fruit on the medium, and not the short term. The Qatari foreign minister, who arrived in Ankara Thursday evening, is due to meet with the Turkish president later Friday.

Meanwhile, Italy's Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano expressed hope that the

Kuwait's Gulf mediation succeeds in containing the ongoing escalation and tension between a number of Arab countries, mainly Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, and Qatar.

The Kuwaiti mediation could actually benefit, in every step and attempt, the peace efforts to resolve the dispute quickly, Alfano said in a joint press conference with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in Rome Friday. For his part, Sheikh Abdullah affirmed the four countries' keen-

ness in keeping the current crisis under its political and diplomatic framework in order to resolve it through joint action.

"Our main goal is to find a permanent solution for the ongoing crisis, he said, adding that the crisis to remain within its political and legal framework, and that the four countries would not cross this framework, or even cause any escalation in any direction that would violate international laws and charters. —KUNA

In my view

POLICE HERE AND THERE



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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Good morning my dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I wish you all the best of health. In this article, I would like to shed some light on the role of policemen and traffic departments in Kuwait compared with the United States. We all know that policemen are there to protect, safeguard and work on imposing law on all without discrimination.

However, we all notice some fallbacks and negligence committed by some policemen here in Kuwait pertinent to respect of others, especially expatriates, and law enforcement on all without being influenced by wasta (connection) which is tearing the society apart.

When an expatriate drives his or her car on roads in areas mostly populated by Kuwaitis, and particularly the helpless taxi drivers, some of them get unwanted harassment even when they abide by the law completely. When an expatriate gets pulled over on the side of the road and is approached by traffic policemen, some officers in this case tend to find fault with that poor person's car and try to search for the slightest car defect if he could not detect any violation in terms of speed limit, not fastening the seat belt or durability of the vehicle. When pulling an expatriate over, many policemen tend to be harsh, disrespectful and never want to listen to the other side's plea. At least the 'violator' must know his or her violation before signing the citation, but in this case, no mercy is given, and he or she must accept it without hesitation.

In the United States, when any person is pulled over for whatever violation, he or she would be approached by the traffic policeman who starts the conversation with a smile and a greeting, followed by an explanation of the violation committed and an advice for non-repetition. When I was there, I had never encountered any situation where my car's registration got revoked or my driver's license got taken away for a very simple citation.

In Kuwait, you see many policemen sitting in the early hours of the day inside their cars that are parked under bridges supposedly to monitor the flow of traffic and pursuit those reckless drivers. However, the majority of them would sit in their air-conditioned patrol cars playing with their smartphones and not even looking at the road or those who are driving maniacally.

Last year, I was driving one day at around 6:30 am going to work and I saw a minivan zigzagging between lanes at high speed. I quickly stopped my car near a patrol vehicle that was parked under a bridge and knocked on the window to wake the policeman up as he was asleep, and told him to chase that speeding van. He got up, wiped his eyes, started the siren and chased the wrong car. I am not saying this to belittle the policemen's courage and accomplishments, but I am saying this to awaken the minds of the authorities that there are some of their workers who do not appreciate the responsibilities being shouldered on them, and need to be punished.

In Kuwait, when a reckless driver gets chased by police, he can easily run away from their sight because some of the policemen here do not have the adequate capacity to apprehend violators. For example, helicopters that monitor the flow of traffic and continuously keep spotting the violators or reckless drivers till they are apprehended.

I watched a police chase on YouTube and became amazed by the sophisticated equipment used by the US police to arrest and pursuit violators. Let us dream that one day the Kuwaiti police force would be as efficient and strong as that of the US.

Till the next article insha Allah

EDUCATION SYSTEM TO BE IMPROVED TO MEET MARKET REQUIREMENTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Education Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for General Education Fatima Al-Kandari said a plan is in the works to modify the education system so it meets the labor market requirements, adding that a committee that was formed to introduce a system similar to the credits system has almost completed its work. She announced the postponement of the competencies curriculum in the 10th grade, which was supposed to start with the new school year until after the next school year.

Kandari said the new system is not a credits system, but is close to it, adding that it is not necessary to admit all secondary graduates in colleges, as some of them may have technical inclinations. "Through this system, we can provide market needs," she said. Kandari said that three new schools will enter service at the start of the school year - a girls' intermediate school in Farwaniya and elementary and intermediate boys' schools in Ahmadi. On schoolbooks, Kandari said these will be distributed starting next week, but as for books with changes, they are still at the printing press waiting for approval.

Small business

Director of small business at the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program Faris Al-Enezi said that the labor support allowance that is paid monthly to Kuwaitis working in the private sector is not available in any other country. "Kuwait will see a leap to encourage these projects," he added. He said the number of Kuwaitis who have applied for small business licenses is on the increase because of the government, the national fund for small and medium enterprise development, and new decisions such as approving home businesses, which is expected to cause a major revolution when applied.



MAN HURT IN FARWANIYA FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A man suffered from smoke inhalation during a fire that broke out in a Farwaniya apartment yesterday morning. Firefighters arrived to the scene shortly after the fire was reported, and immediately rushed to evacuate the building and tackle the blaze, which started on the fourth floor. Paramedics rushed the injured man to hospital for treatment and firemen managed to put out the fire. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the blaze.

Campaign

The Hawally municipality emergency team carried out several inspection campaigns on shops, restaurants and warehouses, resulting in issuing 174 citations for food violations, nine stores were closed and 36 tons of spoiled food was removed, besides removing 1,023 violating signs.



Turkey's Ambassador to Kuwait Salih Murat Tamer tours guests in a gallery showing pictures of Turkish people supporting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

TURKISH EMBASSY MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEATING COUP

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Turkish Embassy yesterday marked one year since the defeat of a coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "On the night of July 15 last year, the Turkish nation foiled a coup by the followers of Fethullah Gulen, who considers himself the 'imam of the universe,' who had infiltrated into the armed forces and other public institutions. What happened that night was a huge terrorist attack never seen before in the history of the Republic of Turkey. Around 250 people were killed and more than 2,000 were injured," Turkey's Ambassador to Kuwait Salih Murat Tamer told reporters.

Tamer noted that the Turkish Embassy honored the martyrs of the coup bid. "We recall with respect our dear martyrs who lost their lives during their heroic struggle in defending democracy and the future of their state. We ask God for mercy on them, and express our thanks and gratitude to the wounded. The Turkish people faced the putschists with great courage - they were all one. They stood in front of tanks with no weapons. They made shields from their bodies to prevent the fall of state institutions. They made it clear that the Turkish people will not allow any interventions outside the framework of democracy. They proved that the future of Turkey is determined by the free will of the people and not by the armed groups," Tamer said.

"For more than a thousand years, traitors fought against the military, but did not open fire against their own people. For this reason, as the president of our republic has stated, the event of July 15 is the most insidious and dirty coup attempt," he added.

The Turkish ambassador called to never forget July 15 and not let future generations forget it. He thanked HH the Amir, HH Crown



KUWAIT: Turkey's Ambassador to Kuwait Salih Murat Tamer speaks during a ceremony to mark the first anniversary since the defeat of a coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Prince and HH Prime Minister of Kuwait, who quickly made contact after they learned about the failed coup. "Kuwait has been impressive - despite its small geographical size, it has a large heart that can accommodate the whole world," Tamer said. He said the terrorist organization established by Gulen (FETO) aims to abolish the government of Turkey by force and all illegal means, hindering the performance of its functions in part or in total and putting the sovereignty of the state under pressure, thus weakening it.

GCC rift

On the Qatar-Gulf crisis, the Turkish ambassador said Turkey believes the crisis was not supposed to be this complicated in the first place. "We support the Amir's efforts. We are not a part of this crisis but we stand by international and humanitarian laws. The Gulf Cooperation Council has been in existence for over 40 years, and I hope it will continue to do so. This issue should be resolved under the umbrella of the Gulf states and not by external interventions," Tamer said. He said the four Arab states are "brotherly countries" to Turkey, but

it is not right to be against Qatar. He said any problem in the Gulf is a problem for Turkey, as the region is its strategic partner.

On a visit by Erdogan to Kuwait and other Gulf countries, he said: "The president will be visiting Kuwait soon but the date has not yet been determined." About the possibility of Erdogan visiting Saudi Arabia, Tamer affirmed that he might visit Riyadh because Saudi Arabia is a brotherly country even if "we do not agree on some points of view." "This does not mean that we are not friends, but we use the discussion table to resolve our disagreements," he said. The ambassador noted that Qatar is the only nation that can ask the Turkish military to close its base and leave. "It is not reasonable for other countries to force the Turkish military base to close, while they have US and British military bases!"

He revealed that some members of FETO were planning to open a university in Kuwait, but when Kuwait didn't agree with their proposal, they opened an education center. But Kuwait later closed the center and expelled its members to Turkey.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality inspectors confiscated five tons of expired food during a recent crackdown on warehouses in Shuwaikh and Rai.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Director's (KFSD) General Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad held a meeting between the prevention and fighting sectors in the presence of the DDG of Fire Fighting Sector Affairs Maj Gen Jamal Al-Bulaihees and DDG of Prevention Sector Affairs Brig Khalid Fahd to discuss cooperation between the two sectors.

In Brief

KUWAIT CONDEMNS AL-AQSA CLOSURE

KUWAIT: Kuwait strongly condemned Israel's closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque and thus banning of Palestinian worshippers from performing Friday prayers, for the first time in around half a century. The Israeli measure "is a provocation of feelings of Muslims around the world, and a violation of religious freedom, and a continuation of Israel's repeated and rejected attempts to change the status in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque," a foreign ministry source said in a statement. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP TO \$45.38 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was up by 86 cents to \$45.38 per barrel Friday after being at \$44.52 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global level, the prices were up due to data connected with the decline of US crude reserves. The price of the Brent crude was up to \$48.91 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which stood at \$46.62 pb. — KUNA



KUWAIT CONDEMNS QATIF ATTACKS

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Friday strongly condemned a terrorist attack on border guards in the Saudi eastern province of Qatif, killing a soldier and injuring another. The State of Kuwait stands firmly behind Saudi Arabia and in any measure it implement to safeguard its security and stability, a foreign ministry source said in a statement. Kuwait, he added, firmly rejects all forms of terrorism and violence. The source expressed deep condolences for family of the victim and wished speedy recovery for the injured. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: An aerial view of the Green Island; an artificial island located off the coast of Kuwait City. It has been a popular tourist attraction in Kuwait ever since it opened in 1988. — KUNA photo

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF KUWAIT RELIEF EFFORTS

KUWAIT: Living up to its status as a 'humanitarian center,' Kuwait continued its relief work and campaigns to all those in need in the Middle East and beyond throughout the just-ended week. The 'Kuwait is by your side' campaign on Wednesday handed out medical assistance to residents of an area in Yemen's Al-Dalea governorate to combat cholera epidemic. Al-Dalea's health office has exerted many efforts, in collaboration with partners, to prevent the spread of the epidemic, the campaign said in a statement, citing Dr Mohammad Abdullah, head of the office.

More than 14 centers have been opened to deal with cases diagnosed with cholera across the governorate, he added. He lauded generous efforts by the State of Kuwait aiming to help Yemenis in all fields, mainly the health sector.

He referred that many organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and Doctors without Borders have responded to calls by the office. Abdullah stated that the number of cases diagnosed with cholera reached 17,500, including 7000 deaths due to the disease.

On Thursday, Kuwait delivered 30 tons of food aid to the eastern district of Iraqi city of Mosul Public Relations Officer at Ronahee Foundation Saleh Mahdi said that 30 tons of essential food items arrived in Mosul.

He lauded Kuwait's important and unmatched aid and support to Mosul's war victims. Moreover, Mahdi thanked Kuwait for helping people facing severe malnutrition in the war-torn Iraqi city, as "mass starvation is threatening the lives of around 10,000 people. Since the operation to liberate Mosul began last October, an incessant flow of Kuwaiti food aid had poured into the city. Recently, the Kuwaiti leadership said that it would be willing to host an Iraq reconstruction conference in Kuwait before the end of the year.

This proposal came during a phone conversation between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. His Highness the Amir was congratulating the Iraqi top official on fulfilling the operations in Mosul, which led to victory against so-called Islamic State (IS). — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Hayat is seen with the Chinese delegation during their recent visit to Kuwait. — KUNA

AMBASSADOR PRAISES SUCCESSFUL CHINESE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Hayat Friday stressed the importance of the Chinese delegation's recent visit to the country, in which they met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and senior officials.

The objectives of the "successful" visit were achieved, especially that Kuwait and China have

identical views on many issues, Ambassador Hayat said. Hayat also praised the great hospitality of His Highness the Amir during the delegation's visit, which took place from July 10 to 14.

The visit aimed at attracting foreign investment to Kuwait and increasing trade exchange between the two countries, as well as to participate in the implementation of mega projects in Kuwait in line

with His Highness the Amir's 'New Kuwait' 2035 vision and China's 'Road and Belt Initiative.'

The delegation, during the visit, tackled the latest developments and proposals for Kuwait development plan and the revival of the ancient Silk Road through the establishment of strategic projects such as 'Silk City' and Kuwait's five islands' development. — KUNA



MOSUL: Kuwaiti aid workers deliver food aid to people in the eastern district of the Iraqi city of Mosul. — KUNA Photos



IRAQ WELCOMES KUWAIT'S PLAN TO HOLD CONFERENCE

BRUSSELS: Head of the Iraq Mission to the EU and Iraqi Ambassador in Belgium Jawad Al Hindawi welcomed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's readiness to host an international conference on Iraq's reconstruction later this year. "We are very happy of this initiative. We take highly into consideration this initiative by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait," he told a press conference at the Brussels Press Club Friday. "We expect more cooperation from Arab countries, especially Kuwait, in order to continue fighting the terrorist group the so-called Islamic State not only militarily but also ideologically," he said.

The Iraqi diplomat expressed conviction that the defeat of IS in Mosul is the beginning of a new phase in Iraq and the region, and appealed to the EU to intensify cooperation with the central government in Baghdad to promote political, social, security and economic challenges that are facing Iraq.

Last Monday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on the liberation of the city of Mosul from the so-called Islamic State (IS). His Highness the Amir also announced that Kuwait was ready to host an international conference on the



BRUSSELS: Head of the Iraq Mission to the EU and Iraqi Ambassador in Belgium Jawad Al Hindawi speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

reconstruction of liberated areas in Iraq before the end of this year. His Highness the Amir made the remark during a phone call with Al-Abadi to congratulate him on the "historic victory" on IS in Mosul. His

Highness the Amir hoped the victory would boost Iraq's unity, security and stability, and lead to the reconstructing of liberated areas, and the return of refugees to their towns and villages. — KUNA

Crime

Report

OFFICER JAILED FOR SMOKING SHISHA

KUWAIT: A police officer was seen smoking shisha in a cafe and his pictures were circulated on social media. This led supervision and inspection officers to the cafe in Farwaniya, who arrested him. They then informed Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, who ordered him jailed for 20 days for violating interior ministry rules and regulations. He was sent to the military prison to serve the sentence.

Forgery

Residency affairs detectives arrested a Syrian and a Bangladeshi who forged "to who it may concern" certificates in the name of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. They were charged with forgery in official documents. The arrest was made in Saad Al-Abdullah, and forged documents were found with them. The two suspects are being sent to the public prosecution.

Fake cop

A citizen was surprised by a person in sports attire asking him for his ID, who claimed to be a detective. He obliged, but found it strange that the man did not have a walkie-talkie with him, so he asked to see his detective ID and threatened to call the interior ministry. The suspect returned the ID and fled. The citizen informed Nagra police about the incident.

Fight

A fight broke out between a woman in Hawally and a man she doesn't know. They exchanged insults, blows and a car was damaged. Police went to the area and took them to the police station. The woman claimed the man beat her in public, so she fled to her apartment, but he followed her inside and continued beating her. A security source said the man said the fight took place near his car, which was damaged by the woman, who bit his hand. Investigations are underway.

Stabbing

An Indian ended differences with his Bangladeshi colleague in an Abdaly farm by stabbing him. The attack followed a verbal exchange which escalated to exchanging blows, then the Indian pulled a knife and stabbed the Bangladeshi. The victim called his sponsor, who informed the police. Investigations are underway.

Smuggling

An Egyptian was arrested by customs officers after he failed to smuggle in 162 Tramadol tablets and 12 hashish sticks in a courier parcel. He was sent along with the illicit material to the Drugs Control General Department. —Translated from the Arabic press



التقوس

Al-Qabas

SERIOUS STAND

By Abdelmohsen Jamal

The international political struggles that took a wide scope on the Arab arena has reached its end, as Western countries could not achieve what they wanted and create a new Middle East, in which they will play the main role. On the other hand, the Russian interference in Syria had its effect on changing the path of results in a way that serves the Russians and the new axis that began to be created. All that left some Arab countries clearly lost; those who were not ready to go along with the moves of the Arab Spring and its political repercussions. They also could not follow the surprise of the Russian interference that reached an unprecedented stage in Russian dealings with changes in the Middle East.

Maybe the Arab confusion in dealing with the results of the Arab Spring is what caused the "malfunction" in the Arab League; which lost its ability to find solutions, rendering it unable to keep up with the situations, and made the United Nations interfere by designating a special envoy for each Arab dispute. This Arab division was at the start limited to a partial aspect, then it began to expand to hit the entire Arab reality including the aspects that were considered

more stable than others in the past.

Maybe the arrival of American and Western officials in the region, either together or separate, gives an indication on the gravity of the impasse that we have reached in our Arab world. The issue has reached a point where we had the gate wide open for foreign interference in issues that previously used to be among the most private matters in the 'Arab home.' The matter is in need of more than one serious stand to review the Arab stands again.

The variables in the world and the arrival of US President Donald Trump and his new strategic dealing with the seasoned Russian President Vladimir Putin, require Arabs to use wisdom in differentiating between a true friend and a true enemy and not to mix politics with unfruitful emotions. It is enough for us to leak important political cards out of our hands due to unstudied stands in a world that relies on serious studies, and future plans prepared with utter care. As for terrorism, which the West had used to pass its agendas, has become an approach for it to get closer to others.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الشاهد

Al-Shahed

POWER, MONEY AND IGNORANCE

By Dr Mohammad Al-Duwaihees

The triangle of authority, money and ignorance, is what some developing countries are suffering from in the modern era. You find the people of these countries, going through wars, and many revolutions in order to gain their freedom and be independent from colonial powers, then after matters settle down, those people who are suppressed hand over the power to revolution leaders.

Power, money and ignorance are all in the hand of the new authority leaders, so the backwardness of the countries increase because the new leadership have taken the same path of the previous regime and the authority methods, such as lavish spending. Meanwhile, the opportunists among thieves would reach decision making positions, while thefts and political crimes are put undercover by the authority's media and its advisors, or through bribing some editors-in-chief in papers, radios and televisions.

Funds disappear and leakage from the state

Each revolution in third world countries represents a humanitarian catastrophe

treasury increases due to the increased number of thieves in leadership posts, so the leadership of those countries begin punishing small thieves and put their pictures on its corrupt media. Meanwhile, the leadership appointing big thieves, the ignorant and stupid in sensitive areas.

So, the new formula has become: Stupid authority, stolen money, ignorant leaderships, corrupted media, poor and struggling people. So, were people wanting to be free from colonization, eager to see with their own eyes the new formula and its results? People's futuristic view now goes like the Kuwaiti proverb: "Keep your bad so you do not get worse than him."

Each revolution in third world countries represents a humanitarian catastrophe and an international worry for more fragmentation, poverty and means to hinder economic, social and human development in those countries.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



GULF BANK'S KD 250,000 DANAH WINNER ANNOUNCED

KUWAIT: Concluding one of the most anticipated draws of the year, Amnah Ammar Hassan Bin Nekhi was announced the winner of Gulf Bank's second quarterly Al-Danah KD250,000 cash prize, after the draw was held live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show, on Thursday, 13 July 2017, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Bank's sixth monthly red account draws were also held and winners were announced live on air.

The three winners of the sixth monthly red account draws are Waad Khaled Farhan Al-Bathali who received an iPhone7 Plus, Sarah Ali Mohammed Behbehani who received an iPad Pro and Shareefah Mohammad Mohsen Al-Ajmi who received an Apple Watch.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws; with two winners per working day and each receive KD1000, quarterly draws and the final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million. Al-Danah's third quarterly draw for the prize of KD500, 000 will be held on 28 September, 2017. The final Al-Danah

draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January 2018, when the Al-Danah Millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank invites its customers to increase their chances of winning by depositing more into their Al-Danah account, through the Bank's ITMs, ATMs, the new 'e-Pay' service or by visiting any of the Banks' branches across Kuwait.

red is a dedicated account for high school, college and university students aged between 15 and 25, which does not require a minimum deposit. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances. Each month, an iPhone 7 Plus, an iPad Pro and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners. The draws will run until January 2018 and the next draw will be held on 24 July, 2017.

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500c-Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance. Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape the-

atres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week. red customers can also shop from the USA or the UK with a dedicated company (edfa3ly), which provide a mail box for internet shopping services from their website <https://kw.edfa3ly.co/GulfBank>.

red customers can now also transfer money from anyone, from any local bank into their Gulf Bank account through the all new e-pay service, which also allows customers to pay their mobile bills for Zain, Ooredoo, and Viva and buy iTunes and Google Play cards, instantly using the new 'e-Pay' service available on Gulf Bank's Online Banking and Mobile Banking App.

For more details about both accounts, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also visit the Bank's website www.e-gulfbank.com or log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently participated in a radio program broadcasted by Kuwait Pulse 88.8, during which it gave a presentation about its special offers and campaigns.

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India set to get head of state from lowest caste

NUKE DEAL HAS FEWER FRIENDS IN US AND IRAN



This handout photo provided by the Shenyang Municipal Information Office shows late Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo's wife Liu Xia (right in black) and family members standing next to Liu Xiaobo's body at a funeral parlor in Shenyang in Liaoning province yesterday. (Inset) Liu Xia prays as relatives bury Liu's ashes at sea off the coast of Dalian in Liaoning province. — AFP photos

CHINA DISSIDENT'S ASHES BURIED AT SEA

SUPPORTERS DEPRIVED OF PLACE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO LIU XIAOBO

SHENYANG, China: The ashes of China's late Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo were buried at sea yesterday, depriving his supporters of a place to pay tribute to the pro-democracy dissident. Officials showed a video in which his wife, Liu Xia, and relatives lowered a white round urn into the water off northeast coast city of Dalian, two days after the democracy advocate died of liver cancer aged 61 while in custody.

His supporters said the authorities wanted to avoid giving him a pilgrimage site where they could remember a writer whose calls for political reform angered the Communist regime and led to his arrest in 2008. Officials "fear that if someone who is as emblematic a symbol as Liu Xiaobo had a burial ground, it would become a place where his supporters would gather on his memorial day, the day he received the Nobel or any other such occasions to express their desire to chase after freedom," activist and family friend Ye Du told AFP.

Liu Xiaobo's older brother, Liu Xiaoguang, said at a news conference organized by the authorities that the government had followed the family's wishes. He thanked the Communist Party for its "humanistic care" of his brother during his hospitalization and death. He did not take any questions before being escorted out by two women. Zhang Qingyang, an official from the Shenyang city municipal office, said the cremation was "in accordance with the will of his family members and local customs".

Liu's supporters said it was impossible to verify if it was really his wish to be buried at sea as the authorities have severely restricted access to his family. They also said Liu Xiaoguang did not agree with Liu Xiaobo's political leanings. "It is deplorable how the Chinese government has forced the family to cremate Liu Xiaobo, bury him at sea, and then coerced Liu's brother to make robotic statements to the media about the great care of

the government and superiority of its health care system," Jared Genser, a US lawyer who represented Liu, told AFP.

'Disgusting' funeral

Authorities also released photos of a private ceremony attended by his family, including his wife, whose fate worries supporters hoping the government will cede to international pressure to release her and let her leave China. Liu Xia, a poet, stood with her brother, and two of Liu Xiaobo's brothers in front of the body, which was covered with white petals. Zhang said "friends" also attended the ceremony.

But Amnesty International's China researcher Patrick Poon told AFP that he did not recognize any in the row of non-family members in the official photo and people close to the Liu couple identified at least one "state security police officer" among them. Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, who lives in Berlin, tweeted a photo of the funeral and

called the display "disgusting" and a "violation" of the deceased.

Wife is 'incommunicado'

China's government faced a global backlash for denying Liu Xiaobo's wish to be treated abroad, and the United States and European Union have called on the government to free Liu Xia. She has been under house arrest since 2010, but she was allowed to see her husband after he was transferred from prison to a hospital in Shenyang after being diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer in late May.

Liu Xiaoguang said Liu Xia was in "weak condition" and experiencing such "great sorrow" and that she may need hospital treatment. "As far as I know, Liu Xia is in a free condition," municipal official Zhang said. But Genser said she was still being held "incommunicado" and he has "seen no sign that the government is going to let her go". At Liu

Xiaobo's funeral, Liu Xia "fixed her eyes on him a long time, mumbling to say farewell," Zhang said, adding that she was "in very low spirits". "It's best for her not to receive too much outside interference during this period after Liu Xiaobo has died," he said.

Liu was jailed in 2008 after co-writing a petition calling for democratic reforms. The veteran of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests was sentenced to 11 years in prison for "subversion" a year later. The foreign ministry lashed out at the international criticism on Friday, saying it lodged official protests with the United States, Germany, France and the United Nations human rights office. "The most preposterous thing is that even during his cremation and funeral he still was not free," Hu Jia, a Beijing-based activist and family friend, told AFP. "And now it's been passed on to his wife, who will continue to lead on that same freedomless existence." — AFP

EGYPT POLICE PROBE MOTIVES OF ATTACKER

HURGHADA, Egypt: Police yesterday questioned the suspected jihadist who stabbed to death two German women and wounded four others at a Red Sea beach resort, adding to the woes of Egypt's hobbled tourism industry. Judicial sources said the man who had swum ashore from a public beach in Hurghada to carry out Friday's attack confessed to sharing the ideology of the Islamic State jihadist group, although there was no IS claim of responsibility.

The sources said the suspect, a 28-year-old from Kafr Al-Sheikh province in the Nile Delta, north of Cairo, has been transferred to the capital for questioning. At the same time, the prosecution said in a statement that it had not yet confirmed the assailant's motives and urged the media "to stop resorting to speculation or getting ahead of the investigation". The streets of Hurghada were being heavily patrolled and security was stepped up outside hotels yesterday.

"I was sitting down in my shop when we heard people shouting. We ran outside and heard that someone had swum to the next door hotel and was attacking foreigners," said Rafic Rushdi, the owner of a hotel shop. "After killing two women, he ran towards our hotel. He was shouting that he was not after Egyptians, and some Egyptians intervened to stop him."

After initial confusion over the nationality of

the women killed, Berlin yesterday said they were both German nationals, rather than Ukrainians as earlier reported. "I am very upset by this cowardly crime, my condolences to the families of the victims," German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said. Among the four others wounded were two Armenian women and a woman from the Czech Republic, according to authorities in those countries.

It was not the first attack in Hurghada. In Jan 2016, three tourists were wounded in a stabbing assault in the resort by two assailants with apparent IS sympathies. In Tunisia, IS claimed a beach attack in June 2015 when a student armed with a Kalashnikov assault rifle and grenades went on a rampage near the Mediterranean resort of Sousse killing 38 holidaymakers, 30 of them Britons, before being shot dead by police.

Hurghada is one of Egypt's most popular beach resorts, especially with Ukrainians and other European tourists. Egyptian authorities say they have boosted security at the country's tourist sites. The industry provides the Arab world's most populous country with much-needed revenues. An IS bombing of a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers from a resort in the south of the Sinai Peninsula in 2015 killed all 224 people on board and decimated the country's tourism sector. Russia suspended all flights to

Egypt in response and has yet to resume them. IS has been waging a deadly insurgency concentrated in the north of the Sinai Peninsula that has killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers.

Police, Copts also targeted

It has also killed dozens of Coptic Christians in church bombings and shootings since December, and pledged further attacks. Yesterday, a Muslim man stabbed a security guard at a church in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria after the guard asked to check his bag. The attacker was quickly subdued and is being questioned, a police official told AFP. The incident came days after leaders of the Christian minority suspended some services such as conferences and religious trips for three weeks over security concerns.

On Friday, unknown assailants shot dead five policemen just south of Cairo, in the latest of a series of attacks targeting Egypt's security forces. The killings came as police and the army said they were closing in on militants and jihadists following a spate of deadly attacks in the Nile Valley and the Sinai. Egypt has struggled to quell IS militants based in the Sinai and smaller militant groups in the mainland since the military overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 and cracked down on his supporters. — AFP



HURGHADA: A picture taken yesterday shows a general view of the Sunny Days Elpalacio beach in this Egyptian Red Sea resort city, where an Egyptian stabbed to death two German tourists and injured four others the day before. — AFP

HUNGER-STRIKING PAIR ARE SYMBOLS OF TURKEY PURGE

ANKARA: An Ankara academic and teacher who have been on hunger strike for over four months after being sacked in the wake of Turkey's failed coup have emerged as symbols of the biggest purge in the country's history. Academic Nuriye Gulmen and teacher Semih Ozakca were fired by a government decree under the state of emergency imposed after the July 15 coup bid last year. They then held daily demonstrations in the heart of Ankara wearing vests with the simple words: "I want my job back," winning national and international media attention.

On March 9, they went on a hunger strike to challenge their dismissal and were jailed in May on terror charges. The pair are now over four months into their hunger strike, only consuming salty or sugary water, herbal teas and vitamin B1. "We know that at this stage of a hunger strike, there is a risk of death," their lawyer Selcuk Kozagacli told AFP, adding they were suffering hearing and eyesight problems while their muscles were very weak.

'No luxury of time'

But Gulmen and Ozakca are just two of more than 100,000 people sacked by the Turkish state after the attempt to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Under the state of emergency imposed a few days after the failed coup, Turkish authorities fired judges, civil servants, teachers and academics, accusing them of being supporters of the Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen. Ankara accuses Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania, of ordering the failed putsch. Gulen strongly denies the charges.

Turkish officials say the actions are needed to expunge the influence of Gulen's movement and any other banned organizations from the state sector. Anyone who feels unfairly treated can appeal to a commission that begins its work next week, although it remains unclear how it will be able to examine so many cases. Opponents

of Erdogan say the emergency powers are being used to purge anyone who has been critical including those, like Gulmen and Ozakca, who deny any links to Gulen but have a history of leftwing activism.

In a report published in May, rights group Amnesty International criticized the "arbitrary" and "politically motivated" dismissals. But Turkish officials have expressed impatience with the interest in the pair's case, arguing they were jailed for membership of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C), an outlawed Marxist group that has carried out sporadic attacks. The pair deny any link to banned groups. Kozagacli said that since the 80th day of their hunger strike, they have not had a medical check-up. They rejected the medical team sent by the prison administration after the doctor threatened to force-feed them if they lost consciousness. "Their situation, their health and other needs are being followed very closely," Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said earlier this month. "End this hunger strike," Bozdag said, adding: "This is not the way to seek rights." Their trial begins on Sept 14. "We cannot wait for that date, we do not have the luxury of time," lawyer Kozagacli told AFP.

'Cannot hide'

But it is not just those sacked affected by the purges: Their families and partners are also impacted. A European diplomatic source estimated "around a million people are directly or indirectly affected by the purges". Indeed, once sacked, the fired individuals lose their income as well as their social security for them and close relatives, Amnesty said. The powerful teachers' union Egitim-Sen is able to provide 1,200 Turkish liras (\$336) a month for its sacked members.

But this is hardly enough to make ends meet and those sacked find it impossible to find new work. Acun Karadag, one of over 33,000 sacked teachers, protests every day in support of Gulmen and Ozakca. — AFP



NIGDE, Turkey: People walk past the monument of Omer Halisdemir, who was killed last year during the coup attempt. —AFP

COUP 'MARTYRS' BECOME NEW HEROES OF ERDOGAN'S TURKEY

HALISDEMIR PROBABLY THE MOST CELEBRATED VICTIM

CUKURKUYU, Turkey: People have come from far and wide to this sleepy Anatolian village in central Turkey to recite prayers, take selfies or just think quietly. The purpose of their visit is simple - to pay their respects at the grave of Sergeant Omer Halisdemir, probably the most celebrated victim of the July 15 coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The 249 people who died at the hands of the coup plotters are remembered in Turkey as "sehitler" - martyrs for Islam - and the subject of intense veneration on the first anniversary of the failed putsch.

But none has received the attention of Halisdemir, who became an immediate national hero by shooting two bullets into the head of General Semih Terzi on the night of July 15. Terzi is suspected of being one of the key plotters who was leading the assault on the headquarters of special forces in Ankara. Anti-coup special forces commander Zekai Aksakalli had ordered Halisdemir by telephone to shoot dead Terzi to break the chain of command. The sergeant replied simply "Yes Sir!".

After carrying out his commander's instructions to the letter, Halisdemir was himself immediately shot dead by Terzi's entourage. The ultimate sacrifice made by Halisdemir, married with two children, was hailed by Turkish leaders as the turning point of the night and turned his home village of Cukurkuyu in central Anatolia into a place of pilgrimage.

'One of the greatest heroes'

Tens of thousands of people have already made the journey to the cemetery in Cukurkuyu to visit the grave of Halisdemir, located at the end of an alley lined with pine trees and flanked by a gigantic Turkish flag. "One of the greatest heroes of the night of the putsch is buried there," said Aydin, 23, a student who had come to Halisdemir's grave with his family from Ankara. "When he fell as a martyr, Omer Halisdemir became the brother of 80 million Turks," he added. In the province of Nigde, where Cukurkuyu is located, Halisdemir's image is omnipresent - stuck to the windows of lorries, on the local university that is now named after him, on scarves sold in the street. A statue of him now occupies pride of place in central Nigde.

'A whole mythology'

The heroes of the coup night like Halisdemir have been given an importance of historical magnitude by the government. "A whole mythology is being built around" the failed putsch, said a European diplomat. "In the official discourse, July 15 has become some kind of second War of Independence," the diplomat added, referring to the struggle that led to the founding of modern Turkey in 1923. This is made clear in the large number of roads, schools and parks named after the martyrs of the putsch. The first bridge across the Bosphorus in Istanbul is now called the bridge of the Martyrs of July 15.

"On July 15, these people became heroes," said Abdurrahman Tarik Sebik, president of the Foundation for the Martyrs of July 15 established after the coup. "But what were they doing on the 14th? One was a taxi driver, another a ship captain and someone else was an academic."

'Normal kind of guy'

The cult of martyrs has aroused the greed of businessmen who have shown no hesitation in exploiting their names to make a fast buck. Halisdemir's widow recently even inscribed her husband's name in Turkey's patents register to protect it from misuse. In the wake of the failed putsch, promises flooded into the authorities in Cukurkuyu to help with development. "At the start, everyone wanted to build something here," said Ahmet Ozer, the mukhtar (senior local official) of the village. "But almost no-one kept their promises," he added bitterly, with only the cities of Kocaeli and Ankara forking out to build a park and a wall around the cemetery.

At the cemetery, the gardener Ahmet Yesil, a childhood friend of Halisdemir, rummages around in his memory as he digs into the ground. "Omer had the look of a soldier, he had that sharp look. He often said - 'I am not scared of anything, just of God.'" They met for the last time just a week before his death, during a funeral of a friend in the same cemetery. "I liked Omer a lot," said Yesil. "He was a normal kind of guy." — AFP



ANKARA: Turkish plainclothes police officers detain protesters during a demonstration in support of two hunger-strikers on July 10, 2017. — AFP



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LIBYA TRAINS REGULAR ARMY TO 'DO AWAY WITH MILITIAS'

GHARYAN, Libya: Under a blazing sun at a military center in western Libya, dozens of young recruits learn to march in formation, as authorities train the country's first regular force since its 2011 revolution. Another makeshift camp has been set up nearby to train future soldiers. On the menu: jumping, climbing, crawling and scaling ropes. "This basic training marks our passage from civilian life to military life," said Issam Abu Ghnima, a member of the first class of a soon-to-be-formed Presidential Guard.

The 28-year-old, who has two wives, says he lost two children during the NATO-backed uprising that ousted longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. He decided to join the Presidential Guard "to get rid of the militias that have destroyed this country". "We want to move on to a new stage: building the state. I think the Presidential Guard is a very good project for starting to build institutions," he said.

Successive transitional authorities over the past six years have been unable to form a regular army or police force, or

even to re-establish security in a country controlled by hundreds of militias. The challenge was underlined again this week as forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed government repelled an attack by rival militias east of Tripoli after three days of clashes.

In the past few months, the Government of National Accord has been working hard to form the new force, which will be tasked with protecting government officials, public institutions and diplomatic missions. "The international community wants to help us, but in the presence of the militias, it has not found institutions it can rely on," Guard's spokesman Colonel Adnan Al-Turki said. He was talking in front of 200 soldiers gathered at a hall in the training center in Gharian, 85 km south of Tripoli. To motivate them, he promised "good wages and bonuses", as well as training abroad.

'Instill ABC of military discipline'
The Presidential Guard, set to form the core of the future Libyan army and



GHARYAN, Libya: Libyan recruits take part in military training at a center some 80 km south of the capital Tripoli on July 11, 2017. — AFP

police, is to eventually comprise seven brigades. Colonel Salah Al-Triki said the first contingent of 600 soldiers and officers are being trained at centers in Gharian, Tripoli and the western city of

Misrata. After three months of basic training, they choose a speciality according to their skills: Special forces, telecommunications, the mechanics' brigade and so on.

The Guard already has 500 operational fighters, recruited from armed groups, whose task is to protect Tripoli's international airport, said General Mohammad Shtiba. The GNA recently ousted rival militias to regain control of the airport, which was destroyed by fighting in 2014.

"We are now trying to integrate the fighters individually in just three months of training, essentially to instill the ABC of military discipline," Shtiba said. "Most of them have completed their military service and are well seasoned in combat." Since 2011, transitional authorities have tried repeatedly to integrate the militias into regular forces controlled by the state.

Thousands of fighters have been trained both inside Libya and abroad. But many militiamen switch allegiance depending on the interest of the day, often ending up rejoining armed groups formed on the basis of regional, tribal or religious affiliations. "We will not make the same mistakes," Shtiba said, without going into specifics. — AFP

KUSHNER UNDER PRESSURE OVER RUSSIA SCANDAL

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's eldest son Don Jr may be in the media spotlight over his notorious Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer promising dirt on Hillary Clinton. But the latest revelation in the burgeoning scandal has added to the pressure on another family member who was at the meeting and is already in the crosshairs of investigators - Jared Kushner, the president's influential son-in-law. Democrats are up in arms, demanding that the 36-year-old Kushner - a senior adviser to the president with an office in the White House - be stripped of his security clearance.

"There doesn't seem to be any ethical standard in the White House," Democratic House minority leader Nancy Pelosi tweeted on Thursday. "Jared Kushner's security clearance must be immediately revoked." Even some from Trump's Republican Party are not so sure that Kushner - who is married to the president's eldest daughter Ivanka - should remain in the West Wing. "I'm going out on a limb here - but I would say I think it would be in the president's best interest if he removed all of his children from the White House," Texas Representative Bill Flores told local television Thursday. "Not only Donald Trump (Jr), but Ivanka and Jared Kushner."

Omissions on security clearance forms

While Donald Jr has no role in his father's administration - he is helping run his corporate empire - Kushner is one of Trump's closest advisors. The Harvard graduate is also the progeny of a powerful New York real estate family, and has long been in Trump's inner circle. It was actually an omission on a government security clearance application filed by Kushner that led to the revelation of the meeting between himself, Donald Jr, former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and the Russian lawyer. It also led Donald Jr to release an email chain about the planning of that meeting - which is now being cited as the most serious evidence yet of alleged collusion between the Trump presidential campaign and Russia. In the June 2016 emails, Donald Jr eagerly agrees to a meeting with a Kremlin-linked Russian lawyer who is said to possess incriminating information about Clinton and invites Kushner and Manafort to come along. Kushner, filing a security clearance

document known as an SF-86, initially neglected to mention that he attended the meeting with lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya - as well as contacts he had with several other Russians, including Moscow's ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak. The meeting with Veselnitskaya came to light only after Kushner filed an amended SF-86 form. Veselnitskaya confirmed to CNN and MSNBC that Kushner attended the meeting but said he was there for only "seven to 10 minutes" and she had never intended to hand over damaging information about Clinton anyway.

Russia ties under microscope

But even before revelations of the Veselnitskaya meeting came to light, Kushner's other dealings with Russian officials have been facing scrutiny. According to The Washington Post, Kushner - at a December 2016 meeting with Kislyak - raised the possibility of setting up a secret and secure communications link between the Trump transition team and the Kremlin. That same month, Kushner also met with Sergey Gorkov, chief of Vnesheconombank and a former member of Russian intelligence. The bank, a key arm of the Russian government, is under tough US sanctions.

The Post reported last month that Kushner's finances and business dealings were being examined as part of the probe led by special counsel and former FBI director Robert Mueller into whether the Trump campaign teamed with Russia to help tilt the presidential race in favor of the billionaire tycoon. And this week, the McClatchy newspaper group reported that congressional and Justice Department investigators were looking into whether the Trump campaign helped Russian cyber operatives bombard key voting districts with "fake news" about Clinton. Kushner was in charge of the Trump campaign's digital operations. He now plays a major role in shaping foreign policy.

US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a massive effort to swing the election to Trump, including hacking and leaking embarrassing emails from Democrats. Trump has vehemently denied any collusion between his campaign and Russia and repeatedly claimed to be the victim of a "witch hunt" by the media and sore loser Democrats. — AFP

ITALIANS DEBATE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AS PRESSURES GROW

ROME: With a flood of migrants arriving on Italy's shores, a bitter debate has erupted over whether children born on Italian soil to foreign parents should have citizenship rights at birth. According to a poll published Thursday in the *Messaggero* daily, the idea of "ius soli" is losing support among Italians, even though such a path to citizenship exists in many other EU countries. The Latin term "ius soli" refers to rights linked to the land (where you are born) as opposed to "ius sanguinis", where rights are based on blood ties.

Children currently must have at least one Italian parent to enjoy citizenship rights. Those who do not can apply when they turn 18 but rules on time spent out of the country mean some are rejected. Back in October, 41 percent of people polled said they were in favor of "ius soli", but now that number has dropped to 32.3 percent. Italy's high-profile battle with Europe over who should deal with the hundreds of thousands of migrants rescued in the Mediterranean and brought ashore since 2014 has sparked a backlash over a proposed bill and even fistfights in parliament. After 15 years of debate, the draft law establishing "ius soli" was adopted by Italy's lower house in 2015. Two years later, after a series of amendments, it is now being debated in the upper house with the support of the center-left. The draft law also provides for nationality via "ius culturae" for children not born in Italy who have spent at least five years in the country's education system.

Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League has slammed the proposal as a "cultural mistake". Ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi, founder of the center-right Forza Italia, said it would send the wrong signal to those already attracted to Italy's shores. "Making

it known that it's easier to become Italian will create false hopes in Africa and increase migratory pressures," he warned. Over 86,000 migrants have arrived so far this year, up over 10 percent compared with the same period in 2016.

800,000 new nationals

The adoption of "ius soli" would bestow Italian nationality on around 800,000 children immediately, and another 60,000 newborns a year, according to the Italian Institute of Statistics (Istat). "The children born in Italy are Italians and it is the duty of a civilized country to welcome them," Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni said earlier this week. The proposed bill is also passionately supported by his predecessor Matteo Renzi.

Gentiloni has brushed aside attempts by critics to link the issue of citizen rights to that of national security, saying "the way to reduce risk is not through exclusion but dialogue and inclusion". But with unemployment towering at 11 percent - well above the average in the Eurozone - and soaring to 37 percent among young people, the age-old narrative of foreigners stealing locals' jobs has reared its head.

That fear has not been eased by new figures this week showing 4.5 million Italians are living in absolute poverty. According to *Il Messaggero*, those polled in Thursday's survey said it would be better to postpone the debate on citizenship rights until after the general election in spring next year. Italy in 2016 bestowed the highest number of citizenships in Europe at 205,000, up from just 63,000 in 2012. Adopting "ius soli" would bring Italy into line with the majority of its European neighbors - from Belgium and Britain to France and Portugal - where the law already applies in various forms. — AFP

TWO YEARS ON, NUKE DEAL HAS FEWER FRIENDS IN US AND IRAN

EUROPEANS CONCERNED ON PATH TRUMP MIGHT TAKE

WASHINGTON: Signed with pomp and fanfare on July 14, 2015, the Iranian nuclear agreement was heralded as a triumph for American diplomacy and international cooperation on nonproliferation. Two years later, it has few friends in the Trump administration or in Tehran. When it was signed in Vienna, President Barack Obama and his secretary of state, John Kerry, claimed the pact - commonly known as JCPOA, for Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - as an undeniable success.

Their Iranian counterparts, President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, were equally ebullient. The pact was also signed by China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany, lending it additional weight. In force since Jan 16, 2016, the JCPOA provides for international monitoring of Tehran's nuclear program to ensure its purely peaceful, civilian use. In exchange, Tehran was promised the gradual lifting of the international sanctions that have strangled the Iranian economy for years.

But during his presidential campaign, billionaire Republican Donald Trump made the accord a favorite target. In campaign speech after campaign speech, he pronounced it "the worst deal ever," and he vowed, if elected, to "rip it up". As president, however, Trump has not carried out his threat. In May, the Trump administration even decided to pursue the Obama policy of easing some sanctions at least while completing a JCPOA review to decide - in principle by tomorrow - whether to continue lifting sanctions.

Obama legacy at stake

After vowing to drop out of the Paris climate agreement and questioning the Obama-era opening to Cuba, Trump would be dealing a terrible blow to his predecessor's legacy if he decid-

ed to abandon the JCPOA. The former real estate mogul has already staked out contrary positions to Obama in the Middle East, tightening US ties to Saudi Arabia's Sunni leaders while calling for the "isolation" of their Shiite rivals in Iran.

Washington accuses Tehran of posing a regional "threat" that "destabilizes" Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon, either directly or through its "terrorist" proxies. The Republican-controlled US Senate passed a bill in June to impose new sanctions on Tehran for its "support for international terrorism." Meantime, the State Department, which since 1984 has declared Iran a "state sponsor of terror," continues to punish Tehran for its ballistic missile program. The JCPOA nonetheless still has its fervent supporters in Washington.

'An existential threat'

The accord "removed an existential threat to the United States and our allies and partners," said a statement from Diplomacy Works, a pressure group founded by John Kerry and some former advisers. The lobbying group added, "We encourage the administration to rectify Iran's compliance - which they must do in order to reissue sanctions waivers due Monday." As Jonathan Finer, a former Kerry chief of staff, told AFP, "The nuclear agreement is working... It would be hard to understand why the administration would want to generate a crisis" by tearing up the accord.

In a letter to Trump, 38 retired US generals and admirals stressed that the agreement had "successfully blocked Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon." "Iran dismantled two-thirds of its centrifuges, gave up 98 percent of its stockpile of sensitive uranium and poured concrete into the core of its heavy-water reactor," the retired offi-

cers wrote. In fact, the UN nuclear monitoring authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), praised Iran last month for respecting its commitments.

Europeans are deeply concerned, however, about the path Trump might take. "What we are telling the Americans is that the JCPOA is not perfect but (is) much better than other options," a senior European official told reporters, speaking on grounds of anonymity. "Losing the JCPOA would be a mistake." The retired officers warned against "aggressive posturing that could pave the way to war" with Iran, something that seemed a possibility in the early 2000s.

Dashed hopes in Iran

In Tehran, too, the euphoria of July 2015 has given way to disillusion. Even if the desire for closer ties with the West remains strong among many Iranians - as shown by the re-election in May of the moderate Rouhani - the much-anticipated economic fruits of the nuclear deal have been slow to materialize. The continuing American sanctions frighten bankers and scare away international corporations. While the French oil company Total did recently sign a \$4.8 billion gas deal with Iran, foreign direct investment in the country topped out last year at \$3.4 billion, a very long way from the \$50 billion that Rouhani once promised.

And that provides grist for ultraconservative factions in Iran hostile to America. As the holy month of Ramadan was ending in June, and just before a speech by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the official poet of the Islamic Republic proclaimed: "Too much excitement over the JCPOA was a mistake, Relying on Uncle Sam was a mistake, O friends, we made a pact with a thief." — AFP



RAQQA: Members of the Sheikh Wais family react as they ask Kurdish fighters to recover the bodies of her relatives from under the rubble on July 12, 2017 during an offensive. — AFP

TRAGIC END TO RAQQA FAMILY'S HOPES

RAQQA, Syria: While thousands of people scramble to flee Syria's battle-torn Raqqa, members of the Sheikh Wais family bravely headed back in to recover the bodies of loved ones killed there. Dodging shelling, air strikes and snipers, the four Syrian Kurds finally made it back into the western district of Al-Daraiya in the jihadist-held city this week. But hopes of retrieving and burying their relatives were shattered by a nightmarish scene.

"We found half a corpse and some hair. I only knew it was them from my sister Zahraa's gold chain," wailed 17-year-old Amal Sheikh Wais. Her sister, their brother Abdallah, his pregnant wife Nour and the couple's 18-month-old baby all perished in ferocious fighting between US-backed forces and the Islamic State group. "We couldn't even find the baby's body," Amal told AFP, moments after returning from the horrifying ordeal.

Amal, another brother and their mother had just arrived at a home in west Raqqa used as a command base by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces as they battle IS jihadists. An SDF fighter saw the family approaching their position along a dirt road and first assumed they were civilians escaping IS. "Abdallah! Abdallah! Abdallah!" screamed Amal's mother, dressed in a black robe and white headscarf. SDF fighters tried to console them, but to no avail. "There was nothing left of them," said her son solemnly, his

head wrapped in a traditional white scarf embroidered with colored flowers.

A fatal decision

Before Syria's war erupted in 2011, Raqqa's population was about 20 percent Kurdish, according to French geography expert Fabrice Balanche. When IS overran the city in early 2014, thousands of the city's minority residents fled. The Sheikh Wais family was one of the few Syrian Kurdish clans to stay in their native city. "Abdallah would get beaten a lot because he wanted to smoke cigarettes and refused to wear the style of dress" mandated by IS, Amal recalled.

As the US-backed SDF tightened the noose around Raqqa earlier this year, IS turned parts of the city into "military zones" - including the family's home district of Al-Rumeilah. The Sheikh Wais family fled across the city to a bakery where they used to work, in the western district of Al-Daraiya. In June, Amal and her mother risked the harrowing journey out of Raqqa further west to the town of Tabqa, which was captured by the SDF two months ago.

But Zahraa, along with Abdallah, Nour and their toddler, made the fatal decision to stay in Raqqa, where their situation grew even more dire. "Daesh kicked them out of the bakery, so they were forced to camp in a nearby field with the bakery owner," Amal said, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

Worst fears confirmed

After she had settled in Tabqa, Amal learned of rumors circulating on Facebook suggesting that their relatives had been killed. Her brother, who had managed to cross into Turkey, heard the same news and rushed back across the border to find out what had happened to his family. Desperate for closure, the remaining members of the Sheikh Wais family gathered last week at a camp for the displaced in Ain Issa, more than 50 km north of Raqqa.

Their worst fears were confirmed by Nour's father, who had just escaped IS. "He went to check on them one day and found the dead bodies," Amal said. "So he covered them in a sheet and built up a small dirt berm around them to mark the location before fleeing the city," she told AFP. Flustered, she switched between Arabic and Kurdish and said it was still unclear exactly how her relatives had died.

Some recent escapees said they were killed in air strikes as they were preparing to flee, but others blamed IS mortar fire. The United Nations has warned that civilians caught in the fighting or trying to flee face massive risks. Corpses still litter the streets in areas recaptured by the SDF. Some are of suspected IS fighters, but others - including those of small children - are clearly civilians. — AFP



KIGALI: This file photo taken on Feb 4, 2017 shows Rwandan Philippe Mpayimana speaking to the media during his first press conference. —AFP

RWANDA OPPN IN UPHILL BATTLE AGAINST KAGAME

KIGALI: On the impeccably clean streets of Rwanda's capital, where a skyline of gleaming new buildings pokes through undulating hills, few have heard of opposition presidential aspirants Frank Habineza and Philippe Mpayimana. They were only confirmed as candidates and allowed to begin fundraising a week before Friday's campaign start for Aug 4 elections in the east African nation. With little money, and only three weeks to drum up support, the two men face a seemingly insurmountable task in challenging the all-powerful President Paul Kagame, who himself says the result is a foregone conclusion.

"The election is over," Kagame told thousands of supporters at a rally as the campaign kicked off, explaining the decision had been made when around 98 percent of voters chose to let him seek a third term in office in a 2015 referendum. Posters and decorations in the colors of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) went up overnight in time for the start of the campaign, while many Rwandans said they did not even know who the other candidates were.

"We as the population have lived a long time with our president (Kagame). We only know what he has done, we don't care about the other candidates," says One Love Nkundimana, 28, who works as a street porter. Kagame and his RPF have held an iron grip on power since overthrowing the extremist Hutu regime, which perpetrated the 1994 genocide of 800,000 mainly Tutsis.

While credited with bringing order, infrastructure and stability to the shattered nation, rights groups say Kagame's regime rules through fear with systematic repression of the opposition, free speech and the media. "We know many people are tired of the same government for 23 years but they don't say it

because there has been a climate of fear," Habineza, 40, told AFP.

A dangerous journey

In his starkly decorated office in the capital, Habineza is still absorbing the fact that he is finally on the ballot paper eight years since he began the struggle to register his Democratic Green Party. "It has been a very difficult journey and also a very dangerous journey," he said. He describes political meetings violently broken up, supporters imprisoned or forced to flee into exile, and his own departure to Sweden after his deputy was found almost decapitated shortly before the last election in 2010.

Habineza finally managed to register his party in 2013 after returning to the country, and was a lone voice against the constitutional reform allowing Kagame a third term. His dissent is not without consequence: In the run-up to this election he was evicted from his former office, and both he and his deputy were thrown out of their homes without warning.

Opposition a facade

In a Kigali garden, the other opposition candidate, Mpayimana, appears somewhat dazed to be in the race at all as he sits at a table strategizing and sipping beer with a small team of advisors. He was the only one of four independent hopefuls to be allowed to run. "I have only one week to raise awareness among people to support me financially," said the 47-year-old former journalist who spent 18 years in exile before returning to Rwanda in February to run as an independent. He is careful not to criticize Kagame but says he would like to "change the mentality of my country to go with the notion of democracy." —AFP

NEW DELHI: India's next president will emerge from the Dalit caste - a community so marginalized they were once known as "untouchables" - with the victory of the ruling party candidate set to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grip on power. Ram Nath Kovind, 71, is hot favorite to be elected tomorrow by national and state lawmakers to become titular head-of-state as the candidate of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It will be only the second time, after President K R Narayanan, who served from 1997 to 2002, that a member of the downtrodden caste has assumed the post.

The result will be announced Thursday. And for Modi, with one eye on re-election in 2019, it will send an important message to a key, long disdained electoral group. Dalits, who number around 200 million, are among the poorest communities in India and have traditionally been relegated to activities on the margins of society.

Despite legal protection, discrimination is rife and Dalits are routinely denied access to education and other opportunities for advancement. Analysts say Modi can win political capital by helping BJP politician Kovind - a former Supreme Court lawyer and ex-governor of the eastern state of Bihar - to win the contest against opposition nominee Meira Kumar, also a Dalit. Modi has used Twitter to hail the rise of Kovind, the son of a farmer, from "a humble background".

Kumar, the daughter of freedom fighter Babu Jagjivan Ram, was a diplomat before entering politics in 1985 and became India's first woman speaker in 2009, but the electoral college numbers are heavily tilted against her. Her nomination, which followed Kovind's, was seen by many as the opposition's attempt to counter Modi's move to woo Dalits.

Poor but powerful

Votes from the Dalits and the BJP's traditional Hindu base propelled Modi to his 2014 landslide, especially in the battleground states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. "Every (Indian) politician would want support from this 16 percent voting bloc for any election," Vimal Thorat, an activist and convener of the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, told AFP. Dalit support is even more important for the BJP as it has mostly been shunned by Muslims, who make up about 14 percent of the 1.3 billion population.

Dalit votes supplemented by support from the BJP's rightwing Hindu nationalist followers "will, for once and all, defeat the 'Muslim veto' in this country," Nistula Hebbar, political editor of The Hindu newspaper, told AFP. "Dalits as a community or a base are spread across the country, especially in all electorally



NEW DELHI: This photo taken on June 23, 2017 shows Ram Nath Kovind (left), the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's candidate for the upcoming presidential election, gesturing as he leaves an NDA meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) and top Bharatiya Janata Party leader L K Advani (center). —AFP

important states. Their vote is extremely important, especially for the BJP," Hebbar said.

But reports of clashes and caste discrimination are routine across the country. Authorities in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh state sent riot police to Saharanpur district in May after clashes between Dalits and upper caste Hindus. Violent protests erupted in Modi's home state Gujarat last year after video footage emerged of an attack on four Dalit villagers who were taking a dead cow to be skinned. Cows are considered sacred by Hindus and attacks by vigilante groups on cow traders and smugglers have increased since Modi's election.

Dalits are commonly tasked with jobs such as skinning cattle carcasses for their hides and the incidents have flagged inherent tensions between the BJP's traditional base and its bid to reach out to lower caste voters. "The increasing friction between upper and lower castes in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and UP has led to the rise of a young and oppositional Dalit leadership," a Times of India editorial said last month. It added that Modi and his allies have "sought to regain advantage in this equa-

tion with a Dalit presidential candidate".

Ashok Malik of the New Delhi based Observer Research Foundation think-tank told AFP that Kovind's nomination was "a milestone" for the BJP, which "is at its strongest ever" and poised to elect its choice of president even without any support from opposition lawmakers. But Dalits wonder whether the election of a president from their community - for the second time in two decades - will bring real change.

"Change will happen only when the everyday problems of the community are addressed in line with our constitution. When they are given justice and the rules are implemented fairly and firmly," Thorat said. India's prime minister wields most of the executive power, but the president can send back some parliamentary bills for reconsideration and also plays a guiding role in the process of forming governments. In his three years in power, Modi has shown himself to be an astute politician. The response to his latest political gambit, particularly by India's marginalized groups, will play a key role in deciding his future after 2019, experts say. —AFP

MAN FOUND DEAD WANTED FOR RUNNING 'DARK WEB' MARKET

BANGKOK: A 26-year-old Canadian found dead in his Thai police cell this week was wanted in the US for allegedly running a massive "dark web" marketplace for drugs and other contraband, a police source told AFP yesterday. Thai cops arrested Alexandre Cazes in Bangkok on July 5 and had planned to extradite him to the US, where he faced drug trafficking and money laundering charges. But the computer programmer hanged himself with a towel in his detention cell a week later on July 12, according to Thai anti-narcotics police, who have been tight-lipped on the details of his case.

Yesterday, a Thai officer confirmed Cazes was accused of being an "operator" of a major online black market. "It's a huge dark web market that traffics drugs and sells other illegal stuff," the police officer said, requesting anonymity. Speculation is rife that the underground marketplace was AlphaBay, considered the world's largest and most lucrative darknet bazaar until it was taken down within hours of Cazes' arrest.

Like its predecessor Silk Road, which was shut down by the FBI in 2013, AlphaBay used the encrypted Tor network and virtual currencies like Bitcoin to shield customers from detection. According to Nicolas Christin, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University, AlphaBay gained prominence in 2015 and

mostly traded in drugs, stolen credit cards and forged IDs. It was "more than twice as big as Silk Road was in its heyday, with a revenue of somewhere between 600,000 and 800,000 dollars a day in early 2017, and that's a rather conservative estimate," he told AFP.

Luxury lifestyle

Cazes appeared to be living a life of luxury in Thailand, where he owned three houses and four cars - including a Lamborghini - according to Thai police who have seized the assets. He slipped into the country around eight years ago, according to police. "He was a computer expert involved with international transactions of Bitcoins," said Major General Soontorn Chalermkiat, a spokesman for Thailand's Narcotics Suppression Bureau.

"He didn't have any business in Thailand but he had many houses," the officer said, adding that Cazes' Thai wife has since been charged with money laundering. The US Embassy in Bangkok refused to comment on the details of the case, saying only that Cazes was detained at the request of the US "with a view toward extradition to face federal criminal charges". The founder of Silk Road - the world's first and most famous digital drug market - was sentenced to life in prison by federal court in New York in 2015. —AFP

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CHINA CENSORS SCRUB EMOJI TRIBUTES TO LIU

BEIJING: China's censors raced Friday to scrub social media networks of candles, RIP and other tributes to Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo as they seek to silence discussion about the prominent dissident's death. The 61-year-old democracy activist died Thursday from liver cancer while under heavy police guard at a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang - but most Chinese remain clueless about his death or even who he was.

A search for news of his death on Chinese search engine Baidu turned up no results and China's Twitter-like Weibo blocked the use of his name and initials "LXB". Even the most obscure homages to Liu on Weibo were removed. One user who posted "RIP" was advised it had been deleted "because it violated relevant laws and regulations" - even though the post did not mention the activist by name. RIP is now among the search terms blocked on Chinese social media networks. Grieving users who had posted candle emojis on Weibo saw them erased. When accessing Weibo on a personal computer the symbol is no longer among the emoticon options. On the Weibo mobile app, however, the candle was still available but attempts to post it were blocked and triggered a message saying "content is illegal!" The Chinese word for "candle" is also barred.

'The brave one'

China tightly controls the Internet through a censorship system known as the "Great Firewall" and closely monitors social media networks for sensitive content. Social media sites have been cleaned of comments praising the dissident. "He is the brave one for this time. The history will remember him whether alive or dead," one user said in a Weibo post that was later deleted. Another said: "You, who was just freed, made the world different; we, those who are still in prison, salute you."

Even a Chinese language article about German pacifist Carl von Ossietzky, the last Nobel Peace Prize laureate to die in custody, that had been circulating on the mobile messaging app WeChat can no longer be accessed. A search for the most commonly used Chinese translation of Ossietzky's name also returned no results on Weibo but it was not blocked on Baidu.

The circumstances recalled the situation in 2010 when Liu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize while serving an 11-year sentence for "subversion" - online searches for his name and references to his award, including the empty chair that represented him at the Oslo ceremony, were blocked. Not all online posts were sympathetic to Liu, a veteran of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests whose advocacy for democratic reform infuriated the government. —AFP

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Focus

**LULA CONVICTION
 OPENS FIELD FOR '18
 PRESIDENTIAL RACE**

The graft conviction Wednesday of former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a front-runner for next year's presidential election, opens the door for an outsider to take power in Latin America's largest country, political experts said. Lula, a giant on the Brazilian political scene who led Brazil from 2003 to 2011, has said he wants to run for president again next year. But if his nearly 10-year sentence is upheld on appeal, Lula, a founder of the leftist Workers Party, would be barred from seeking office again for eight years, beginning after any jail time is complete.

Lula, 71, is among a raft of Brazilian elites toppled by an epic corruption scandal that has battered the nation's economy, engulfed every major party and deepened public cynicism about politics. It's a toxic mix that has enraged voters, who are searching for someone to lead them out of the political and economic wilderness. "Brazil is now as polarized as the US, it really has been for years," said Carlos Melo, a political scientist with Insper, a Sao Paulo business school. "But if Lula is absent it would unquestionably open the space for an outside, very emotional leader, a bit like US President Trump."

Lula was convicted on Wednesday by Judge Sergio Moro, who found Lula guilty of accepting 3.7 million reais (\$1.15 million) worth of bribes from engineering firm OAS SA. That is the amount prosecutors said the company spent refurbishing a beach apartment for Lula in return for his help winning contracts with state oil company Petroleo Brasileiro.

OAS was part of a supplier cartel that prosecutors said fleeced billions of dollars from Petrobras through inflated contracts, funneling some of the ill-gotten gains to politicians and political parties. Several OAS executives were jailed by Moro, the hard-charging judge overseeing the so-called Car Wash investigation, the largest-ever corruption probe in Brazil's history.

Lula's lawyers said he is innocent. He will remain free while his attorneys appeal the ruling, which they have characterized as a political witch hunt. The appeals court is expected to take at least eight months to rule. "This politically motivated judgment attacks Brazil's rule of law, democracy and Lula's basic human rights," Lula's defense team wrote in an emailed statement. "It is of immense concern to the Brazilian people and to the international community."

The Race

Despite his legal woes, the charismatic Lula remains Brazil's best-known politician and has retained a base of loyal supporters. As president, he channeled resources from a commodities boom into social programs that helped lift millions from poverty. Recent surveys from the respected Datafolha polling institute show that in a second-round runoff next year, Lula would beat all contenders with the exception of the environmentalist and two-time presidential candidate Marina Silva, with whom he is in a technical tie.

But if Lula cannot run, and with roughly 20 percent of the electorate undecided on any candidate, the election is up for grabs. While Silva has polled well, Melo and other political watchers doubt that the soft-spoken, environmental expert could win, in part because her campaigns have lacked the fiery speeches and dramatic flair needed to engage many voters. The public's thirst for showmanship and anti-establishment candidates, Melo said, could give a boost to two outsiders: Ciro Gomes, a tough-talking former governor, federal minister and congressman who is now with the Democratic Workers Party; and Joao Doria, a millionaire media mogul and former star of Brazil's version of "The Apprentice."

Gomes, despite his long career in politics, is a rough-and-tumble politician who could easily position himself as an anti-government candidate. Loud and politically incorrect, Gomes called unpopular President Michel Temer, himself facing a corruption charge, the "captain of the coup" that led to the impeachment of former President Dilma Rousseff last year.

Doria, who had never held elected office before, stunned the political establishment last year when he won the mayorship of South America's largest city in the first round, capturing 53 percent of the vote. A member of the centrist Brazilian Social Democracy Party, he is loved by the business community for his pro-market stance. And he has caught the public's attention with stunts such as donning a street sweeper's uniform and spending days cleaning roadways.

Shortly after the Lula verdict was made public Wednesday, Doria posted on Twitter that "Justice has been done." "The most shameless man in Brazil was condemned to nine and a half years in prison," Doria continued. "Long live Brazil." — Reuters

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LIU XIAOBO 1955 - 2017

NO ENEMIES

NO HATRED



STEFANO

Washington Watch

HISTORY IS TOO DEEP, PAIN IS TOO REAL

By Dr James J Zogby

A week ago, a pro-Israel media monitoring group accused me of making "an unsubstantiated charge that Israel supporters are responsible" for discrimination, hate crimes, and the political exclusion of Arab Americans. Because this issue is so important to Arab Americans and because some hardline pro-Israel groups refuse to acknowledge their role in harming my community, I am obliged to respond with a few examples representing just the tip of the iceberg of painful acts of defamation, discrimination, exclusion, threats, and violence.

From the moment Arab Americans began to organize and to advocate for causes we held dear, we were confronted by attacks from major Jewish community organizations. Our early efforts to bring our community into the mainstream of American political life were met with resistance and campaigns of pressure designed to make us "radioactive". They used political pressure to have us excluded from government meetings, engagement with coalitions, and involvement in political campaigns. They defamed us in reports they circulated (I have copies of all of them), terming us "Arab propagandists", "a made up community", "a creation of petrodollars", purveyors of anti-Semitism, or a "subversive plot" supporting Palestinian terror.

My first direct encounter with this exclusion came in 1978. I was invited to the White House for an ethnic leaders' roundtable with Vice President Mondale. A few days after the meeting, I received call from the White House informing me that because they had received complaints from Jewish groups that a pro-Palestinian Arab had been at the meeting, I wouldn't be invited to follow-up discussions.

The next year, my organization applied for membership in the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy - a grouping of 60 religious, and peace and justice organizations. We overwhelmingly won the vote for admission, but three members, led by a liberal Jewish group, objected to our entry and threatened to quit the coalition "if the Arabs were admitted". The coalition leadership then asked us to withdraw our application. In late 1979, my Palestine Human Rights Campaign hosted a major national conference that featured seven Members of Congress, major Black leaders, and many figures from peace and justice organizations. Despite receiving prominent and favorable national news coverage for three consecutive nights, a pro-Jewish Defense League newspaper in New York described the event with a huge font front page headline as a "SECRET PLO MEET" that "plots terror".

Exclusion

A few months later, after having received a number of threats, my office was firebombed. The JDL issued a state-

ment which, while not claiming credit, said that they "approved of the act". Months later, JDL head, Meir Kahane, showed up pounding on my office door taunting us about the firebombing until the police arrived and removed him from the premises. In 1981, I was invited by a national Italian American organization to head-up a multi-ethnic meeting addressing issues of media stereotyping. Some Jewish groups objected to my role accusing me of having "another agenda". They refused to participate and convened their own meeting.

In 1983, former Senator James Abourezk was invited to serve on the Executive Committee of the 20th anniversary of Dr. King's March on Washington (I was asked to serve on the National Steering Committee). Once again, major Jewish groups threatened to withdraw if Arab Americans were included. After a long and painful debate, the matter was resolved in our favor when Rev Joseph Lowery and Rev Jesse Jackson intervened on our behalf.

The threats continued - by mail and phone - all of which were reported to authorities. Some came to us in Washington, others to Arab American offices in other cities. Then, in 1985, Alex Odeh, the Director of the California American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee was murdered when a bomb exploded as he entered his office. Shortly after Alex's murder, the House Judiciary Committee and, later, the US Commission on Civil Rights, held hearings on violence against Arab Americans. In my testimony, I said: "These acts of violence and threats of violence against Arab American organizations are but part of a larger picture of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. We can document numerous instances of active political discrimination against Arab Americans, "blacklisting" of Arab American political activists and spokespersons, and efforts to "bait" or "taint Arab American leaders and organizations as "terrorist supporters". "All of these actions and practices create a climate... [which] serve[s] to embolden the political opponents of Arab Americans to the point where, as we have seen, some have escalated their opposition to include acts of violence against Arab Americans and their organizations."

Hurdles

While our efforts to organize and normalize our involvement in civic life proved challenging, in the political arena, Arab Americans faced even greater hurdles. Throughout the 1980s, Arab Americans had contributions returned and endorsements rejected. A prominent group of St Jude Hospital board members had their contributions to the Mondale campaign returned in 1984, and in 1988, presidential candidate Michael Dukakis rejected our endorsement. Two national political leaders, David Dinkins, running for Mayor in New York City, and Ed Szchau, running for a Senate

seat in California, both directly asked me to discourage Arab Americans from contributing to their campaigns citing their fear of a backlash from the Jewish community. Whether their fears were real or imagined, the impact on my community was real and hurtful. In spite of these obstacles, we persisted and with the help of courageous leaders like Jesse Jackson, Ron Brown, and Bill Clinton we made our way into the mainstream. Jackson welcomed us into his two presidential campaigns. As Chair of the Democratic Party, Brown, despite warnings by some Jewish donors that they would withdraw support for the party, came to our events, welcomed us, and gave us a seat at the table.

But problems remained. In 1992, Arab Americans were being rebuffed by the Clinton campaign. At that year's Democratic Convention, I was approached by AIPAC's legal director, who also served as the Clinton campaign's legal advisor. He said to me "I know you're trying to get into the campaign. Why the f*** should we let you in? ...leave us alone". I was shaken by the naked hostility of the encounter and went to Brown. Together we laid out a strategy. It ultimately led me to an unlikely place - a meeting with Senator Joe Lieberman. Despite our many disagreements, he was approachable and fair. He was so incensed that he called the Clinton campaign expressing his outrage over this behavior. The next day, we were invited to join the campaign.

Toll

While the Clinton years, shaped as they were by the Oslo Accords and the president's own personal commitment to justice, changed the political dynamic for Arab Americans, problems persisted with some Jewish groups still attempting to exclude Arab Americans and defame those who were in government posts. Now, however, the main threats came not from the mainstream groups, but from the fringes, and from a collection of entities funded by the likes of Sheldon Adelson and Robert Shillman. They assumed the role of smearing Arab Americans and now, American Muslims. Their efforts have not been able to exclude us, but they have been able to incite against us - and the toll they continue to take on community leaders and activists is substantial.

After 9/11, three men were arrested, tried, and convicted of making death threats against me, my family, and my office. Two of the three used, in their threats, material culled from these "hate sites" - citing their support for Israel as a reason for their hatred and death threats. The bottom line is the charge that supporters of Israel are, in part, responsible for instances of discrimination, hate crimes, and the political exclusion of Arab Americans cannot be dismissed as "unsubstantiated". The history is too real and the pain is too deep. Shame on those who can't acknowledge the history and the pain.

TRUMP WILL TAKE HEALTHCARE CREDIT OR CAST BLAME

If congressional Republicans succeed in repealing and replacing the Obama-era health law, expect a big Rose Garden celebration with President Donald Trump taking credit. If they fail? Trump has already indicated he will hold Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell responsible, setting up an intraparty blame game that could be devastating for the GOP. "After all of these years of suffering thru ObamaCare, Republican Senators must come through as they have promised!" Trump said in a tweet early Friday while in Paris.

Trump has made it clear that the onus for delivering a major Republican achievement and fulfilling seven years of those promises is on the six-term Kentucky senator, who is battle-hardened by legislative negotiating - and not on the president and author of "The Art of the Deal". "Mitch has to pull it off. He's working very hard. He's got to pull it off," Trump said in an interview for the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club." Trump has cast himself as a bystander in the monthslong process. "I will be at my desk, pen in hand!" he tweeted Friday as he described the wait to sign a bill erasing much of former President Barack Obama's 2010 law. Trump is reminding GOP lawmakers who promised so often to repeal and replace, and voted repeatedly but never finally to do it, that they better not blow this best shot. And if they do, "I will be very angry about it, and a lot of people will be very upset," the president has said.

After brokering deals with individual lawmakers before a healthcare bill barely made it through the House in May, Trump has largely stayed on the sidelines as the Senate has dealt with the issue. That's partly because McConnell had made his preference clear that Trump keep out of Senate business, according to associates. Trump has mostly acceded to the request, partly because McConnell had earned his respect by shepherding conservative jurist Neil Gorsuch

to Supreme Court confirmation in April. That still stands as Trump's most significant achievement since taking office.

But McConnell's stewardship of the healthcare issue has proved less adroit. He had to abruptly cancel a vote last month on a bill he drafted largely in secret after it became clear support was lacking. He's now struggling to nail down votes to pass the latest version next week. The president has shown some patience with McConnell's predicament, telling reporters on Air Force One on the way to France that "the only thing more difficult than peace between Israel and the Palestinians is healthcare." He then repeated his confidence in a successful outcome.

But he has delivered no major speech in six months on healthcare either before Congress or outside Washington, addressing it only in a few tweets and a couple of asides at rallies in Iowa and elsewhere. Pressed on what the president is doing to secure the votes for the Senate bill, White House aide Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the administration has provided "technical assistance throughout the process". In comparison, Obama aggressively used the bully pulpit of the presidency to secure passage of his Affordable Care Act, with at least five town halls in Wisconsin, Ohio, Colorado and Virginia, prime-time speeches to Congress, healthcare summits at the White House and elsewhere, and personal lobbying of lawmakers.

Greatest fear

GOP lawmakers insist that Trump has been helpful, though sometimes they've struggled to depict exactly how. But his distance from the process could help him to avoid blame if failure is the outcome. And now, Trump's words signal that if Congress fails, lawmakers can expect his wrath and that of his followers - a relative minority of

the population but an important slice of the GOP base that has the ability to punish Republicans who cross the president. In last year's elections, the two major Republican Senate candidates who lost their races, then-Sen Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Rep Joe Heck of Nevada, did so after withdrawing their support from Trump. Winning Republicans stuck with him.

For many GOP lawmakers, the greatest fear is not a Democratic opponent but a primary challenge from the right. Republican Sen Jeff Flake of Arizona, who was one of Trump's most outspoken critics throughout last year's campaign, has grown much quieter about the president as he faces re-election next year and a primary opponent who has embraced Trump and taunted Flake for his stances. Now Flake is looking like a likely "yes" vote on the healthcare bill. He said Thursday he was still considering it, but he applauded inclusion of an amendment by conservative Sen Ted Cruz of Texas that would allow insurers to sell skimpy, low-cost healthcare. "I like the consumer freedom amendment in it, you've got to get relief to Arizonans that just don't have insurance," Flake said.

Most Republicans say that even though the GOP's healthcare bills have polled poorly, and they will be forced to defend yanking insurance coverage from millions, a worse result would be failing to repeal. That would undermine the GOP's ability to present itself as a governing party, while breaking seven years of promises. The Republican in the White House might be able to dodge the finger-pointing that would surely follow. But he might be the only one. "I think the whole party is going to be responsible so everyone with that label is probably going to have to bear responsibility no matter what they go home and claim," said conservative former Sen Jim DeMint. — AP

MATHS 'GENIUS' MIRZAKHANI DIES

Continued from Page 1

Mirzakhani said she enjoyed pure mathematics because of the elegance and longevity of the questions she studies. "It is like being lost in a jungle and trying to use all the knowledge that you can gather to come up with some new tricks, and with some luck you might find a way out," she added. In 2008 she became a professor of mathematics at Stanford. She is survived by her husband, Stanford mathematician Jan Vondrak, and her young daughter Anahita.

In Iran, President Hassan Rouhani said that Mirzakhani's "doleful passing" has caused "great sorrow," state media reported. Rouhani praised the "unprecedented brilliance of this creative scientist and modest human being, who made Iran's name resonate in the world's scientific forums, (and) was a turning point in showing the great will of Iranian women and young people on the path towards reaching the peaks of glory ... in various international arenas."

Separately on Instagram, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that Mirzakhani's death is a cause for grief for all Iranians. Mirzakhani's impact "will live on for the thousands of women she inspired to pursue math and science," said Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne. He described her as "a humble person who accepted honors

only with the hope that it might encourage others to follow her path". The university said via Stanford News that Mirzakhani's preferred method of working "was to doodle on large sheets of white paper, scribbling formulas on the periphery of her drawings. Her young daughter described her mother at work as 'painting'."

Mirzakhani became known on the international mathematics scene as a teenager, winning gold medals at both the 1994 and 1995 International Math Olympiads - and finished with a perfect score in the latter competition. She went on to win the 2009 Blumenthal Award for the Advancement of Research in Pure Mathematics, and the 2013 Satter Prize of the American Mathematical Society. Mirzakhani studied mathematics at Sharif University in Iran and earned a PhD degree from Harvard in 2004. She then taught at Princeton University before moving to Stanford in 2008.

The Fields Medal, which she won in 2014, is given out every four years, often to multiple winners aged 40 or younger. Mirzakhani also collaborated with Alex Eskin, a University of Chicago mathematician "to take on another of the most-vexing problems in the field: The trajectory of a billiard ball around a polygonal table," Stanford News said. "The challenge began as a thought exercise among physicists a century ago and had yet to be solved." — AFP

TIGHT SECURITY IN JERUSALEM AS HOLY SITE...

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday, access was restricted through Damascus Gate, the main entrance used by Palestinians into Jerusalem's Old City, and only residents with identification were allowed to pass. "This is not security. This is punishment," said Bader Jweihan, 53, an accountant who was denied entry.

Musa Abdelmenam Qussam, 73 and with poor eyesight, was helped by a grandson as he walked with a cane and sought to enter. But the owner of a book wholesale shop in the Old City was also turned away. "This mosque is not only for Muslims. Tourists come," he said, adding that he usually prays at Al-Aqsa every day. "This city is for all the world. It must be open." Jaffa Gate, heavily used by tourists and near the Old City's Jewish Quarter, was open but with a heavy police presence.

A group of tourists from Poland said they were concerned when they heard about Friday's shooting but wanted to continue their visit. They planned to shop in the Old City and visit the nearby Garden of Gethsemane, where Christians believe Jesus (PBUH) prayed the night before his crucifixion. "It stressed me a

little," said Ewa, who did not want to give her last name. At Lions Gate near the site of the attack, police guarded the entrance and restricted access, checking IDs.

The attack and aftermath was one of the most serious incidents in Jerusalem in recent years. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Netanyahu spoke by phone on Friday as tensions rose. Israeli authorities also detained Jerusalem's top Muslim cleric, grand mufti Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, as crowds gathered at the gates of the Old City after the attack, his son said. Hussein, who had criticized the closure of Al-Aqsa, was released later Friday after being questioned, according to another of his sons.

With Al-Aqsa closed, crowds gathered at Old City gates and held Friday prayers there instead. The Palestinian director of the Waqf (religious property) council, Abdel Azim Salhab, said the closure of the mosque compound was the "worst aggression since 1967" - a reference to the start of Israel's occupation of east Jerusalem which it later annexed. The Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount is central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians fearing Israel may one day seek to assert further control over it. — AFP

TURKEY MARKS YEAR SINCE 'EPIC' COUP DEFEAT

Continued from Page 1

the Bosphorus that saw some of the fiercest fighting, after arriving from Ankara on his official plane accompanied by an F-16 fighter jet.

Tens of thousands carrying the Turkish flag and chanting "we are soldiers of Tayyip (Erdogan)" gathered on the bridge, which has since been renamed Bridge of the Martyrs of July 15. "We are here for the victims, for democracy, for our country for our people and our flag," said Hakan, a resident of Istanbul.

In the wake of the failed coup bid, authorities embarked on the biggest purge in Turkey's history, arresting 50,000 people and sacking almost three times as many. Erdogan also shored up his position by winning a referendum on enhancing his powers earlier this year. In the latest dismissals, another 7,563 police, soldiers and other state employees were fired late Friday under the state of emergency that has been in place since July 20 last year.

Turkey's opposition put political disputes aside on the night of the putsch but the scale of the purge has intensified political divisions. The celebrations come less than a week after the head of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Kemal Kilicdaroglu held the largest opposition rally in Turkey in years, pushing for "justice". "Over the last year, the judicial proceedings... moved outside the framework of the law," Kilicdaroglu, whose party will boycott commemoration ceremonies later in the day, told parliament.

He also called for full clarity over what happened on the night of July 15, with questions still remaining over when the authorities first found out an uprising was afoot. "The details need to be made clear in the name of the martyrs and the heroes," he said, accusing the authorities

of "hindering" efforts to find out the truth. Erdogan, who was present at the session, gazed down stonily from the VIP balcony. The coup bid also frayed ties between the United States and European Union with NATO member Turkey, which accused its allies of failing to show solidarity. Gulen has always denied involvement and in a new statement Friday said the accusations were "baseless, politically motivated slanders" and slammed a "witch hunt" of Erdogan's critics.

The scale of yesterday's nationwide commemorations is aimed at etching July 15, 2016 into the minds of Turks as a key date in the history of the modern state. Giant posters designed by the presidency have sprung up across billboards in Istanbul showing gaudy paintings that portray the key events of the coup night, including the surrender of the putschist soldiers. "The epic of July 15," says the slogan. However some have criticized the posters for belittling the Turkish army.

Public transport is free in Istanbul and Ankara over the weekend while mobile operator Turkcell has sent text messages to clients promising them a free extra gigabyte of data from July 15. Illuminated anti-coup slogans have been hung between the minarets of some of Istanbul's greatest Ottoman mosques.

At midnight local time (2100 GMT) people across Turkey were to take part in "democracy watches", rallies commemorating how people poured out into the streets. Erdogan was to later return to Ankara and at 2300 GMT give a speech in parliament to mark the time it was bombed. A giant monument to those killed - showing people holding up the Turkish star and crescent insignia - will then be unveiled outside his palace in the capital as the dawn call to prayer rings out. — AFP

FRANCE WADES INTO GULF ROW

Continued from Page 1

The four countries also expelled all Qatari nationals, impacting mixed-nationality families in the Gulf, students and people seeking medical treatment abroad, among others. Prior to the dispute, Qataris could travel visa-free between the Gulf countries. Le Drian said such punitive measures should end. "France is calling for these measures to be lifted, especially ones that affect the (Qatari) population, specifically measures that impact bi-national families that have been separated," Le Drian said.

He was speaking to reporters in Qatar alongside Sheikh Mohammed, who said he welcomed mediation efforts and possible negotiations so long as they are founded on respect for "sovereignty". The Arab quartet has demanded Qatar end its support of extremist groups, but also its support of Islamist political dissidents they brand as terrorists, but which many Western allies do not. Other demands include shutting down Qatar's flagship Al-Jazeera network, curbing ties with Iran and expelling Turkish troops stationed in Qatar.

Qatar has rejected the demands, saying that the list in its entirety infringes on national sovereignty. Qatar also rejects allegations it has supported terror groups. Despite the blockade by the four Arab countries, life has not been impacted significantly in Qatar. The government has stepped in to help pay additional costs of shipping and has looked to its allies, like Turkey, for food imports.

With Qatar holding firm to its position, a top Emirati diplomat cautioned that the diplomatic standoff could be prolonged. "We are heading toward a long estrangement," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Relations Anwar Al-Gargash wrote on Twitter. "The reality is we are far

from a political solution that changes Qatar's course. In light of that, nothing will change and we must look to a different mode in relations," he added.

Earlier in the week, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was in the Gulf, meeting separately with officials in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which is trying to mediate the dispute. In Qatar, he secured an agreement to enhance cooperation on combatting terrorism and terror financing. Saudi commentators criticized the result of Tillerson's visit to Qatar, saying the signed counterterrorism agreement fell far short of the demands made for Qatar to change its policy of supporting Islamists. Tillerson, however, said the discussions had been "helpful" and that the US planned to keep at it.

Qatar's Foreign Minister told reporters in Turkey on Friday that it would be unfair to describe Tillerson's visit to the Gulf as a failure, insisting that the crisis "cannot be solved in a day". Qatar hosts Al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military installation in the Middle East and hub for US-led operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar are among the world's biggest military spenders, purchasing billions of dollars in equipment from the US and Europe to beef up their militaries. All three are considered allies of many Western nations.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Qatar attended an international meeting on countering Islamic State group financing on Friday. After the meeting, Qatar said a united front is required. "We must not be distracted from our campaign to root out ISIS and cut off their flow of funds," said a statement distributed by Qatar's government communication office, referring to the IS group using a different acronym. The Arab quartet, however, view Qatar's policies in the region as a bigger and more immediate threat. — Agencies

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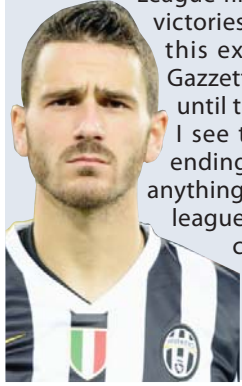
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BONUCCI BIDS JUVETUS FAREWELL AFTER MILAN MOVE

ROME: Italy international defender Leonardo Bonucci took out a page in a local newspaper yesterday to thank Juventus fans for their support after agreeing a shock move to rivals AC Milan. Bonucci, 30, is joining Milan on a five-year deal after seven seasons in Turin, where he won six successive Serie A titles with Juventus and played in two Champions League finals. "Seven seasons have gone by. Seven seasons of victories, of dreams achieved, of maturity gained thanks to this exceptional bond with Juve," Bonucci wrote in the Gazzetta dello Sport daily. "I truly always gave everything until the end. I have received, given and learned. And what I see today, looking back, is a splendid story worthy of ending in full respect and affection, without questioning anything I went through with the club, the captain, my colleagues and the fans," he added. Bonucci's arrival in Milan comes after heavy investment from the seven-time European champions following the sale of the club by former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to a Chinese consortium in April. —AFP



LINFIELD TO INVESTIGATE CELTIC BOTTLE INCIDENT

BELFAST: Linfield will investigate a bottle-throwing incident involving Celtic striker Leigh Griffiths that occurred during the Scottish club's 2-0 win in Friday's Champions League second qualifying round. Scott Sinclair and Tom Rogic scored as Celtic won a hostile first-leg encounter at Windsor Park in Belfast, but Scotland international Griffiths was targeted by objects thrown from a section of the home crowd while taking a corner. The striker was booked after picking up a bottle thrown onto the pitch, a decision Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers branded as "strange" before saying he would seek further explanation from the officials. Linfield issued a statement after the match promising to punish anyone identified as being involved. "The club will be reviewing our own footage and investigating an incident that took place during the match where a number of objects were thrown on to the pitch. We are obviously very disappointed that a small number of people chose not to respect the club's wishes," the statement said. "Linfield FC strongly condemns these actions and will be taking all necessary steps to identify any individual who was engaged in this activity." —AFP

OLIVIER CLAIMS 1ST GOLD MEDAL AT AQUATICS WORLDS

BUDAPEST: Marc-Antoine Olivier of France claimed the first gold medal at the World Aquatics Championships yesterday by winning the men's 5-kilometer open water race. The 21-year-old Olivier, who won bronze in the 10K at the 2016 Olympics, finished the course in 54 minutes, 31.40 seconds, edging Italy's Mario Sanzullo by 0.70 seconds, to become the first French male world champion in open water swimming. Timothy Shuttleworth of Britain was 10.70 seconds behind Olivier for bronze. Defending champion Chad Ho of South Africa was 11th, 17.20 off the pace. The open water swimming is taking place at Balatonfured on Lake Balaton, some 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Budapest. The women's 10K race takes place today, with the men's 10K on Tuesday. In Budapest, Svetlana Kolesnichenko of Russia won the women's solo technical title for the first gold medal in synchronized swimming - and her first in an individual event. Kolesnichenko already had 12 world golds in synchronized swimming. She beat Spain's Ona Carbonell, who joined three-time gold medalist Natalia Ishchenko on a record three medals in the solo technical routine. —AP



MOTUL STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH MCLAREN GT

DUBAI: The synergies between Motul and McLaren GT are backed by high performance, quality, prestige and a long, successful history in the motorsport. Following a successful association in 2016 with McLaren GT customer race team, Garage 59, Motul has become the approved lubricant supplier of McLaren GT and its customer teams through the newly announced partnership.

2016 was a successful debut year in the working relationship, with highlights including victory at the Bathurst 12 Hours in Australia, and a Championship title in the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup. From 2017 the partnership will see Motul supporting six McLaren 650S GT3 models in the popular Blancpain Endurance Series and Blancpain Sprint Series.

Central to the deal is the technical relationship between the two companies, and products from Motul's Motorsport Line range are now recommended to all new and existing customer teams. Among these products will be 300V Trophy 0W40 engine oil, Gear 300 LS 75W90 gear box oil and RBF 660 brake fluid.

Technologically advanced for all types of engines

Motul has evolved over the decades to one of the globally leading lubricants specializing in the formulation, production and distribution of high-tech engine lubricants as well as gaining experience as an official supplier to many racing teams and manufacturers contributing with them towards further technological development.

Motul is also recognized as the specialist in synthetic lubricants. As early as 1971, Motul was the first lubricant manufacturer to pioneer the formulation of a 100% synthetic lubricant for automotive engines, the 300V lubricant, making use of Esters technology and issued from the aeronautical industry.

The world-class lubricants from France will be soon launched in Kuwait by Al Sayer.



TOKYO: Japan's Sunwolves Timothy Lafaele, center, and Kenki Fukuoka, right, charge in the last half of their match against Auckland Blues in Tokyo yesterday. —AP

SUNWOLVES END HORROR YEAR WITH BLUES TONIC

TOKYO: Japan's Sunwolves stunned the Auckland Blues 48-21 yesterday to finish a second chastening Super Rugby season on a high note and silence their critics - at least for now. Boosted by a Timothy Lafaele hat-trick, the home side posted only their second win of the campaign, erasing a seven-point half-time deficit with a pulsating comeback as the New Zealanders faded badly in the blistering Tokyo heat.

The rampant Sunwolves, who won just one of 15 games in their 2016 debut season, scored eight tries to three against a bungling Blues side held scoreless in the second half.

Scores from James Parsons, Gerard Cowley-Tuioti and Michael Collins looked to have put the Blues in command before Keisuke Uchida capped a lightning attack to help keep the Sunwolves in touch at the break. But from the moment Ryohei Yamanaka chased down a clever Kotaro Matsushima kick to score after 53 minutes, it was all Sunwolves. Kaito Shigeno dived over, before Lafaele scored on a breakaway and completed his treble after charging down a Sam Nock kick close to the try line as the hosts capitalised on a Jerome Kaino sin-binning. Their tails up, the Sunwolves even forced a penalty try from a rolling maul and when Yoshitaka Tokunaga raced clear to score moments before the

buzzer, Sunwolves head coach Filo Tiatia wore a look of disbelief. "That's one of the best performances I've seen from this team," Tiatia told reporters. "We were resilient and competitive for the full 80 minutes. It just speaks volumes of the players."

Once Super Rugby powerhouses, the Blues ended their own lacklustre campaign with a record of seven wins, seven defeats and a draw and became the first team from New Zealand to lose to the Sunwolves. "You can't take anything for granted in this competition," said Blues coach Tana Umaga.

"I've got to look at myself and the way I help prepare this team," he added. "It's probably symptomatic of our season. They just wanted it more. That's all down to attitude."

However, the Sunwolves barely improved on their 2016 record in the southern hemisphere's elite club competition. Last year's baptism of fire included a 92-17 mauling by the Cheetahs which prompted former Japan coach Eddie Jones to call the Sunwolves "embarrassing", while the team's Super Rugby future has become a topic of debate.

They opened their 2017 campaign with a crushing 83-17 home defeat by the Hurricanes and conceding 94 points to the Lions earlier this month further underlined their struggles. —AFP

RUGBY

HURRICANES END CRUSADERS' UNBEATEN RUN IN SUPER RUGBY

WELLINGTON: The Christchurch-based Crusaders lost 31-22 to the Hurricanes yesterday, forfeiting their unbeaten record in the final round of Super Rugby's regular season and likely surrendering the No. 1 seeding in playoffs which begin next weekend.

The seven-time champions needed to beat the Wellington-based Hurricanes for the second time this season to hold out the challenge of the Johannesburg-based Lions for first place and the top seeding which guarantees home advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Lions could claim that honor with a win over the Sharks in Durban later. The Crusaders appeared to have the match under control when they led 22-14 after 55 minutes. But lapses of discipline and defense allowed the Hurricanes to reclaim the lead with tries to winger Wes Goosen and flanker Vaea Fifita, then to seal the match with a late penalty to new All Black Jordie Barrett. The Hurricanes win lifted them into fifth place ahead of the Hamilton-based Chiefs who beat the ACT Brumbies 28-10 earlier on Saturday. That means the Hurricanes will face the Brumbies in Canberra in next weekend's quarterfinals while the Chiefs have the more difficult task of traveling to Cape Town to take on the Stormers. They beat the Stormers 60-21 in a quarterfinal in Cape Town last year. If the Lions

beat the Sharks to take the top-seeding they will face the Sharks again in Johannesburg next weekend and the Crusaders will host the seventh-ranked Highlanders in Christchurch. If the Crusaders remain the No. 1 seeds, they will face the Sharks and the Lions will meet the Highlanders.

PENALTIES

The Crusaders appeared at times yesterday to have the measure of the defending champion Hurricanes. Winger Seta Tamanivalu scored two tries in the first 15 minutes to give them a 12-0 lead and they were still ahead 12-7 at halftime.

"We gave away too many penalties at key times and we had our chances but didn't convert them," Crusaders captain Matt Todd said. "You've got to take your chances in big matches like this and we didn't."

Hurricanes captain T.J. Perenara said the Crusaders remain the team to beat in the playoffs but he was pleased his team "put ourselves in a position to play for another championship." Earlier, fullback Damian McKenzie scored a try among 18 points as the Chiefs beat a second-string ACT Brumbies lineup 28-10. The Chiefs held a narrow 13-10 lead at halftime but kept the Brumbies scoreless while adding two tries in the second half. "We were chasing the win and a

bonus point on top of that would have been outstanding for us heading into next weekend but that's just the way it goes," Chiefs captain Aaron Cruden said. "Bonus points have eluded us this year."

Japan's Sunwolves pulled off a remarkable turnaround by beating the Auckland-based Blues 48-21 only a week after a 52-15 loss to the Stormers and two weeks after their record 94-7 loss to the Lions. The Blues led 21-14 at halftime, mainly through an intercept try to fullback Michael Collins. But the Sunwolves scored six second-half tries, including a hat-trick to center Timothy Lafaele, to post only their second win of the season, the third in their history and their first over a New Zealand team.

The Blues visibly wilted in the second half as temperatures reached 42 Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) in Tokyo. All Blacks flanker Jerome Kaino was sin-binned for a high tackle in the 57th minute and the Sunwolves scored two tries in his absence. Lafaele completed his hat-trick with tries in the 17th, 69th and 76th minutes.

At Perth, Western Australia, the Western Force beat the New South Wales Waratahs 40-11. The Force are one of two Australian teams - the Melbourne Rebels being the other - reportedly being considered for elimination from the 2018 competition. — AP



Hurricanes in action

ONE-DAY CLASSICS SPECIALISTS SET TO SHINE AT TOUR

BLAGNAC: With three of five mountain ranges behind them, the Tour de France peloton will head towards the Massif Central yesterday with opportunity in the air. The Vosges, Jura and Pyrenees have been and gone meaning that just the Massif Central and Alps remain but today will likely offer a quieter day for the overall contenders including race leader Fabio Aru and reigning champion Chris Froome.

Not so for Bastille Day hero Warren Barguil, though. The 25-year-old delighted the French crowd in Foix on

Friday by winning his maiden Tour stage, on France's national holiday to boot. But he will have little time to celebrate on Saturday as he returns to team duties.

"The next stage is already tomorrow for Michael (Matthews) because there's going to be a sprint," he said after his victory. The race moves from the yellow jersey battle which raged on Friday to the green jersey one yesterday and a chance for Australian Matthews to make up some much needed ground.

German Marcel Kittel has dominated that competition so far on the back of five stage wins but Matthews has a chance of closing his 128-point deficit if he can make the most of the next three days over lumpy terrain. Saturday's 181.5km 14th stage begins in Blagnac, the hub of the European aeronautics industry, and ends in Rodez, known for its sheep tripe speciality. The bumpy run-in that crests two third category climbs before finishing on a steep 570-metre climb with a 9.7 percent average gradient will be

too tough for Kittel and the other specialist sprinters. But it's ideal territory for an all-rounder like Matthews and with 50 points on offer at the line to the winner, the Aussie Sunweb rider could start to make some inroads into Kittel's lead. But he'll have Olympic champion Greg Van Avermaet to contend with among others. Belgian Van Avermaet won a stage finish in Rodez two years ago, outspringing world champion Peter Sagan in the process. Sagan would have been a favourite for Saturday's

stage but was kicked out of the race last week for elbowing British sprinter Mark Cavendish in a pacy finish.

With the overall contenders set to take something of a back seat, there will be a bun-fight to get in the day's breakaway as it has a great chance of going all the way. The sprinters' teams won't feel the need to chase, neither will the contenders' teams so it should be a large breakaway containing some top one-day classics specialists.

Van Avermaet and Matthews are certain to be amongst them. — AFP



RUN IN SILVIS: Patrick Rodgers tees off on the ninth hole during the second round of the John Deere Classic golf tournament Friday, at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill. — AP

GOLF

RODGERS TAKES 2-STROKE LEAD IN JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

SILVIS: Patrick Rodgers shot a 7-under 64 on Friday to take a two-shot lead after the second round of the John Deere Classic. Rodgers had eight birdies and a bogey to finish at 13-under 129 at TPC Deere Run. Finishing on the front nine, he had five birdies in a seven-hole stretch before closing with a bogey on the par-4 ninth.

"It was nice to keep making birdies and keep the gas pedal down," Rodgers said. "It was tricky with some breeze, but I know 13 under is not going to win the golf tournament. So, I got to keep that same mindset for the next two rounds."

Bryson DeChambeau was second after a 65. Local favorite Zach Johnson, the 2012 winner, had a 67 to join Charles Howell III, the co-leader after the first round, at 10 under. Howell followed his opening 63 with a 69. Kevin Tway (63), Chesson Hadley (64), Chad Campbell (68) and J.J. Henry (64) were 9 under.

Tway had nine birdies in a 10-hole stretch en route to the best round of the day. Hadley is coming off a victory today in the Web.com Tour event in New York. Rodgers, the 25-year-old former Stanford star who is winless on the PGA Tour, has followed the formula that many players have used to win at TPC Deere Run - converting makeable birdies and largely avoiding mistakes. Rodgers also made his fair share of tough shots, notably chipping in from 50 feet on the par-3 third hole and holing a 50-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole. "I put together a really nice round. Was very much in control. Rolled in some nice putts and stayed very patient," Rodgers said.

DeChambeau, who was just above the FedEx Cup playoff cut line entering the weekend, survived a pair of early bogeys to grab second place.

Tway was struggling to stay above the cut line when he went on his birdie binge, making seven in a row at one point. But Tway's tee shot on his 17th hole found the rough and he was forced to settle for a bogey.

Tway's round, the best of his career, was highlighted by a 28-foot birdie putt on the forgiving third hole. "I was kind of hoping it would never stop," Tway said. "You've got to make a lot of birdies around here."

Hadley said after his bogey-free round that he felt like he was playing with "house money" after wrapping up a PGA Tour for next season card last week.

"I've been heading in the right direction for a while, and I think it kind of starts with your attitude,

how you think about and handle things," Hadley said. "So I kind of finally got that right, and then everything came together last week obviously."

First-round co-leader Ollie Schniederjans had a 74 to drop eight shots behind Rodgers. Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson shot a 70 to make the cut at 3 under, as did Davis Love III (68). Three-time tournament winner Steve Stricker (67) made the cut on the number at 2 under.

Defending champion Ryan Moore shot a 71 and missed the cut, finishing at 3 over after two rounds. Moore missed the previous five weeks with a left shoulder injury. — AP

BIG NAMES IN FIGHT FOR FORM GOING INTO BRITISH OPEN

SOUTHPORT: The last British Open at Royal Birkdale was won by a golfer from across the Irish Sea, something Rory McIlroy will hope is an omen ahead of this year's championship starting on the English links next Thursday.

The 146th Open is the first to be held at the par-70 Birkdale, set amidst the sand dunes in Southport, near Liverpool in north-west England, since Pádraig Harrington successfully defended the Claret Jug in 2008. McIlroy, who won his only Open to date not far away at Hoylake in 2014, is always one of the main focuses of attention ahead of a major but the Northern Irishman hardly comes into the tournament in his best form. He has missed the cut at three of the last five majors and also failed to make the weekend at the recent Irish Open.

"It's been a really frustrating year. Just hasn't really went the way I wanted it to," the world number four admitted in the wake of that disappointing showing. Of the venue, he added: "It all depends on the conditions, but I don't envisage myself hitting a lot of drivers at Birkdale. It's definitely a course where it dictates to you how you play."

McIlroy is far from the only big name with concerns about his game. World number one Dustin Johnson may be the bookmakers' favourite but the 33-year-old has not been at his best since a back injury forced him to miss the Masters—he returned to defend his US Open crown but promptly missed the cut. Jordan Spieth and second-ranked Hideki Matsuyama of Japan are in better shape, while defending champion Henrik Stenson missed the cut at the season's first two majors.

Stenson beat Phil Mickelson in a thrilling shoot-out on the final day 12 months ago at Troon and is another who can read some-

thing into Harrington's triumph on the same links nine years ago.

That is the last time anyone retained the Claret Jug. Tiger Woods is the only other player to have achieved the feat in 30 years. With no one player now able to dominate the sport since the demise of Woods, the last nine majors have all been won by a different name, going back to Spieth's back-to-back victories at the US Open and Masters in 2015. Indeed, the last seven majors have all been claimed by players who had never previously taken one of the sport's biggest prizes, including Brooks Koepka at last month's US Open and Stenson 12 months ago. "It's kind of like before and after having kids," said the Swede on how life changed for him after ending his major search.

Stenson has taken the trophy everywhere with him, including on a jet ski in Florida, but now he must reluctantly hand it back before trying to win it again, along with the \$1.845 million winner's cheque. "I haven't played my best golf this year. I've been quite busy off the course, and I'm sure that's impacted the performances to a degree. But at the same time, I don't feel like it's miles away," he added. Sergio Garcia—who sported his Masters green jacket on a recent visit to Wimbledon—is another European star who recently ended his long search for a major, but history favours the Americans at Birkdale. Five of the nine previous Opens held here have seen an American lift the Claret Jug in front of the white Art Deco clubhouse, including Lee Trevino and Arnold Palmer.

The latter won the first of his two Opens at Birkdale in 1961, and a plaque sits by the 16th fairway to commemorate a famous shot he hit out of a bush on his way to securing the title. — AFP

BASKETBALL

UNDRAFTED DYLAN ENNIS DROPS 35 FOR WARRIORS IN VEGAS

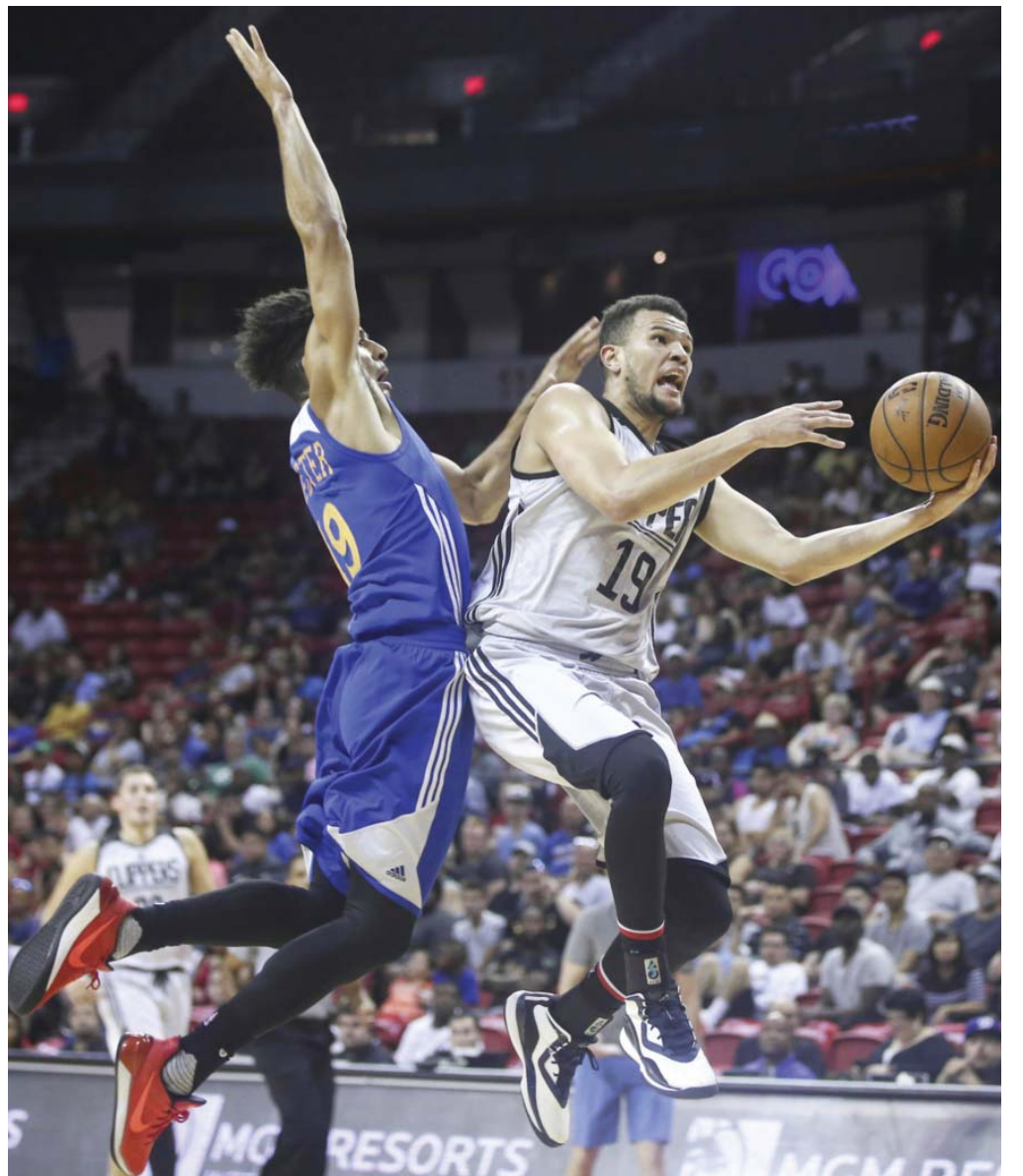
LAS VEGAS: Dylan Ennis went undrafted last month, but the Oregon product was the recipient of "MVP" chants from the crowd in Las Vegas on Friday. Ennis was nearly unstoppable as he scored 35 points during the Golden State Warriors' 109-100 NBA Summer League victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Being undrafted, you take it personal," Ennis told NBA TV. Teammates waved towels at the end of the game to cool down Ennis, whose career high at Oregon was 22 points. Ennis, who played for the Thunder in the Orlando Summer League before joining the Warriors in Las Vegas, poured in 23 points in 12 first-half minutes, including six of his eight 3-pointers. He previously had 21 points over five games in Las Vegas.

"Just don't think about it," Ennis said. "It touches your hand, you put it up and the rim looks like the ocean ... I'll probably never hear (the 'MVP' chants) again in my career." Ennis' 3-pointer with 1:11 remaining gave the Warriors a 105-97 lead that put the game away.

Bryce Alford, undrafted out of UCLA, finished with 16 points. Jaron Johnson scored 18 for the Clippers while 2016 first-round pick Brice Johnson and Jawun Evans had 17 apiece.

Teams still alive in tournament play had Friday off. The quarterfinal round begins Saturday with Portland playing San Antonio, Miami facing Memphis, Dallas against Boston and the Lakers meeting Brooklyn.



LAS VEGAS: Los Angeles Clippers' Luke Nelson, right, goes to the basket as Golden State Warriors' Tai Webster defends during an NBA summer league basketball game in Las Vegas on Friday. — AP

HAWKS 92, ROCKETS 86

Trent Lockett scored 17 points on 50 percent shooting, and the Hawks used a 34-22 fourth quarter to rally to victory. Maryland product Diamond Stone and Bryce Cotton added 12 apiece off the bench. The Rockets' rookie from Georgetown, L.J. Peak, scored 19 points on 6 of 8 shooting off the bench. Chris Johnson chipped in 17 points, including five 3-pointers, as he tries to get back in the league after playing 147 NBA games from 2012-2016. He spent last season in what was then known as the NBA Development League.

TIMBERWOLVES 80, WIZARDS 73

Matt Costello blocked a would-be dunk by Michael Young with 59.9 seconds remaining to seal the Timberwolves' comeback win over the Wizards. Costello, who was undrafted out of Michigan State in 2016 and played in the D-League, had a team-high 14 points and 11 rebounds. "Just trying to make winning plays," Costello said on NBA TV. "That's all it was. I know I'm not the best scorer in the world, so I have to make it up in other different areas." Charles Cooke scored 13, Perry Ellis added 12 and Marcus Paige finished with 11 for Minnesota,

which outscored Washington 41-22 in the second half.

Danuel House led the Wizards with 13 points. Marcus Keene, a 5-foot-9 guard from Central Michigan, added 12 off the bench.

JAZZ 97, BUCKS 76

Tony Bradley scored 19 points and the Jazz easily won their first game of the Las Vegas session after four straight losses. Bradley, Utah's No.

28 overall pick from North Carolina, added eight rebounds and two blocks in his best game of the summer. James Southerland scored 16 for the Jazz. Donovan Mitchell, the No. 13 pick who has dazzled this summer, did not play. Stephen Zimmerman, Gary Payton II and Travis Trice II led the Bucks with 12 apiece. The No. 17 overall pick from Michigan, D.J. Wilson, managed just eight on 3 for 10 shooting. Thon Maker, last year's No. 10 pick, sat out. — AP

CHINA'S FENG EXTENDS US WOMEN'S OPEN LEAD

BEDMINSTER: China's Feng Shanshan shook off persistent rain and the commotion of a presidential visit on Friday to fire a two-under par 70 and stretch her US Women's Open lead to two strokes.

Feng had three birdies and a bogey for an eight-under par 36-hole total of 136. That was good enough for a two-stroke lead over South Korea's Lee Jeong-Eun6, Amy Yang and Choi Hye-Jin, who all shared second on 138.

Choi, a 17-year-old amateur, teed off on 10 and joined Feng atop the leaderboard after a burst of four straight birdies at 18, one, two and three. But she faded with bogeys at the seventh and eighth to join her compatriots on six-under.

Lee, last year's KLPGA Rookie of the Year playing her first tournament in the United States, set

an early target with a second straight 69 on a rainy morning at Trump National Golf Club. She birdied the second, took her lone bogey at the fifth but closed the front nine with a birdie and added back-to-back birdies at the 14th and 15th.

She was eventually joined by Choi and Yang, who went into the second round one stroke behind Feng and fired a second-round 71. Feng said she wasn't bothered by the sometimes heavy rain that fell through much of her round, and she didn't get too distracted to the arrival of US President Donald Trump, who has made his namesake club in Bedminster a frequent weekend retreat this summer.

Trump arrived in a motorcade fresh from a Bastille Day trip to Paris, and watched from an enclosed viewing area near the 15th green,

offering a few waves for cheering fans who eagerly snapped his picture.

"I heard people like kind of screaming, so that's what I was trying to find out, like why they were screaming," Feng said of the movement around the green, where marshals had to remind the gallery that play was continuing.

"But I was still really focusing on my game," Feng said. "I didn't really get distracted." Trump's visit marked the first time a sitting president has attended the US Women's Open, and the US Golf Association was unrepentantly welcoming despite the controversy sparked by Trump's controversial remarks about women during his presidential campaign.

While there were fears his visit would spark protests, fans at the course were supportive and players apparently unfazed. The morning rain-on the heels of Thursday thunderstorms that disrupted play and caused the first round to be carried over until Friday morning—was more of a challenge.

WELL-PREPARED

Feng coped admirably, playing her first 10 holes in even par, with one birdie and one bogey, before back-to-back birdies at the 11th and 12th. "I played probably the first nine holes in the rain, but my phone told me it was going to rain all afternoon and I was prepared," she said. "I really didn't pay attention to the weather and just concentrated on every shot." The rain-soaked course did play longer, Feng said, which she admitted "made me feel like I was older."

Among Feng's closest pursuers, Yang is seeking a first major title after 16 top-10 finishes. Lee—the '6' in her name distinguishing her from five other KLPGA players with the same name—is hoping to make a splash in her first US tournament. Choi, the second-ranked amateur in the world, is also hoping to stay in the hunt at the weekend for what would be a sensational major win. The trio sharing second were followed by another South Korean, with Bae Seon-Woo alone in fifth after a 69 for 139.

World number one Ryo So-Yeon carded an even par 72 to join four players sharing sixth on 140 that also included South Korean Chun In-Gee, Japan's Haru Nomura and Spain's Carlota Ciganda. — AFP



BEDMINSTER: China's Shanshan Feng hits an approach shot on the second fairway during the second round of the US Women's Open Golf tournament Friday, in Bedminster. — AP

BOXING

MAYWEATHER, MCGREGOR CLASH OVER RACISM DURING MEDIA TOUR

LONDON: Conor McGregor celebrated his 29th birthday by defending himself against accusations of racism during a media tour to promote his fight with Floyd Mayweather in London on Friday. The Irish mixed martial arts fighter went on the defensive at the fourth press conference in as many days with American Mayweather at the SSE Arena, Wembley. The pair meet in a light-middleweight boxing contest at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on August 26 in what could be boxing's richest ever fight. But the event has received some negative publicity since McGregor said to Mayweather at a press conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday, "Dance for me, boy". "If he feels disrespected he's an

idiot and **** him as well," McGregor told reporters at a press conference.

"I think it's ****ing ridiculous. I don't understand it. I know who I am as a person. Most realistic people can see that. He's trying to sway something by (saying I'm) disrespecting women."

Before going on stage in London, American Mayweather criticised McGregor for what he perceived were racist comments made by the Irishman. "Racism still exists," said Mayweather. "I've got a diverse team. It's all about treating people how you want to be treated. You have to give respect to give it back. "He totally disrespected black women, he called black people monkeys and he was disrespectful to my (13-

year-old) daughter.

"I'm not going to stoop that low to talk about his wife or child. There's certain levels and you don't stoop to or cross. I love everyone."

WIPEOUT

But Mayweather, 40, was just as guilty as McGregor in using insulting terms for women on Friday. Their latest trash-talking exchange was full of profanities and insults, just like the previous events in New York, Toronto and Los Angeles. Both claimed victory in the war of words.

"I smoked him in all four rounds," McGregor said. "In the first round, they set me up with no music or anything.

The **** you suit I wore went viral. Toronto was a wipeout, a 10-7 round, and New York was alright, and tonight I smoked him so it's 4-0, or 3-1 if you want to be generous."

But Mayweather, who has not fought since September 2015, believes he got the better of McGregor. "I'm the best at it, when it comes to trash talking," Mayweather said. "He's not able to push my buttons. He cannot out talk me. "There has been a lot of trash talkers (through his career) and at the end of the day, he's not bad.

"We will rate him number two, I'm number one. He's got heart. You need more guys to be more aggressive to each other, do more trash talking to

each other." By day four in London, some of the lines had already been heard, but not that the estimated crowd of 10,000 at the SSE Arena cared much. They lapped it up and cheered, but only for McGregor. Mayweather, a five-weight world boxing champion who knocked out Briton Ricky Hatton in 2007, was booed loudly by the fans, many of whom were Irish, and he could barely be heard.

The pair met on a makeshift stage, a boxing ring, in the middle of the venue. "This is my first time in a boxing ring, and in six weeks I run boxing," said McGregor. "Four years ago I fought in front of 400 people. Now I get to quadruple my met worth for half a fight."—AFP



MIAMI: Yasiel Puig #66 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a three run go ahead homer in the ninth inning during the game between the Miami Marlins and the Los Angeles Dodgers at Marlins Park on Friday in Miami, Florida. — AFP

BASEBALL

LATE PUIG HOMER LIFTS DODGERS OVER MARLINS

MIAMI: Yasiel Puig hit his second homer of the game with two outs in the ninth inning Friday night, and the three-run shot helped the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Miami Marlins 6-4 for their seventh consecutive Major League Baseball victory. Corey Seager also homered for the Dodgers (62-29), who were one strike from defeat three times before winning for the 27th time in the past 31 games. The Marlins led 4-3 when Joc Pederson singled on a 1-2 pitch with two outs in the ninth against A.J. Ramos (2-4). Pederson moved up on a wild pitch, Yasmani Grandal walked on a 3-2 pitch, and both runners advanced on another wild pitch. Puig fell behind 1-2 before pulling a 94 mph fastball into the home run sculpture. It was his 18th homer this year, and the second blown save by Ramos. Josh Fields (5-0) worked a perfect eighth, and Kenley Jansen followed with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 22nd save.

RED SOX 5, YANKEES 4

Aroldis Chapman walked home the winning run without getting an out in the ninth inning, handing Boston a victory over New York. Chapman (2-1) gave up two runs in the ninth for his third blown save. New York entered tied for the major league lead with 17 blown saves. Mookie Betts and Dustin Pedroia

started the rally with consecutive singles and a successful double steal. Betts scored when second baseman Ronald Torreyes booted Xander Bogaerts' grounder. After an intentional walk to Hanley Ramirez, Chapman walked Andrew Benintendi on five pitches to bring home Pedroia. Robby Scott (1-1) got the win for the Red Sox, who got their first victory over the Yankees at home this season. It was Boston's first game-ending walk since Sept. 23, 2000, against Baltimore.

CUBS 9, ORIOLES 8

Addison Russell hit a go-ahead solo homer in the ninth inning as Chicago edged Baltimore after squandering an eight-run lead. Baltimore's Mark Trumbo tied the game at 8 with a two-run homer off Chicago's Japanese reliever Koji Uehara (3-4) in the eighth. Russell responded when he hit a first-pitch fastball from Brad Brach (2-2) over the left field fence. Wade Davis picked up his 17th save. Wilson Contreras and Kyle Schwarber hit back-to-back homers in a four-run first inning for the Cubs. Ben Zobrist also homered onto the flag court behind the right field scoreboard, and Jason Heyward reached Eutaw Street with another towering shot. Chicago improved to 3-6 in interleague play after going 15-5 against the AL last season. Wellington Castillo homered for the Orioles,

who left 10 runners on base. Kevin Gausman tied a career high by allowing eight runs and seven hits over three innings. He also gave up four home runs - the most of his career.

ASTROS 10, TWINS 5

Brian McCann hit a three-run homer to cap an eight-run second inning and Marwin Gonzalez had a solo shot as Houston opened the second half of the season with a win over Minnesota. Gonzalez, Alex Bregman, George Springer, Josh Reddick and Carlos Correa each had an RBI to chase starter Jose Berrios (8-3). McCann, who struck out to start the second inning, greeted Phil Hughes with his homer. Gonzalez finished with three hits and two RBIs. Every Astros batter had at least one hit. Charlie Morton (7-3) allowed five runs - four earned - and three hits with 10 strikeouts and a career high-tying five walks in five innings.

BREWERS 9, PHILLIES 6

Ryan Braun hit a grand slam off the scoreboard in center field and Orlando Arcia added a three-run shot during an eight-run second inning, helping Milwaukee beat Philadelphia. Nick Pivetta (2-5) struck out his first four batters before the Brewers got on top of his fastball in the second. Arcia hit his ninth home run, and Braun crushed the first pitch for his sixth career grand slam, most in franchise history. Zach Davies (11-4) won his fourth straight start, but it was a struggle. He labored through the first and fifth innings before being pulled with one out and two on in the sixth. He was charged with six runs, five earned. Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

BRAVES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Freddie Freeman and Atlanta topped baseball's comeback kings at their own game, scoring two runs in the eighth inning to beat Arizona. The Diamondbacks lead the majors with 29 come-from-behind wins and were in position for No. 30 when Chris Owings scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch in the eighth. The Braves answered quickly against Archie Bradley (3-2). Ender Inciarte beat second baseman Brandon Drury's throw to first for an infield single and raced to third on Brandon Phillips' double into the right-field corner. Freeman's single to left scored Inciarte and Phillips. Freeman hit his 17th homer and drove in two runs. Arizona's Paul Goldschmidt hit his 21st homer. Rex Brothers (1-0) got the last out in the eighth. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his 20th save in 27 chances.

PIRATES 5, CARDINALS 2

Josh Bell hit a three-run homer off Seung Hwan Oh with one out in the ninth inning to give Pittsburgh a dramatic win over St. Louis. Adam Frazier led off the bottom of the ninth with a double and Oh intentionally walked Andrew McCutchen with one out. Bell, a rookie, stepped in and sent a pitch from Oh (1-5) into the seats in left field for the first game-ending hit of his career. The Pirates have won six of seven. Bell finished 2 for 3 with four RBIs. His 17 home runs lead the Pirates. Felipe Rivero (4-2) retired the Cardinals on seven pitches in the top of the ninth. Frazier added three hits for Pittsburgh. Jedd Gyorko hit a two-run homer in the first inning, but St. Louis was limited to just four hits the rest of the way against Gerrit Cole and three relievers.

METS 14, ROCKIES 2

Jacob deGrom came out dealing once again, striking out 11 and winning his sixth straight start as New York began what could be a last-chance homestand by routing Colorado. Michael Conforto and T.J. Rivera homered, Yoenis Cespedes got four hits and deGrom contributed two singles for the Mets, who trail Colorado by 9 1/2 games for the second NL wild card. The Rockies posted their best record ever before the All-Star break, but absorbed their most lopsided defeat of the season while losing for the 14th time in 19 games. Big-hitting Nolan Arenado exited a few innings early with a sore hip after slipping on the bases on a misty night. DeGrom (10-3), snubbed for the All-Star team, gave up four hits and one earned run in eight innings. He also fanned at least 10 for the seventh time this year. Jon Gray (2-1) was tagged for eight runs on nine hits and three walks in two-plus innings.

NATIONALS 5, REDS 0

Gio Gonzalez pitched four-hit ball into the ninth inning, and Bryce Harper extended his mid-July tear with a pair of homers to lead Washington over Cincinnati. Gonzalez (8-4) snapped his streak of three straight tough-luck losses. He allowed a double and three infield singles before leaving with one out in the ninth after his 113th pitch. Matt Albers gave up three singles, and Matt Grace escaped the bases-loaded threat for his first save. The Reds were shut out for the second time this season. Four of their seven hits were infield singles. Harper had a two-run shot and a solo homer off Tim Adleman (5-7) as the NL's top offense got right back in form after the All-Star break.

Harper has 22 homers overall, four during his nine-game hitting streak.

BLUE JAYS 7, TIGERS 2

Aaron Sanchez pitched six strong innings for his first win of the season as Toronto beat Detroit. Steve Pearce and Jose Bautista homered for the Blue Jays, who won the opener of a 10-game road trip. Sanchez (1-2) allowed one unearned run and seven hits to win for the first time since beating Boston on Oct. 2. He struck out four. Justin Verlander (5-7) permitted only three hits, but needed 114 pitches to get through 5 1/3 innings. He gave up three runs, two earned.

MARINERS 4, WHITE SOX 2

Robinson Cano hit a three-run drive on his first swing since connecting for the winning homer in the All-Star Game, helping James Paxton and Seattle beat Chicago. Jean Segura added two hits and scored twice as the Mariners started a six-game trip with their third victory in four games. Paxton (8-3) struck out nine while pitching six effective innings in his third straight win. Cano, who went deep in the 10th inning of the American League's 2-1 victory Tuesday night in Miami, walked on four pitches in the first. He came up again with two on and one out in the third and drove the first pitch from James Shields (2-2) off the top of the wall in right-center for his 18th homer, giving the Mariners a 3-1 lead. The last-place White Sox have dropped five of six. It was Chicago's first game since it traded left-hander Jose Quintana to the crosstown Cubs on Thursday.

RANGERS 5, ROYALS 3

Adrian Beltre hit a three-run homer while pinch-hitter Mike Napoli had a go-ahead, two-run shot as Texas rallied to defeat Kansas City. Martin Perez (5-6) allowed eight hits and a walk over seven innings, but kept all that traffic to just three runs. Two of those came in the second, when Alcides Escobar homered. Beltre connected in the sixth off Royals starter Jason Hammel, who had just permitted back-to-back singles - the first hits off him all night. It was Beltre's 453rd homer, passing Carl Yastrzemski for 38th on the career list. The drive also gave Beltre 1,601 RBIs in 20 big league seasons. Napoli homered in the seventh off reliever Mike Minor (5-2). Matt Bush breezed through a perfect eighth and Alex Claudio handled the ninth for his second save, giving the Rangers their 10th straight win over Kansas City dating to last July. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

San Francisco 5, San Diego 4; Tampa Bay 2, LA Angels 1 (10 Innings); Oakland 5, Cleveland 0; Texas 5, Kansas City 3; Houston 10, Minnesota 5; Milwaukee 9, Philadelphia 6; Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Atlanta 4, Arizona 3; NY Mets 14, Colorado 2; LA Dodgers 6, Miami 4; Boston 5, NY Yankees 4; Toronto 7, Detroit 2; Washington 5, Cincinnati 0; Chicago Cubs 9, Baltimore 8; Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	Atlanta	Miami	NY Mets
Boston	51	39	.567	-	43	45	489
Tampa Bay	48	43	.527	3.5	41	47	466
NY Yankees	45	42	.517	4.5	40	47	460
Toronto	42	47	.472	8.5	29	59	.330
Baltimore	42	47	.472	8.5			
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	47	41	.534	-	51	41	.554
Minnesota	45	44	.506	2.5	44	45	.494
Kansas City	44	44	.500	3	43	46	.483
Detroit	39	49	.443	8	43	47	.478
Chicago White Sox	38	50	.432	9	39	50	.438
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	61	29	.678	-	62	29	.681
Texas	44	45	.494	16.5	53	37	.589
LA Angels	45	48	.484	17.5	52	40	.565
Seattle	44	47	.484	17.5	38	51	.427
Oakland	40	50	.444	21	35	56	.385

FROM REFUGEE CAMPS TO LORD'S, DIZZYING RISE OF AFGHAN CRICKET

KHURASAN REFUGEE CAMP: The manicured emerald pitch at Lord's in London, where Afghanistan played for the first time ever Tuesday, is a world away from the border refugee camps where the country found its love for cricket.

In dusty Pakistani camps like Khurasan, young barefoot cricketers have no pitch, no kit, no wickets, no helmets, no gloves and no shade—only the hunger that helped catapult Afghanistan into the elite group of Test nations last month.

Millions of Afghans fleeing war have sought refuge for nearly 40 years

in camps outside Pakistan's border city of Peshawar, where they have been exposed to the cricketing fever that has gripped their neighbouring nation since Britain colonised the sub-continent centuries ago. "We learned cricket here and we took this cricket with us to Afghanistan, and now Afghanistan has a team which plays on a world level and the entire world has recognised it," 35-year-old Abdul Wahid, a refugee from Kunar province, tells AFP.

He and a generation of Afghans spent years cheering for the Pakistani team before daring to dream of more.

Wahid, who missed out on a spot in the national team but now coaches refugees, says his contemporaries in the camps learned to play with tennis balls. The best of them would go on to join academies in Peshawar, where they encountered the hard cricket ball for the first time. Faridullah Shah, a coach with the Pakistan Cricket Board, remembers the fierce determination of the Afghan players who reached the academies. "They used to work as labourers until the afternoon and were later playing cricket here... The team of Afghan players was named the 'Team of Chickens'" as many were trying to

survive by supplying poultry in Peshawar, he says. They worried about how to afford kit but played every day, Shah recalls. "They had extreme eagerness—more than our players—and that was the reason for their success."

SURVIVING ON BISCUITS

At the Islamia Cricket Academy, selector Qazi Shafiq, a former first class player, agrees. "Afghans are quick learners—if you pinpoint a mistake, he understands ... then he will work hard on that," Shafiq says.

"I will not mention his name but

one Afghan national player told me that he had to borrow money to reach here... and then he could only afford a 10-rupee (10-cent) packet of biscuits a day on which to survive." Asghar Khan, a coach and twice the president of the Peshawar district cricket association, remembers Afghan players as "the beauty of tournaments here".

He rattles off a list of names, from Mohammad Nabi-whom Khan praises for his "long, long sixes"—up to Asghar Stanikzai, captain of the Afghan cricket team. All learned in Peshawar, Khan says, with many like Shapoor Zadran beginning in the refugee camps.—AFP

CREMER'S STRIKES RATTLE SRI LANKA ON DAY 2

COLOMBO: Zimbabwe skipper Graeme Cremer claimed three wickets to dent Sri Lanka's first innings reply on the second day of the one-off Test in Colombo yesterday. Cremer's leg-spin and two crucial run outs left Sri Lanka reeling at 293-7 at stumps. Asela Gunaratne (24) and Rangana Herath (5) were at the crease with the hosts still trailing Zimbabwe by 63 runs.

Gunaratne, who came down the batting order at number eight after sustaining a hamstring injury while fielding, put up sturdy resistance in the final few overs of the day. "The wicket has got drier and the leg-spinner (Cremer) is taking lot of turn. We have to bat well and we need to make sure that we get to 350," said Herath, who had taken five wickets to help dismiss Zimbabwe for 356. "We had a good start, but they fought back well. We are still behind by 63 runs and we need to knock off that deficit," Herath told reporters. Zimbabwe coach Heath Streak believes the visitors are in a "nice position", adding that anything between 250 and 280 would be a tough fourth-innings chase on this pitch.

"Any sort of lead is going to be very valuable on this track. It's going to be an interesting day's play tomorrow. Hopefully we can pick up those wickets quickly," Streak said. Top Sri Lankan batsmen faltered against Cremer's wily wrist spinners

including captain Dinesh Chandimal falling to his opposite number after a well-made 55. Chandimal's wicket ended a 96-run stand for the fourth wicket with Angelo Mathews (41), who quit the captaincy this week after Sri Lanka's loss in the one-day series against Zimbabwe.

Cremer, who had got Kusal Mendis caught behind for 11 before tea, struck twice in the final session of play to put the hosts in trouble at 238-6. Dilruwan Perera, who made a gritty 33 with 2 fours and as many sixes, was run out after hesitating on a single with his hamstring partner Gunaratne. Another unlucky run out early in the innings saw the back of opening batsman Upul Tharanga, who gave Sri Lanka a solid start with his brisk 71. Tharanga fell short of his crease while backing up to a straight drive by Chandimal as the ball grazed past the fingers of paceman Donald Tiripano. Tiripano's lucky fielding effort came after he got Zimbabwe's first breakthrough in Dimuth Karunaratne (25) in his first over after lunch, ending an 84-run opening partnership. Earlier the Zimbabwe innings lasted just 4.4 overs of the morning session, adding only 12 runs to their overnight score. Batsman Craig Ervine topped scored with 160. Left-arm spinner Herath returned with an impressive 5-116, his 30th five-wicket haul in 81 Tests.—AFP



NOTTINGHAM: South Africa's Chris Morris (R) celebrates taking the wicket of England's Mark Wood (L) for 6 runs on the second day of the second Test match between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge cricket ground in Nottingham, central England yesterday.—AFP

CRICKET

ROOT FALLS AS ENGLAND COLLAPSE IN SECOND TEST

NOTTINGHAM: South Africa captured the prize wicket of England captain Joe Root as they seized the initiative on the second day of the second Test at Trent Bridge yesterday. At tea, England were 184 for six in reply to South Africa's first innings 335 — still a deficit of 151 runs. Moeen Ali was 14 not out and Liam Dawson two not after Root, in his second match as England captain, had fallen for a fine 78 on a day when batsmen on both sides struggled in the overcast conditions.

South Africa were without fast bowler Kagiso Rababa, suspended from this match after swearing at Ben Stokes during England's 211-run win in the first of the four-match series at Lord's last week. But after Morne Morkel removed Root, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took two wickets for five runs in 11 balls, with Stokes out for a 12-ball duck and dangerman Jonny Bairstow falling for 45.

South Africa, 309 for six overnight, lost their last four wickets for 26 runs in 6.2 overs. James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, did the damage with a burst of four wickets for four runs in 16 balls. But England then slumped to three for two in reply. Former skipper Alastair Cook was caught behind for three when he got an inside edge to Vernon Philander's inswinger, although South Africa had to review Australian umpire Simon Fry's not out decision. Next ball, Cook's fellow left-handed opener Keaton Jennings fell for a duck. The South Africa-born batsman was undone by a brilliant Morkel delivery from around the wicket that cut away off the pitch and took an edge safely held by wicket-keeper Quinton de Kock—who played in the same Johannesburg school side as Jennings.

ROOT COUNTER-ATTACKS

Root, who made 190 in his first innings as England captain at Lord's, counter-attacked by hitting Philander for three fours in an over. And at lunch he and Yorkshire team-mate Gary Ballance, desperate to nail down his Test place after being recalled at Lord's, had taken England to 85 for two. Ballance, however, had added just one to his lunch score of 26 not out when the left-hander played on to Philander. The towering Morkel then had Root edging an intended drive and de Kock, diving in front of first slip, held an excellent catch. It was the end of Root's impressive 76-ball innings, featuring 12 fours, with England now 143 for four. De Kock was involved again when holding a juggling catch after Stokes inside-edged Maharaj onto this pad.

It took an age for Stokes to finally be given out as the umpires checked to see if the ball had made any contact with de Kock's helmet—which would have seen the wicket chalked off.

Ali got off the mark first ball with a slog-sweep four off Maharaj. But Maharaj bowled Bairstow with a ball that drifted in and then turned to hit off stump—a classic left-arm spinner's wicket. Before play started on Saturday, England persuaded the umpires to change what they believed to be an out of shape ball, with the floodlights already switched on.

It was a move that paid dividends just five balls into the day's play when, without another run added, Philander fell for his overnight 54, caught in the covers from a leading edge off Anderson. Trent Bridge is renowned for aiding swing bowlers such as the 34-year-old Anderson, whose overall return of five for 72 in 23.2 overs was the 22nd time he'd taken five or more wickets in a Test innings and his seventh such haul at the Nottingham ground.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

COLOMBO: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the one-off Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Colombo yesterday:

Zimbabwe 1st innings (overnight: 344-8; C. Ervine 151 not out, D. Tiripano 24 not out)		Sri Lanka 1st innings	
H. Masakadza c Mendis b Herath	19	D. Karunaratne c Masakadza b Tiripano	25
R. Chakabva b Herath	12	U. Tharanga run out (Tiripano)	71
T. Musakanda c Dickwella b Kumara	6	K. Mendis c Chakabva b Cremer	11
C. Ervine c Perera b Kumara	160	D. Chandimal c Chakabva b Cremer	55
S. Williams c Gunaratne b Perera	22	A. Mathews c Masakadza b Williams	41
S. Raza lbw b Herath	36	N. Dickwella b Cremer	6
P. Moor c Kumara b Gunaratne	19	D. Perera run out	33
M. Waller b Herath	36	A. Gunaratne not out	24
G. Cremer b Gunaratne	13	R. Herath not out	5
D. Tiripano c Karunaratne b Herath	27	Extras (b8, lb10, w1, nb3)	22
C. Mpofo not out	0	Total (7 wickets 83 overs)	293
Extras (w1, nb5)	6	Still to bat: S. Lakmal, L. Kumara	
Total (all out, 94.4 overs)	356	Fall of wickets: 1-84 (Karunaratne), 2-107 (Mendis), 3-116 (Tharanga), 4-212 (Chandimal), 5-226 (Dickwella), 6-238 (Mathews), 7-274 (Perera)	
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Chakabva), 2-38 (Masakadza), 3-38 (Musakanda), 4-70 (Williams), 5-154 (Raza), 6-195 (Moor), 7-260 (Waller), 8-282 (Cremer), 9-356 (Tiripano), 10-356 (Ervine)		Bowling: Mpofo 11-2-41-0 (w1); Tiripano 10-1-38-1; Raza 18-2-60-0; Cremer 30-3-100-3 (nb1); Waller 1-0-2-0, Williams 13-1-34-1 (nb2).	

TURKISH SIDES DIG DEEP IN QUEST FOR FOREIGN STARS

ISTANBUL: Another day in this summer's transfer window and another foreign star arrives at Istanbul airport to sign for a Turkish top-flight side, met by a raucous reception from hundreds of local fans.

Looking slightly bewildered and not understanding a word of the sometimes bawdy Turkish football chants, the player brandishes a club scarf, smiles politely and is whisked away in a luxury vehicle.

This scene has played out several times this summer as half a dozen foreign stars arrived in Istanbul to begin a new stage in their careers, attracted by massive clubs with a genuine history but, above all, multi-million euro annual wage packages.

In order to attract the very best, the Turkish sides are digging deep into their pockets, straining their own financial positions, economists say. The big name arrivals this summer have included France's Mathieu Valbuena (Lyon to Fenerbahce), his international teammate Bafetimbi Gomis (Swansea to Galatasaray) and Portugal's Euro 2016 winner Pepe (Real Madrid to Besiktas).

They will join a Super Lig already stacked with big names including Robin van Persie at Fenerbahce and Samuel Eto'o at Antalyaspor.

Those arriving are generally in the final stage—but not end-of their careers and playing in Turkey offers the chance of performing for prestigious clubs who have places in European competition.

But no-one can also deny that the salary packages are mouth-wateringly attractive. Pepe, 34, will over the next two years receive a total net wage of 9.5 million euros (\$10.8 million), excluding bonuses. Gomis will get 3.35 million euros per season.

Signing the big foreign players brings prestige and ramps up the clubs' image. Clubs want to turn the page on the dark days of the 2011 match-fixing scandal while ground attendance has been falling at just an 10,000 per game average last year. The domestic game is increasingly competitive and clubs dream of finding the great player who will propel them to European glory.

The only time a Turkish side won a European competition was when

Galatasaray defeated Arsenal in the 2000 UEFA Cup final.

And the traditional Istanbul big three—Besiktas, Fenerbahce and Galatasaray—no longer have the field to themselves.

Last season's surprise runners-up were Basaksehir of Istanbul who have signed former Manchester City player Gael Clichy. Another big spending side is Antalyaspor whose captain is the famously high-earning former Barcelona and Chelsea star Eto'o.

But the enticing packages offered to foreign players come at a price. Tugrul Aksar, a specialist in the economics of Turkish football, told AFP the current total revenue of Turkish clubs amounts to four billion lira (one billion euros) but their spending is up to six billion lira.

"It's a very serious shortfall," he said, saying clubs were drawing on future revenues.

He said while the Turkish Super Lig is the number six competition in Europe in terms of revenue "it is a championship that spends more than it earns".

In a sign of the tightrope that the clubs walk, Galatasaray were in March 2016 banned from European competition for one year for breaching spending rules that impose limits on the levels of annual losses. As a result, the Lions lost their place in the 2016-2017 Europa League.

'PART OF TURKISH NATIONALISM'

Clubs sometimes have enjoyed having their fiscal debts cleared by the government, with the game seen in the country as a matter of national prestige.

"The state is always going to be there to support the Turkish clubs," said Daghlan Irak of the University of Strasbourg. "In Turkey, the big clubs will always survive whatever the difficulty is because they are there to represent Turkey in Europe."

"Playing against foreign clubs has been their raison d'etre since they were founded. Their existence is fused to Turkish nationalism," he added.

Along with their high wages, the foreign players themselves can enjoy becoming massive celebrities and the centre of attention in Turkey.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

NOTTINGHAM, United Kingdom: Scoreboard at the close of England's first innings on the second day of the second Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge yesterday:

South Africa 1st Innings (overnight: 309-6)		England 1st Innings	
D. Elgar c Dawson b Anderson	6	A. Cook c de Kock b Philander	3
H. Kuhn b Broad	34	K. Jennings c de Kock b Morkel	0
H. Amla c Wood b Broad	78	G. Ballance b Philander	27
Q. de Kock c Cook b Broad	68	J. Root c de Kock b Morkel	78
F. du Plessis c Bairstow b Stokes	19	J. Bairstow b Maharaj	45
T. Bavuma c Bairstow b Stokes	20	B. Stokes c de Kock b Maharaj	0
V. Philander c Dawson b Anderson	54	M. Ali c du Plessis b Morris	18
C. Morris c and b Anderson	36	L. Dawson c Amla b Maharaj	13
K. Maharaj c Root b Anderson	0	S. Broad lbw b Morris	0
M. Morkel c Bairstow b Anderson	8	M. Wood c du Plessis b Morris	6
D. Olivier not out	0	J. Anderson not out	0
Extras (lb12)	12	Extras (b4, lb10, w1)	15
Total (all out, 96.2 overs, 416 mins)	335	Total (all out, 51.5 overs, 246 mins)	205
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (Elgar), 2-66 (Kuhn), 3-179 (De Kock), 4-194 (Amla), 5-220 (Du Plessis), 6-235 (Bavuma), 7-309 (Philander), 8-317 (Maharaj), 9-330 (Morris), 10-335 (Morkel)		Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Cook), 2-3 (Jennings), 3-86 (Ballance), 4-143 (Root), 5-168 (Stokes), 6-177 (Bairstow), 7-199 (Ali), 8-199 (Broad), 9-199 (Dawson), 10-205 (Wood)	
Bowling: Anderson 23.2-6-72-5; Broad 22-4-64-3; Wood 17-3-61-0; Stokes 18-3-77-2; Dawson 7-1-26-0; Ali 8-1-21-0; Jennings 1-0-2-0		Bowling: Morkel 13-2-45-2; Philander 13-2-48-2; Morris 8.5-1-38-3; Olivier 7-0-39-0 (1w); Maharaj 10-1-21-3	

COSTA RICA, CANADA IN Q-FINALS OF GOLD CUP

FRISCO: Canada advanced to their first quarter-final since 2009 after playing to a scoreless draw with Honduras in the final Group A match of the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament on Friday. Canada and Honduras moved on to the quarters where they will join Group A winner Costa Rica who advanced with a dominating 3-0 victory over winless French Guiana earlier Friday. Both Canada and Costa Rica went unbeaten in the group stage. Costa Rica finished with two wins and a draw for seven points ahead of Canada who had one victory and two draws for five points.

Canada has been the surprise team so far in the Gold Cup, getting an offensive spark from teen phenom Alphonso Davies. They also have

excellent goaltending and more depth on their roster than previous Gold Cup teams.

Davies, who is the first player this tournament to reach three goals, did not start Friday due to an ankle problem but he was inserted into the lineup by head coach Octavio Zambrano.

Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan got the shutout as he backed up his 10 save game against Costa Rica earlier with another solid performance on Friday night. Honduras advanced to the quarters despite failing to score a goal in the group stage. Their only win came as a result of French Guiana having to forfeit a game after defiantly playing former French international Florent Malouda, who had earlier been ruled ineligible for the tournament.—AFP



FRISCO: Honduras midfielder Carlos Discua (7) shoots between Canada defender Marcel de Jong (17) and midfielder Samuel Piette (6) during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match Friday, in Frisco, Texas.—AP

Sports

Undrafted Dylan Ennis drops 35 for Warriors in Vegas



Root falls as England collapse in second Test



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LATE PUIG HOMER LIFTS DODGERS OVER MARLINS

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LONDON: Spain's Garbine Muguruza holds up The Venus Rosewater Dish as she celebrates beating US player Venus Williams to win the women's singles final on the twelfth day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. —AFP

MUGURUZA STUNS VENUS TO WIN FIRST WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Garbine Muguruza stormed to her first Wimbledon title and shattered Venus Williams' history bid with a majestic 7-5, 6-0 victory in yesterday's final. Muguruza overwhelmed Williams with a supreme display of power hitting in 77 minutes on Centre Court to become only the second Spanish woman to win Wimbledon.

Watched from the Royal Box by King Juan Carlos of Spain, the 23-year-old finally got her hands on the Venus Rosewater Dish two years after losing to the American's sister Serena in her maiden Wimbledon final. Fittingly, it was Muguruza's current coach Conchita Martinez who was the first woman to raise the Spanish flag at Wimbledon in 1994 when she defeated Martina Navratilova.

Venezuela-born Muguruza's second Grand

Slam title, following her French Open triumph last year, denied Williams, 37, in her attempt to become the oldest Wimbledon champion in the Open era.

Back in the Wimbledon final after an eight-year absence, Williams had hoped to clinch a sixth All England title, nine years after she last lifted the trophy. Instead, she paid the price for a surprisingly nerve-ridden display that condemned her to a second Grand Slam disappointment this year following her Australian Open final loss against Serena.

Since winning her maiden Grand Slam title in Paris, Muguruza had endured something of a sophomore slump as her ranking dropped out of the top 10. But she has rediscovered her mojo on grass and will climb to fifth when the new rankings are confirmed next week.

Remarkably, of her four tour-level titles, two are now Grand Slams. With persistent drizzle blanketing the All England Club, Williams and Muguruza were competing in the first Wimbledon final to begin under the roof, watched by a sell-out crowd including Hollywood actress Hilary Swank.

Twenty years ago, Venus admitted she was a bundle of nerves when she made a losing Wimbledon debut against Magdalena Grzybowska and, in her ninth All England Club final, once again there was anxiety coursing through the American's error-strewn display.

BARRAGE

Fortified by a cross-court winner to bring up break point at 3-2, Williams looked poised to seize control, but instead a tame forehand

into the net to let Muguruza off the hook.

It was the first of a series of vital escapes for Muguruza, who was matching Venus blow for blow in a series of bruising baseline rallies.

Gifted two set point at 4-5, Venus couldn't deliver the knockout blow and Muguruza over-powered her in a gripping rally to save the first before scrambling out of trouble on the second. Muguruza had the momentum now, her piercing ground-strokes gradually moving Williams into enough awkward areas to land the crucial first break at 5-5.

Williams was rattled by Muguruza's barrage, fatally allowing the Spaniard's lob to drop in and present her with set points that she gleefully gobbled up. Muguruza was just six when Venus first won Wimbledon and the 23-year-old's third major final appearance was

dwarfed by Williams' 16 Grand Slam title matches.

But in all those finals, only Serena had produced the lethal power and poise Muguruza was showing and suddenly Williams was beginning to look her age. Still reeling from the shock of losing the first set, she served up a limp double fault on break point to hand Muguruza the lead at the start of the second set. Williams was shattered and Muguruza went for the kill so ruthlessly that in the blink of an eye she had broken twice more to take a 5-0 lead. Muguruza had spoken eloquently this week of etching her name onto the Wimbledon honours board alongside Venus, Serena and the other All England Club icons. It took one last blizzard of thunderous winners to ensure her dream would come true. —AFP

SOCCER

ARSENAL SCORE THREE GOALS IN FINAL AUSTRALIAN TOUR WIN

SYDNEY: Arsenal wrapped up their Australian tour with a 3-1 win over the Western Sydney Wanderers with all their goals coming in the first half in Sydney yesterday. The Gunners scored their goals in a 11-minute period late in the first half through Olivier Giroud, Aaron Ramsey and Mohamed Elneny with Spanish defender Nacho Monreal standing out with two assists.

The English giants were held scoreless in the second half with the 2014 Asian Champion League winners pulling a goal back off an indirect free kick from Steven Lustica. Arsenal leave for China winning both games on their first tour to Australia in 40 years after beating A-League champions Sydney FC 2-0 on Thursday.

"They made it quite physical for us, they pushed us a little bit and we played very well for long periods in the first half," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "The players who came on in the second half gave us more impetus and we finished strongly, unfortunately we couldn't score any more but overall it was a positive game."

The game drew 83,221 fans for a two-game total of 163,653 for Arsenal's visit. "The support out here is truly amazing, we probably didn't realise the amount of support we had out here in Australia, it's truly incredible," attacker Theo Walcott said.

Arsenal broke away with three goals late in the opening half after a competitive opening. French striker Giroud made a sweet first-time finish at the near post after a strong overlapping run from Monreal

in the 33rd minute and they were two-up a few minutes later.

Monreal found Ramsey with a long ball and he lobbed goalkeeper Janjetovic on the edge of the box. The Gunners grabbed a third goal nearing half-time when Egyptian Elneny's long-range volley deflected off defender Brendan Hamill's leg past Janjetovic into the unguarded net.

Gunners' record signing Frenchman Alexandre Lacazette showcased his dazzling skills when he turned his marker and fired a shot at the keeper in the opening minutes. Elneny came close to a second goal when another long-range shot cannoned off the underside of the bar with Janjetovic beaten minutes after the resumption.

But the Wanderers stuck at it and Jack Clisby clipped the bar with a drive and Ramsey conceded a free kick with a back pass to substitute goalkeeper Emi Martinez. Lustica hammered the indirect free kick against Monreal on the goal-line and put the rebound into the roof of the net for his team's opener in the 57th minute.

Wenger substituted every outfield player after 66 minutes with Lacazette and Giroud among those to come off. The Gunners came close to adding to their tally in the final stages with Mesut Ozil and Eddie Nketiah hitting the post and Theo Walcott having a sharp chance saved by goalkeeper Janjetovic.

Arsenal now head to China for further games against Bayern Munich in Shanghai and Chelsea in Beijing. —AFP



SYDNEY: Arsenal's player Alex Iwobi (C) fights for the ball with Western Sydney's player Jacob Melling during a friendly game in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

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BOURSA KUWAIT ENDS IN GREEN ZONE

Uber, Lyft take down not just cab drivers, but also lenders

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Major central banks nudge their positions

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EasyJet launches plans for post-Brexit base in Austria

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CHENNAI: An Indian boy holds dried fish before taking them to a market at a fishing harbor in Chennai.—AFP

CHINA'S ECONOMY SLOWS IN Q2

BEIJING'S GROWING DEBT TO TRIGGER ECONOMIC SHOCKS

BEIJING: China's economy lost momentum in the second quarter, a survey shows, as Beijing's efforts to curb risky lending and investment took a toll on the Asian powerhouse. The world's second-largest economy expanded by 6.8 percent in the April-June period, compared with a year ago, according to the median forecast of 12 analysts polled by AFP. That follows a better-than-expected increase of 6.9 percent in the first three months of the year.

The estimate comes ahead of the official release tomorrow of China's closely-watched GDP growth data for the second quarter. Debt-fueled investment in infrastructure and real estate has underpinned China's growth for years but warnings of a potential financial crisis have spurred Beijing to clamp down. In the latest alert, Fitch Ratings on Friday said China's growing debt could trigger "economic and financial shocks" even as it maintained its A-plus rat-

ing on the country. That follows Moody's decision in May to downgrade China for the first time in almost three decades on concerns over its ballooning credit and slowing growth. Tighter restrictions on property purchases and bank lending will continue to weigh on the economy in the months ahead, said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Group. "We expect GDP growth to trend down in the second half of 2017 on slowing property sales and tight liquidity," he said.

The economy is likely to face further headwinds as consumption also comes under pressure from slowing income growth, said Fan Zhang, senior China economist at RHB Bank. UBS chief China economist Tao Wang said "higher funding costs due to supervisory tightening" will impact fixed-asset investment—which measures spending on real estate, roads and bridges. But a sharp slowdown in the second half is

unlikely as policymakers prepare for an important Communist Party congress later this year that will likely make President Xi Jinping the most powerful leader in a generation. "It is therefore highly probable that authorities will use the resources and policy tools at their disposal to ensure a positive economic outcome," Citibank said. The government has trimmed its 2017 GDP growth target to around 6.5 percent, after it expanded by 6.7 percent in 2016 — its slowest rate in more than a quarter of a century. Despite growing concerns about China's financial risks, Premier Li Keqiang said last month that the country could reach this year's economic growth targets.

Last quarter's growth momentum had continued into the current one, he said, noting that traditional economic indicators such as power generation and consumption, and new business orders had increased "significantly."—AFP



SHANGHAI: This picture in Shanghai shows a girl riding bicycle from a sharing company.—AFP

WHITE HOUSE SAYS BUDGET DEFICIT TO HIGHER THIS YEAR

WASHINGTON: The White House says worsening tax revenues will cause the budget deficit to jump to \$702 billion this year. That's a \$99 billion spike from what was predicted less than two months ago. The report from the Office of Management and Budget comes on the heels of a rival Congressional Budget Office analysis that scuttled White House claims that its May budget, if implemented to the letter, would balance the federal ledger within 10 years. The OMB report doesn't repeat that claim and instead provides just two years of updated projections.

The White House budget office also says the deficit for the 2018 budget year that starts on Oct 1 will increase by \$149 billion to \$589 billion. But lawmakers are already

working on spending bills that promise to boost that number even higher by adding to Trump's Pentagon proposal and ignoring many of Trump's cuts to domestic programs. Last year's deficit registered \$585 billion. The White House kept the report to a bare-bones minimum and cast blame on "the failed policies of the previous administration."

"The rising near-term deficits underscore the critical need to restore fiscal discipline to the nation's finances," said White House budget director Mick Mulvaney. "Our nation must make substantial changes to the policies and spending priorities of the previous administration if our citizens are to be safe and prosperous in the future." In late May, Trump released a budget plan proposing jarring cuts to domestic programs and promising to balance the budget within a decade. But it relied on rosy predictions of economic growth to promise a slight surplus in 2027.

Trump's budget, however, left alone Social Security retirement benefits and Medicare, though House Republicans are poised next week to again propose cutting Medicare as they unveil their nonbinding budget outline. CBO says that Trump relied on far too optimistic predictions of economic growth and that Trump's rosy projections are the chief reason his budget doesn't balance as promised. Trump's budget predicts that the US economy will soon ramp up to annual growth in gross domestic product of 3 percent; CBO's long-term projections predict annual GDP growth averaging 1.9 percent.—AP



KABUL: Members of a female robotics team from Herat province, leave Kabul to the US from Kabul Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan.—AP

AFGHAN GIRLS ROBOTICS TEAM ARRIVES IN US JUST IN TIME

WASHINGTON: Twice rejected for US visas, an all-girls robotics team from Afghanistan arrived in Washington early Saturday after an extraordinary, last-minute intervention by President Donald Trump. The six-girl team and their chaperone completed their journey just after midnight from their hometown of Herat, Afghanistan, to enter their ball-sorting robot in the three-day high school competition starting Sunday in the US capital.

Awaiting them at the gate at Washington Dulles International Airport were a In the short time since their visa dilemma drew global attention, the girls' case has become a flashpoint in the debate about Trump's efforts to tighten entrance to the US, including from many majority-Muslim countries. Afghanistan isn't included in Trump's temporary travel ban, but critics have said the ban is emblematic of a broader effort to put a chill on Muslims entering the US. The girls' story has also renewed the focus on the longer-term US plans for aiding Afghanistan's future, as Trump's administration prepares a new military strategy that will include sending more troops to the country where the US has been fighting since 2001.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday the strategy was moving forward but "not finalized yet." Trump's personal intervention earlier in the week using a rare "parole" mechanism to sidestep the visa system ended a dramatic saga in which the team twice traveled from their home in

western Afghanistan through largely Taliban-controlled territory to Kabul, where their visa applications were denied twice. The US won't say why the girls were rejected for visas, citing confidentiality.

But Mohib said that based on discussions with US officials, it appears the girls were rebuffed due to concerns they would not return to Afghanistan. It's a fate that has beset many Afghans seeking entry to the US in recent years as continuing violence and economic challenges lead many to seek asylum in America, or to travel through the US to Canada to try to resettle there. As their case gained attention, Trump intervened by asking National Security Council officials to find a way for them to travel, officials said.

Ultimately the State Department, which adjudicates visa applications, asked the Homeland Security Department to let them in on "parole," a temporary status used only in exceptional circumstances to let in someone who is otherwise ineligible to enter the country.

The US granted parole after determining that it constituted a "significant public benefit." Ambassador Alice Wells, the acting US special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, downplayed concerns that the girls might use the parole to stay in the US or go to Canada.

As she drove to the airport to greet the girls, she said by phone that they were proud to represent Afghanistan and "proud to return to be role models to others around them."—AP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the House Budget Committee hearing on President Donald Trump's fiscal 2018 federal budget.—AP



NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange in New York.—AFP

DOW, S&P 500 END WEEK AT RECORDS; DOLLAR TUMBLES

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks finished at fresh records Friday following solid bank earnings, while the dollar retreated after lackluster US data raised questions about additional Federal Reserve rate hikes. The Dow and S&P 500 ended at fresh records in anticipation that the positive bank results foreshadow a generally strong earnings period. The records, the third in a row for the Dow, capped a strong week for US stocks that some analysts attributed to commentary from Fed Chief Janet Yellen that was more dovish than expected.

Equity markets elsewhere were mixed, with London and Frankfurt down, Tokyo up and Paris

flat. JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Wells Fargo all reported higher earnings than expected by Wall Street analysts, showing the benefits of higher US interest rates, despite a drop in revenue from trading divisions. However, share prices for all three banks fell, with JPMorgan losing 0.9 percent, Citigroup 0.4 percent and Wells Fargo 1.1 percent.

"The fact that the banks started off the earnings season with very good earnings will bode well," said Bill Lynch, director of investment at Hinsdale Associates. "Most strategists expect the season to be a good one with earnings going up at least six percent, maybe as much as nine per-

cent." On foreign exchanges, the dollar struggled after disappointing US inflation and retail sales data for June, falling against the pound and the euro. "The morning's data, particularly the cooler than expected CPI figures, seem to justify Fed Chair Janet Yellen's more cautious tone this week in her Congressional testimony," said Omer Esiner, analyst at Commonwealth Foreign Exchange.

"The lack of meaningful evidence of a strong rebound in the economy in the second half of this year could continue to keep the dollar pressured." Oil prices rose for the fifth straight day amid signs of greater balance between supply and demand.—AFP

EASYJET LAUNCHES PLANS FOR POST-BREXIT BASE IN AUSTRIA

LONDON: British low-cost airline EasyJet charted a course on Friday to keep flying unhindered across the European Union after Brexit. The carrier, which is based in Luton, north of the British capital, said in a statement that it will create a new division, EasyJet Europe, which will be based in the Austrian capital, Vienna. EasyJet, which will retain its Luton headquarters, added that it has applied for a new air operator's certificate (AOC) in Austria to continue flying across Europe regardless of the final Brexit deal between Brussels and London.

The accreditation process is "now well advanced" and it should be concluded "in the near future", the company said. The application "will allow EasyJet to establish a new airline, EasyJet Europe, which will be headquartered in Vienna and will enable EasyJet to continue to operate flights both across Europe and domestically within European countries after the UK has left the EU", the no-frills carrier added. EasyJet Europe will become the group's third airline division after EasyJet in Luton and EasyJet Switzerland in Geneva.

Vienna was picked because EasyJet had concluded that its airline regulator was "the best fit" for the firm. The switch will create jobs in Austria, while no positions would be lost in Britain. "While the new structure will protect all of EasyJet's current flying rights within Europe,

EasyJet will continue to push for the UK and EU to reach an aviation agreement which, at a minimum, will enable flights between the UK and EU," the statement added. Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern hailed the announcement as "tremendous news for Austria."

Investors, however, shrugged off the news, with the share price edging around 0.1 percent higher to 1,410 pence compared with the closing level on Thursday. Soon after Britain voted in a referendum a year ago in favour of exiting the EU, EasyJet applied for a European Union license to keep flying throughout the bloc. Britain's airline industry has soared over the last two decades under the Single European Sky system, which lifted trade restrictions on EU airlines.

Unless British negotiators manage to secure preferential conditions, British airlines could lose this status once the country leaves the EU. This will mean they no longer enjoy rights including being able to freely set airfares, and to launch any route in Europe without getting prior authorization.

Passengers leaving or arriving in the United Kingdom will face new taxes and British airlines face obstacles and delays in developing new routes.

Under plans unveiled on Friday, EasyJet Europe will operate 100 planes and 4,000 crew flying across the 27 remaining European Union



FRANCE: This file photo shows an Airbus A321 of English low-cost passenger carrier EasyJet at Toulouse-Matabiau airport.—AFP

nations following Brexit. The main EasyJet airline in Luton will operate 140 planes and 6,000 staff for UK flights, while EasyJet Switzerland will have 25 planes and 950 staff in Geneva.—AFP

CHINESE GROUP BIDS \$11.6BN FOR WAREHOUSE FIRM GLP

SINGAPORE: A Chinese consortium on Friday offered more than \$11 billion for Singapore's Global Logistic Properties Ltd, which provides warehouses for the likes of Amazon China and WalMart, as e-commerce drives demand for logistics space. In filings with the Singapore Exchange, both firms said they were "pleased to announce the proposed acquisition" after GLP selected Nesta Investment Holdings as its preferred bidder.

Under the deal, Nesta would buy GLP shares at Sg\$3.38 apiece, valuing the company at around Sg\$16 billion (\$11.6 billion). Data compiled by Bloomberg showed the deal will be the biggest private equity buy-out of an Asian company by enterprise value. It would

be the second-largest logistics deal this year after China Investment Corp agreed to acquire Blackstone Group LP's European logistics business for 12.25 billion euros (\$13.8 billion) in June, Bloomberg said.

GLP-of which Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC is the biggest shareholder with an almost 37 percent stake-owns and manages a portfolio of modern logistics facilities in China, Japan, the United States and Brazil. It counts Amazon China, WalMart, Adidas, FedEx and DHL among its clients. It is also one of the world's largest real estate fund managers with assets under management of around \$39 billion, filings with the Singapore stock exchange said.

The growth of websites such as Amazon and

Alibaba means customers can buy anything from mobile phones to sports equipment online and send them straight to loved ones, driving growth in e-commerce. This has also fuelled demand for state-of-the-art warehouse space worldwide to facilitate such shipments, analysts said. US-based research firm eMarketer has said online sales are expected to reach \$1.9 trillion this year and top \$4.0 trillion by 2020.

Nesta is comprised of five Chinese companies, including private equity investment firm HOPU Logistics Investment Management and Bank of China Group Investment. The deal is expected to be completed on or before April 14 next year, subject to shareholders' approval.—AFP

National Bank of Kuwait		البنك الوطني NBK						
Financial Markets								
Daily Report								
At 02:00 PM Previous Day								
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	21,553.09	21,637.74	84.65	▲	9.49			
NASDAQ	6,274.44	6,312.47	38.03	▲	17.26			
S&P 500	2,447.83	2,459.27	11.44	▲	9.84			
Financial Times	7,413.44	7,378.39	-35.05	▼	-0.47			
DAX	12,641.33	12,631.72	-9.61	▼	-0.08			
CAC 40	5,235.40	5,235.31	-0.09	▼	0.00			
Swiss	9,003.57	9,034.57	31.00	▲	0.34			
Nikkei 225	20,099.81	20,118.86	19.05	▲	0.09			
Topix	1,619.11	1,625.48	6.37	▲	0.39			
Hang Seng	26,346.17	26,389.23	43.06	▲	0.16			
Straits Times	3,235.67	3,287.43	51.76	▲	1.60			
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	6,794.52	6,788.48	-6.04	▼	-0.09			
Saudi Arabia	7,306.58	7,313.42	6.84	▲	0.09			
Dubai	3,494.44	3,537.42	42.98	▲	1.23			
Abu Dhabi	4,409.53	4,518.07	108.54	▲	2.46			
Bahrain	1,317.14	1,317.38	0.24	▲	0.02			
Qatar	9,280.38	9,469.93	189.55	▲	2.04			
Oman	5,170.23	5,121.38	-48.85	▼	-0.94			
Lebanon	1,148.20	1,148.20	0.00	-	0.00			
Jordan	2,177.45	2,169.11	-8.34	▼	-0.38			
Egypt	13,690.29	13,822.59	132.30	▲	0.97			
Morocco	12,371.45	12,307.65	-63.80	▼	-0.52			
Tunisia	6,222.87	6,233.46	10.59	▲	0.17			
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2627	3.2835	2.8620	2.5052	3.1630	369.40	4.1898
Saudi Riyal	0.08155		0.2678	0.2334	0.2043	0.2579	30.12	0.3417
US Dollar	0.30455	3.7346		0.8716	0.7630	0.9633	112.50	1.2760
Euro	0.34941	4.2847	1.1473		0.8755	1.1052	129.10	1.4648
Sterling Pound	0.39917	4.8949	1.3107	1.1422		1.2624	147.43	1.6731
Swiss Franc	0.31615	3.8769	1.0381	0.9048	0.7921		116.82	1.3246
Japanese Yen	0.00271	0.0332	0.0089	0.0077	0.0068	0.0086		0.0113
Australian Dollar	0.23868	2.9268	0.7837	0.6827	0.5977	0.7549	88.17	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30455	3.7346	0.3745	3.7150	0.3842	3.6572	17.8900
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2835		12.2627	1.2296	12.1983	1.2615	12.0085	58.7424
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08155		0.1003	0.9948	0.1029	0.9793	4.7903
Bahraini Dinar	2.6704	0.81328	9.9730		9.9207	1.0260	9.7663	47.7742
Qatari Riyal	0.2692	0.08198	1.0053	0.1008		0.1034	0.9844	4.8156
Omani Riyal	2.6029	0.79271	9.7207	0.9747	9.6697		9.5192	46.5655
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08327	1.0212	0.1024	1.0158	0.1051		4.8917
Egyptian Pound	0.0559	0.01702	0.2088	0.0209	0.2077	0.0215	0.2044	
Global Interest Rates								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.19	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25			
US Dollar	1.18	1.22	1.30	1.45	1.73			
Euro	-0.41	-0.40	-0.37	-0.30	-0.18			
Sterling Pound	0.23	0.25	0.29	0.44	0.65			
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.78	-0.72	-0.64	-0.49			
Australian Dollar	1.55	1.61	1.60	1.62	1.68			
Japanese Yen	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.12			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	1.36	1.87	2.33	2.92				
Europe	-0.63	-0.11	0.59	1.32				
United Kingdom	0.31	0.69	1.30	1.92				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	46.19	46.21	0.02	▲	0.04			
Brent	48.00	47.98	-0.02	▼	-0.04			
West Texas	46.58	46.48	-0.10	▼	-0.21			
Gold	1228.58	1228.58	0.00	-	0.00			
Silver	15.95	15.95	0.00	-	0.00			

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.701
Indian Rupees	4.693
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.976
Nepali Rupees	2.941
Singapore Dollar	221.380
Hongkong Dollar	389.200
Bangladesh Taka	3.753
Philippine Peso	6.016
Thai Baht	8.957
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.081
Qatari Riyal	83.510
Omani Riyal	789.631
Bahraini Dinar	807.360
UAE Dirham	82.782
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.650
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.715
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.220
Tunisian Dinar	125.040
Jordanian Dinar	428.680
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.026
Syrian Lira	2.167
Morocco Dirham	31.984
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.850
Euro	348.360
Sterling Pound	396.520
Canadian dollar	234.391
Turkish Lira	86.940

Swiss Franc 318.330
Australian Dollar 234.720
US Dollar Buying 302.650

GOLD
20 Gram 254.190
10 Gram 130.01
5 Gram 65.850

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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

Chinese Yuan Renminbi 45.110
Thai Baht 9.925
Turkish Lira 85.715

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.392097	0.402097
Czech Korune	0.005354	0.017354
Danish Krone	0.042774	0.047774
Euro	0.343562	0.352562
Norwegian Krone	0.033073	0.038273
Romanian Leu	0.084208	0.084208
Slovakia	0.009074	0.019074
Swedish Krona	0.032512	0.037512
Swiss Franc	0.309354	0.320354
Turkish Lira	0.081062	0.091362
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.230185	0.242185
New Zealand Dollar	0.217391	0.226891
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.235119	0.244119
Georgina Lari	0.137234	0.137234
US Dollars	0.299750	0.304170
US Dollars Mint	0.300250	0.304170
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003426	0.004010
Chinese Yuan	0.0433312	0.046812
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037066	0.039816

Indian Rupee	0.004208	0.004896
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002980	0.002801
Kenyan Shilling	0.002919	0.002980
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067246	0.073246
Nepalese Rupee	0.002941	0.003111
Pakistan Rupee	0.002688	0.002978
Philippine Peso	0.005954	0.006254
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216471	0.226471
South African Rand	0.017355	0.025855
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001605	0.002185
Taiwan	0.009724	0.009907
Thai Baht	0.008641	0.009191
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798866	0.807366
Egyptian Pound	0.015184	0.021092
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423957	0.432957
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019743	0.043743
Nigerian Naira	0.001255	0.001890
Omani Riyal	0.782800	0.788480
Qatar Riyal	0.079170	0.084110
Saudi Riyal	0.079940	0.081240
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.121576	0.129578
Turkish Lira	0.081062	0.091362
UAE Dirhams	0.081302	0.083002
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

US BANKS REPORT SOLID EARNINGS AS JPMORGAN CEO BLASTS WASHINGTON

NEW YORK: Credit cards were a strength and trading revenues a weakness in the solid US bank earnings released Friday, as JPMorgan Chase chief executive Jamie Dimon erupted in frustration at political gridlock in Washington. JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Citigroup all reported better-than-expected earnings, and bank executives described US economic growth as solid, if unspectacular, as moves by the US Federal Reserve to lift interest rates have enabled banks to charge more for loans.

Yet Friday's deluge of results, the unofficial start of the second-quarter corporate earnings period, drew a lackluster reaction from Wall Street, with shares of all three banks falling after the reports. At JPMorgan, the biggest US bank by assets, second-quarter net

income rose 13.4 percent to \$7.0 billion. Net revenues climbed 4.7 percent to \$26.4 billion. Key factors behind the earnings jump included higher net interest income due to the rising interest rate environment, as well as higher overall loans, often seen as a proxy of economic activity of firms and households.

But JPMorgan's trading divisions suffered compared with the year-ago period, with the bank citing "sustained low volatility." Analysts also were disappointed by a \$500 million cut to JPMorgan's 2017 projection for growth of net interest income to \$4 billion, implying it sees weaker loan growth in the second half of 2017, due in part to the Fed's policy of only raising interest rates gradually. "We're looking at a slower rise in interest rates in general and that speaks to Fed funds rate policy,"

said CFRA analyst Ken Leon. "I believe you're not going to see significant contributions of net interest income from rising rates until 2018 and 2019."

Dimon blasts Washington

JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon also made waves with a colorful tirade against Washington gridlock that he blames for blocking progress on tax reform and other growth measures needed to boost the economy. Dimon, who is a member of President Donald Trump's business advisory council, warned the US will have trouble accelerating growth from its current 1.5 to 2.0 percent trend if it fails to come together in favor of pro-business policies.

"It's almost an embarrassment to be an American citizen traveling around the world and listening to the stupid

shit we have to deal with in this country," Dimon told analysts on a conference call. "It's not a Republican issue, it's not a Democratic issue and it doesn't matter who the pilot is." Dimon's remarks come amid lagging progress on President Donald Trump's economic agenda, with the outlook highly uncertain for a Republican health care law that has been seen as important to tax reform.

Citigroup chief financial officer John Gerspach expressed cautious optimism about the outlook for pro-growth measures from Washington. "The hope is still there," Gerspach said in a conference call with reporters. "Obviously it's taken a little bit longer than anybody would want." Citigroup's net income came in at \$3.9 billion, down 3.2 percent from the year-ago period, but better than ana-

lysts expected. Revenues rose two percent to \$17.9 billion, with revenues from Citi-branded credit cards jumping 10 percent following a venture with Costco Wholesale.

Citigroup cited higher cost of credit and operating expenses as factors behind the drop in profit. It also said its trading revenues were dented by an unfavorable comparison with the year-ago period, when Brexit-related trading boosted volumes. Wells Fargo's net income rose 4.5 percent from the year-ago period to \$5.8 billion. Revenues of \$22.2 billion were essentially flat compared with the year-ago period. Net interest income rose, but overall loans were essentially unchanged compared with the year-ago period. One factor was a decline in auto loans due to tighter underwriting standards.—AFP



DETROIT: Jeff Conrad, senior vice president of the Automobile Division of American Honda Motor Co., addresses the media during the introduction of the 2018 Honda Accord, in Detroit. —AP

AIRBNB HOST FINED OVER CANCELLING RESERVATION

LOS ANGELES: An Airbnb host who cancelled a reservation and told the guest, "One word says it all. Asian," has agreed to pay a \$5,000 fine and attend a college course in Asian-American studies, officials with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing said Thursday. The guest, Dyne Suh, had booked the home as part of a ski trip with her fiancé and friends in Big Bear in February. When she was close to the house, Suh messaged host Tami Barker through the Airbnb app, but the host cancelled the reservation after a dispute over additional guests.

Barker told Suh in a series of messages that she wouldn't rent to her if she were the last person on Earth. "One word says it all. Asian," one of the messages said. When Suh told Barker that she would complain to Airbnb, Barker wrote, "It's why we have Trump ... I will not allow this country to be told what to do by foreigners." Suh, who posted an emotional video about the incident on YouTube, has said she'd agreed to pay \$250 per night to rent the home and later asked Barker if two other friends

could also stay at the house, which Barker agreed to.

Suh sent Barker screenshots of text messages where she agreed to the additional guests, but Barker cancelled the reservation. As part of an agreement with state officials, Barker also agreed to personally apologize to Suh and perform community service at a civil rights organization. A message left at a number listed for Barker was not immediately returned. Her attorney, Edward Lee, said his client was "regretful for her impetuous actions and comments" and is pleased to have resolved the matter.

Suh said in a statement posted on Facebook that she was pleased the settlement included Barker's agreement to attend an Asian-American studies course and hoped the settlement would encourage others to report discrimination. "I hope that more victims of discrimination will feel encouraged to come forward with their own stories," Suh wrote. "Your pain is not insignificant and you are not alone."—AP

CUBA SAYS GDP RECOVERS, UP ABOUT 1 PERCENT IN 2017

HAVANA: The Cuban government said Friday that the economy is growing again following a decline last year that was the first drop reported in two decades. Economy Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said at the opening session of the National Assembly that Cuba's GDP grew just over 1 percent in the first six months of 2017 and is on track to hit an estimated 2 percent for the full year. The rebound came despite the economic crisis in Venezuela, which provides oil and other support to the island.

The government said Cuba's economy shrank last year by 1 percent amid falling help from Venezuela, which is struggling with triple-digit inflation and widespread

shortages of food and other basic goods. The decrease was the first reported by Cuba in years. Cuban media quoted Cabrisas as telling the assembly that instability in the supply of Venezuelan oil weighs on the country's economy but tourism, construction, transportation and communications are all growing.

Foreign media were not allowed to attend the session, which was presided over by President Raul Castro. Some growth in tourism is due to the normalization of relations with the U.S. that was started by President Barack Obama and is now threatened under President Donald Trump.—AP

US MOVES TO SEIZE \$140M FROM NIGERIAN OIL CORRUPTION

WASHINGTON: US officials said Friday they plan to confiscate \$144 million in corruption-tainted assets of Nigerian oil executives found in the United States including an \$80 million yacht the "Galactica Star." The yacht and a \$50 million condominium overlooking New York's famed Central Park were among the riches tied to dirty contracts awarded by Nigeria's former oil minister between 2011 and 2015, the US Justice Department said Saturday.

"The United States is not a safe haven for the proceeds of corruption," acting Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Blanco said. "Corrupt foreign officials and business executives should make no mistake: if illicit funds are within the reach of the United States, we will seek to forfeit them and to return them to the victims from whom they were stolen." The assets were purchased using proceeds of oil sector contracts awarded by Nigeria's former minister for petroleum resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, who oversaw the state oil

company, according to the Justice Department.

Prosecutors allege she accepted bribes from oil executives Kolawole Akanni Aluko and Olajide Omokore, who spent millions of dollars buying and furnishing London-area homes with artwork, furniture and other luxury items acquired in Texas. The minister allegedly steered lucrative oil contracts to companies owned by Aluko and Omokore, which sold \$1.5 billion worth of Nigerian crude.

They then used shell corporations and intermediaries to launder the funds through US banks and buy the assets which the Justice Department is now seeking to seize. Under former President Barack Obama, the Justice Department in 2010 launched a "kleptocracy" initiative to recover the ill-gotten gains of corrupt foreign officials. The initiative has had mixed results but in 2014 collected a \$500 million once held by the former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha and his cronies.—AFP

UBER, LYFT TAKE DOWN NOT JUST CAB DRIVERS, BUT ALSO LENDERS

NEW YORK: Ride-hailing apps such as Uber and Lyft have been so disruptive to New York City's taxi industry, they are causing lenders to fail. Three New York-based credit unions that specialized in loaning money against taxi cab medallions, the hard-to-get licenses that allow the city's traditional cab fleet to operate, have been placed into conservatorship as the value of those medallions has plummeted. Just three years ago, cab owners and investors were paying as much as \$1.3 million for a medallion.

Now they are worth less than half that, and some medallion owners owe more on their loans than the medallions are worth. "You've got borrowers who are under water. This is just like the subprime loan crisis," said Keith Leggett, a credit union analyst and former senior economist at the American Bankers Association. LOMTO Federal Credit Union, which was founded by taxi drivers in 1936 for mutual assistance, was placed into conservatorship by the National Credit Union Administration on June 26 "because of unsafe and unsound practices."

New York City has the nation's largest taxi industry, with more than 13,000 medallions. Marcelino Hervias bought his medallion in 1990 for about \$120,000 and thought its value would hit \$2 million by the time he was ready to retire. Instead, the 58-year-old said he owes \$541,000 and is driving 12 to 16 hours a day to make ends meet. "I celebrate my kids' birthdays over the phone. Why?" Hervias said. While some medallions are held by large owners with fleets, owning a single medallion was long seen as a ticket to the middle class for immigrants like Hervias, who is from Peru.

Many of them now owe more on their medallion loans than they originally paid for the medallions because they used their equity in the medallion for a home, a child's education or other expenses. Hervias said he borrowed against his medallion to pay for medical care for his mother, a new car and a visit to his homeland. "Every time we want to go on vacation or do something, where do we go? To the equity of the medallion," he said. Other medallion owners tell similar stories.

Constant Granvil bought his medallion for \$102,000 in 1987 and said he now owes more



NEW YORK: In this photo, taxi driver and taxi medallion owner Marcelino Hervias poses for photos with his taxicab on New York's Upper West Side. —AP photos



NEW YORK: In this photo, the medallion of taxi driver and taxi medallion owner Marcelino Hervias is affixed to the hood of his taxicab on New York's Upper West Side.

than \$300,000 to his lender. He could have sold the medallion for two or three times that a few years ago, "but I said no, I'm not going to sell it," said Granvil, who is 76. "And then I got caught." The value of Granvil's medallion is hard to pinpoint because 2017 sale prices have varied from the \$200,000s to the \$500,000s depending on whether lenders are willing to finance the purchase.

Medallion loans

Meanwhile, Granvil, who no longer drives because of poor health and uses a broker to hire a driver, said he is facing threats from the lender, Melrose Credit Union, to foreclose on not just his medallion, but also his house. "How am I going to live?"

he said. "And now Melrose wants to take my house?" The New York State Department of Financial Services took possession of Melrose Credit Union in February and appointed the NCUA as conservator.

Critics say the federal agency is playing hardball with medallion owners like Granvil, who have been making their payments, by demanding that they pay off their loans in full or face foreclosure. "They're approaching it with this cookie-cutter idea," said David Beier, head of the Committee for Taxi Safety, an association of taxi leasing agents. "They want you to mortgage your house to them as collateral. It's forcing borrowers into bankruptcy." John Fairbanks, a spokesman for the NCUA, said

that the agency has hired a management team to run Melrose and that it would be inappropriate to comment on the management team's actions.

Supporters of the yellow cab industry have sued and pushed for city legislation to try to level the playing field between taxis and ride-hailing apps, which they say enjoy advantages like not paying a public transportation improvement surcharge that's levied on yellow cabs and not having to outfit a percentage of cars with disabled-access features. City Council member Ydanis Rodriguez, who chairs the council's transportation committee, called this week for a panel to investigate the fall in medallion values.

According to a Morgan Stanley report, there were 11.1 million yellow cab trips in the city in April 2016, compared with 4.7 million Uber trips and 750,000 Lyft trips. The 11.1 million taxi rides were 9 percent fewer than the April 2015 number. Some observers believe that the yellow cab's market share will continue to shrink and that the value of a medallion won't recover. "This is a commodity that has been fundamentally disrupted," said Leggett, who has written about medallion loans in his online newsletter Credit Union Watch. "I don't see the value of the medallions getting close to what they were."—AP

US JUDGE PAUSES QUEST TO BLOCK TOSHIBA CHIP UNIT SALE

SAN FRANCISCO: A California judge put on hold Friday a request by Western Digital to block the sale of Toshiba's chip division, suggesting a more collaborative order. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Harold Kahn gave Toshiba and Western Digital until a July 28 hearing to draft an order requiring the Japanese company to give its Silicon Valley partner two weeks' notice before closing a sale of the division. In the meantime, the court ordered Toshiba to not complete the sale.

Toshiba lawyers have contended in court documents that selling to the high bidder interested in the chip division was not expected to close until early next year at the earliest. The hearing was held to consider a request by Western Digital for an injunction stopping Toshiba from selling interests in three NAND flash-memory joint ventures operated with Western Digital's SanDisk subsidiaries.

"Our entire goal was to preserve and protect our rights through the binding arbitra-

tion process, and that's precisely what the court has done today," Western Digital chief executive Steve Milligan said in a released statement proclaiming the outcome of the hearing a victory. Toshiba was free to continue negotiations for the sale of the chip division as the matter made its way to likely arbitration in an international forum.

Kahn proposed a "finesse" alternative to the injunction sought by SanDisk that preserves legal options of both sides without stalling sales discussions, according to Toshiba. Executives at crisis-hit Toshiba faced hundreds of angry shareholders last month as the firm announced it has not yet clinched a deal to sell its prized chip business to a consortium of US, Japanese and South Korean investors. The sale, reportedly worth about 2.0 trillion yen (\$18 billion), is seen as crucial for the cash-strapped company to plug massive losses at its US nuclear division, Westinghouse Electric.

Toshiba said it had entered into exclusive talks with the public-private Innovation Network Corp. of Japan, state-backed Development Bank of Japan and US private equity fund Bain Capital, with South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix acting as a lender. Toshiba is the world's number-two supplier of memory chips, behind South Korea's Samsung. The sale involving state-backed buyers means the Japanese government will effectively own the chip division.

The profitable division has accounted for about one-quarter of Toshiba's total annual revenue. The chip unit sale is seen as key to Toshiba's turnaround. Western Digital, which jointly runs a key chip plant in Japan, opposes the sale. Toshiba's chief executive has blasted the US firm's bid for a court injunction as "unfair interference." Toshiba later said it has filed a 120 billion yen (\$1 billion) lawsuit against its US partner over the disputed deal.—AFP

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	11,073,755	2.85%	1,186,647	0.83%	OIL & GAS	1,036.75	1,011.55	2.49%	32.80%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,583,567	0.41%	938,026	0.65%	BASIC MATERIALS	1,236.07	1,224.77	0.92%	23.02%
INDUSTRIALS	28,223,624	7.26%	13,391,061	9.34%	INDUSTRIALS	1,909.36	1,890.11	1.02%	42.06%
CONSUMER GOODS	2,217,010	0.57%	662,161	0.46%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,085.89	1,069.25	1.56%	-3.48%
HEALTH CARE	5,175	0.00%	872	0.0006%	HEALTH CARE	1,722.50	1,718.45	0.24%	38.42%
CONSUMER SERVICES	2,543,058	0.65%	859,024	0.60%	CONSUMER SERVICES	1,042.61	1,022.59	1.96%	12.77%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	22,792,939	5.86%	14,765,008	10.29%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	598.27	568.78	5.18%	-5.96%
BANKS	49,380,898	12.70%	25,627,558	17.87%	BANKS	920.37	910.74	1.06%	9.93%
INSURANCE	27,511	0.01%	7,982	0.01%	INSURANCE	1,010.17	1,009.91	0.03%	1.60%
REAL ESTATE	115,334,201	29.65%	39,221,941	27.34%	REAL ESTATE	945.06	922.72	2.42%	8.61%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	154,978,797	39.85%	46,681,453	32.54%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	678.79	667.06	1.76%	13.69%
TECHNOLOGY	763,634	0.20%	100,232	0.07%	TECHNOLOGY	665.58	661.83	0.57%	9.62%

BOURSA KUWAIT ENDS IN GREEN ZONE

BOURSA KUWAIT WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,788.48 points, up by 1.62 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 1.87 percent after closing at 404.62 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 922.29 points up by 1.65 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover increased by 28.60 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 11.93 million, whereas trading volume average was 77.78 million shares, recording an increase of 60.34 percent.

The Boursa was able to redirect its path to the upward direction and its three indices were able to realize different gains by the end of the week, especially the Price Index which benefited from the noticeable speculative activity on the small-cap and idle stocks, that been traded below 100 Fils, and witnessed a noticeable decline over the last period, which made it tempting for purchase. Also, some leading stocks witnessed a purchasing activity that was reflected on the performance of the Weighted and KSX-15 indices, that accompanied the Price Index in the green zone during this week.

In addition, the Boursa gained over KD 480 million during the last five sessions, as the market capitalization for the listed companies in the official market reached KD 26.72 billion, up by 1.83 percent from its level in the previous week, where it was KD 26.24 billion. On an annual level, the market cap gain for the listed companies in the official market increased to reach 50.16 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it was KD 25.41 billion.

As per the daily trading activity, the Boursa Kuwait initiated the first session of the week with different gains to the three indices, especially the Price Index, which increased by more than 43 point as a result to the quick and active speculations that concentrated on

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES			
	Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,788.48	922.29
	Previous week	6,680.13	907.32
	Change (Point)	108.35	14.97
	Change (%)	1.62%	1.65%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,040.39	37.27
	Change (%)	18.10%	4.21%

the small-cap stocks, in addition to the support that market received from the random purchasing operations targeted some leading stocks, though the market gains came despite the decline in the liquidity levels by the end of the session, whereas the value decreased by 13.8 percent.

Moreover, the market continued realizing gains for its three indices in the second session of the week amid a continued control of the speculative behavior over the trading activity, in addition to the strong collection move on a number of leading stocks, especially in the Banks sector. Such performance came in light of a noticeable increase in the trading activity compared to the previous session, especially the cash liquidity, as it recorded by the end of the session a growth of around 90 percent.

On the mid-week session, the Boursa Kuwait continued realizing increase for the

three indices supported by the strong purchasing trend that included many leading and small-cap stocks, in addition to the quick speculative operations that concentrated on some idle stocks. Such performance came amid a continued increase in the three indices, especially the volume and the value, which increased by 13 percent and 15 percent respectively by the end of the session.

On Wednesday's session, the Price Index and the Weighted Index closed in the green zone for the fourth consecutive session during the same week, as the KSX-15 Index ended the session without change, and came in light of a limited decline in the cash liquidity by the end of the session, as it dropped by around 12 percent compared to Tuesday's session. On the end of week session, the three indices closed in the red zone, affected by the profit collection operations executed by many traders, especially after the notice-

able increases of some stocks during the previous sessions.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 18.10 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 6.45 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 4.21 percent growth.

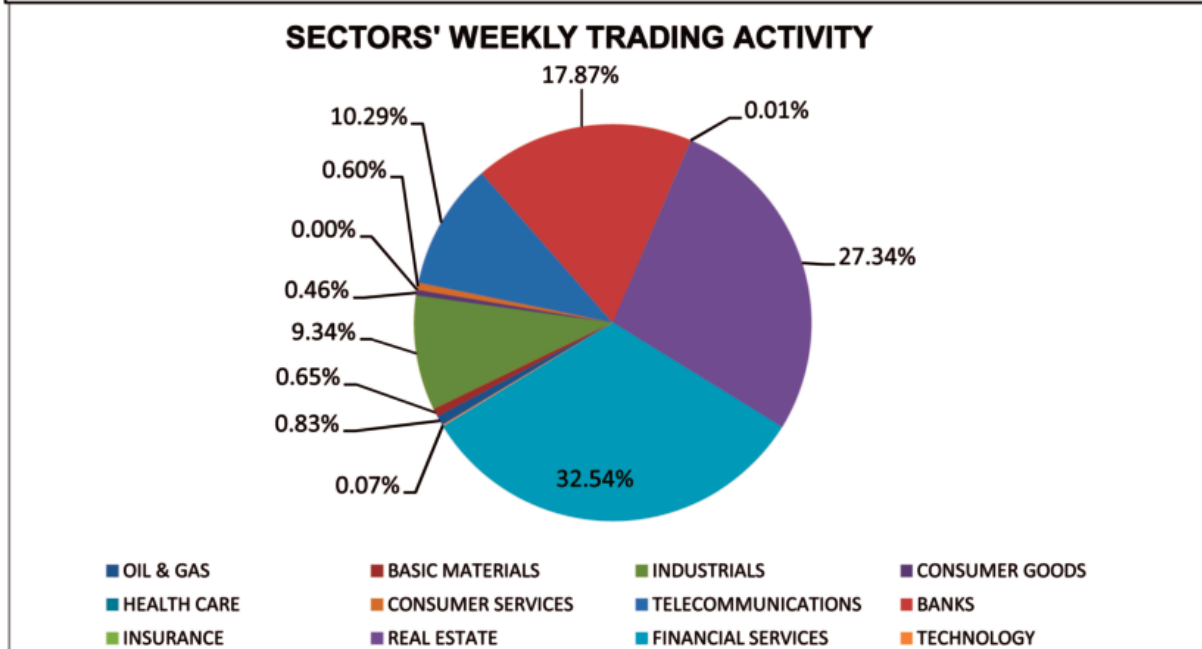
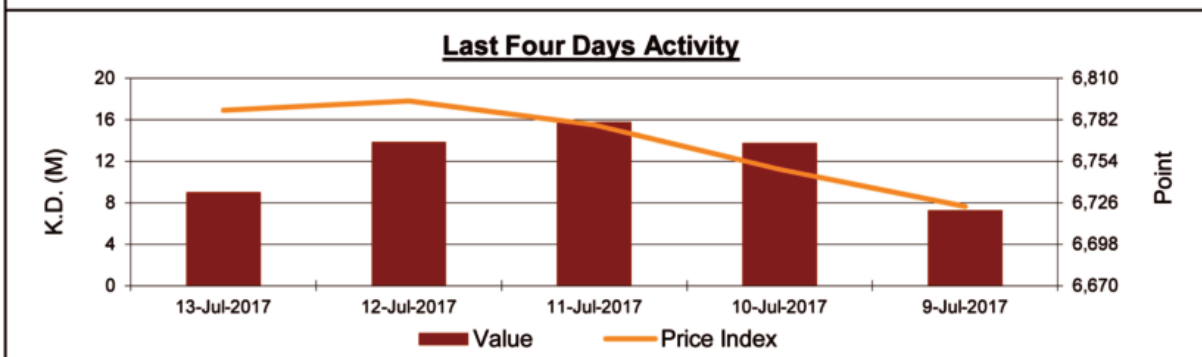
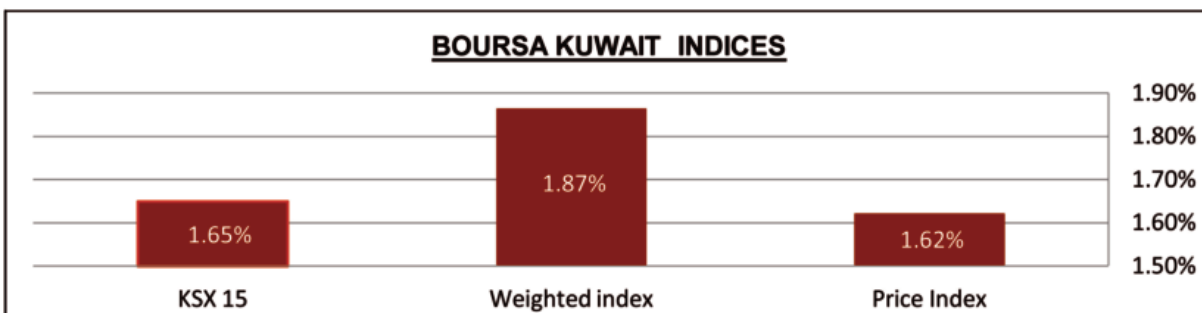
Sectors' Indices

All of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone. Last week's highest gainer was the Telecommunications sector, achieving 5.18 percent growth rate as its index closed at 598.27 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 1,036.75 points recording 2.49 percent increase. The Real Estate sector came in third as its index achieved 2.42 percent growth, ending the week at 945.06 points. The Insurance sector was the least growing as

its index closed at 1,010.17 points with a 0.03 percent increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 154.98 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 39.85 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 29.65 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 115.33 million shares. On the other hand, the Financial Services sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 46.68 million or 32.54 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 39.22 million representing 27.34 percent of the total market trading value.



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	388,924,169	242,569,642	60.34%
Value (K.D)	59,663,605	46,395,431	28.60%
Deals	15,176	12,123	25.18%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
26,717,153,467	26,236,668,119	1.83%	5.16%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
EYAS	899.00	750.00	149.0	19.87%
TAAMEER	37.20	32.00	5.2	16.25%
ALAQARIA	40.50	35.00	5.5	15.71%
REAM	399.00	350.00	49.0	14.00%
AAYAN	42.60	38.20	4.4	11.52%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
SANAM	40.00	50.00	-10.0	-20.00%
KCIN	1,350.00	1,670.00	-320.0	-19.16%
AJWAN	80.00	92.00	-12.0	-13.04%
AGHC	76.00	85.00	-9.0	-10.59%
KAMCO	72.70	80.00	-7.3	-9.13%

AHLI UNITED BANK CONDUCTS WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Shari'ah compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 12 July. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total num-



ber of winners annually will include more than 1300. The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Salah A Rahman Al-Bassam.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Amirah Faisal Behbehani, Khaled Saleh Al-

Fadel, Mohammad A M Baqer. Ahmad Abdullah Al-Failakawi, Abdulla Ali Aburahmah. Tahani Hadran Jaber, Naser Shafi Al-Ajmi. Nadeem Abdul Ghani, Mohammad Abdullah Hussain, Fatma Hasan Al-Saffar, Faisal Ebrim Al-Azmi, Talal Saad Al-Sehali, Mohammad Waleed Al-Hassan, Nouf Mahdi Al-Enezi, Abdulla Falah Al-Ajmi, Mohammad Eid Al-Azmi, Ameer Abdulhameed Al-Sayegh, Adeeb Slaiman Alhariri, Kamel Merza Mohsen, Syamaladevi Pillai, Ghaneya Radhi Ali, Mohammed Saeed, A Rasool Juma Ali, Khalil Ebrahim Ali and Aneesa Mansoor Hasan.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who

are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year." Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

GIG HAS STRONG FINANCIAL RATINGS FOR 2017

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), one of the leading insurance service providers in Middle East and North Africa region, announced that Standard and Poor's rating services agency upgraded the group's financial strength rating to "A-" from "BBB+" with stable outlook. In addition, A.M. Best rating agency affirmed the group's financial strength rating at "A" Excellent with stable outlook. The ratings of Gulf Insurance Group reflect its excellent regional business profile, good risk-adjusted capitalization, the continued strong profitability and the capability of generating diverse income streams from its operating subsidiaries and associates as well as its own activities to meet its

ongoing payment obligations under essentially all foreseeable circumstances.

An offsetting factor is the execution risk associated with GIG's inorganic expansion strategy. The two agencies disclosed that GIG managed to sustain a good risk-adjusted capitalization despite suffering foreign exchange translation losses in Egypt. They also clarified that GIG has a track record of solid results, underpinned by robust underwriting profitability and stable investment returns. Despite the elevated levels of competition in its operating markets, in 2016, GIG grew its gross written premium by 14 percent to KD 217 million (USD 710 million), driven by the implementation of



Khaled Al-Hasan

medical insurance for retirees in Kuwait (Afyah medical scheme). The group's financial risk profile has been assessed as upper adequate, sustained by its strong capital and earnings and moderate risk profile. The group's forecasted capital adequacy is expected to remain moderately strong over the outlook period and it depends on successful earnings and controlled operational growth. Both agencies assessed the

group's liquidity as strong. They continued to view GIG's management and governance as satisfactory and finally they assessed the group's enterprise risk management (ERM) as adequate. ERM is assuming a much stronger role in the group's direction and this partly eases their concerns about its regional expansion program.

Khalid Al-Hasan, Gulf Insurance Group CEO said, "We are pleased with the outstanding results of the group's financial strength ratings from the international rating agencies A.M. Best and S&P. GIG's well established and comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management framework comes with a

clear risk-appetite statement along with appropriate tools and techniques to identify, measure and manage risks on Group level."

"We have developed our own Group Internal Capital Model in accordance with the best practices to identify the key risks and check the optimum utilization of capital from an international perspective. Despite of the major economic and political challenges in the Arab world, we are also pleased with the Financial Strength Ratings of our subsidiaries in Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain, which have been affirmed for 2017, including 'under review ratings' during this year," he added.



Yusuff Ali MA, CMD of Lulu Group interacting with HM Queen Elizabeth during the Royal reception hosted for the Queen Award 2017 winners, at the Buckingham Palace.

LULU'S CHAIRMAN RECEIVES BRITISH AWARD

LONDON: Chairman of Lulu Group Yusuff Ali MA has been bestowed with this year's QUEEN'S AWARD for his contribution towards boosting international trade. Lord Lieutenant John Crabtree, HM the Queen's special representative handed over the award to Yusuff Ali MA during a glittering ceremony held at the Birmingham Council House. Later in the day HM Queen Elizabeth hosted a royal reception for the winners at Buckingham Palace and had close interaction with the chosen few award winners.

The Queen's Award is announced every year on the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth and is awarded for meritorious contribution in the fields of innovation, international trade and employment generation which results in tangible growth of UK's economy.

The award ceremony was attended by Anne Underwood, Lord Mayor of Birmingham,

Christine Hamilton, Under Secretary of Trade Ministry, Khalid Mehmood, MP and a host of prominent businessmen and trade officials. Elaborating about the Award, John Crabtree said "Y International UK Pvt Ltd. part of Lulu Group has played a tremendous role in further boosting UK's position as an investor friendly destination. They have not only opened up a huge market for the British products worldwide through their operations here but also have contributed significantly in providing job and training opportunities."

During his acceptance speech Yusuff Ali said "I am extremely honored and proud to receive the prestigious Queen's Award this year. This great recognition will surely help us further strengthen our plans to expand business interests in UK and continue with our innovations and contributions to the dynamic economy of UK. The fact that we have grown and expanded

our operations in such a short span of time is a testament of the pro-development economic policies of UK and we are fully committed to playing our role in further boosting the trade while focusing on key aspects such as highest quality, human resources and excellent corporate governance."

Y International UK Pvt Ltd, with its huge state-of-the-art operations in Birmingham, sources and exports a wide range of world-class food products to over 136 hypermarkets & supermarkets of LULU Group across the ME, Africa, India and Far East countries. The group which has already invested close to US\$ 550 million till now in the UK including The East India Company and London Scotland Yard, will be investing another US\$ 52 million in setting up an advanced food processing zone in Birmingham, the work for which will begin next month informed Yusuff Ali.

KFH LAUNCHES AL-RUWAD FOR PIONEERS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Executive Manager Liabilities and Investments Products at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Nehal Almosalem reiterated the bank's keenness to excel in delivering the most sublime products and services to the Al-Ruwad customers, indicating KFH endeavors to go the extra mile in giving this segment of customers exclusive advantages, and a wide range of discounts and promotions to astonish them and go above and beyond their expectations.

She emphasized, in a press release, that KFH spares no efforts in continually catering for the aspirations of its customers. KFH provides Al-Ruwad customers with exclusive offers and discounts specifically tailored for them as per highest international standards of quality. She added that Al-Ruwad customers are those with minimum salary of KD 4,000 or a deposit of KD 100-300 thousand in any of KFH accounts. She said that KFH offers this segment of customers highly qualified relationship managers whose only task is to provide Al-Ruwad customers with the banking services they need.

In addition, they counsel each customer individually regarding the most suitable banking products. The relationship manager is committed to be available anytime

anywhere to offer services with maximum level of confidentiality and privacy. Almosalem illustrated that KFH offers Al-Ruwad customers Visa Signature debit card that provides many exclusive privileges including free access to 550 airport lounges at over 300 airports around the world, 24/7 concierge service, and travel insurance etc. KFH offers free concierge service round the clock in efforts to raise the level of customers' satisfaction while providing them with unique banking experience.

This service includes free 24/7 Concierge & Personal Assistant service, a dedicated personal assistant available on call to cater to customers' various needs anywhere anytime, free Valet Parking at select locations, free Valet Parking at Kuwait International Airport for 2 days, a personal secretary assisting the member in all that needs to be solved and sourced such as organizing work schedules, flights reservations, meeting halls etc., messenger service to perform transactions in Kuwait, Dubai, Saudi and Bahrain. The bank offers several financing services and special discounts on their banking transactions. KFH offers special discounts and promotions from international brands around the year.



Nehal Almosalem

HUGE CUSTOMERS' TURNOUT ON KFH SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES LEASE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Safe Deposit Boxes Lease service has witnessed remarkable customers' turnout after the bank launched special promotion campaign for customers. This service addresses the aspiration of a huge segment of clients who would like to spend their summer vacation outside Kuwait as it serves in protecting valuable belongings by keeping them in state-of-the-art security safe boxes. This service is dedicated for storing and safeguarding important documents, jewelry and other important and valuable items.

KFH provides exclusive offers to its customer segments Nukhba and Ruwwad where they can rent them for free for the first year, and they can avail 50 percent and 25 percent respectively in the following years. Rubban and Sundus customer segments enjoy 50 percent discount. Tamayyuz customers are offered this service free of charge for a year as part of the wide range offers granted to this segment.

The Safe Deposit Boxes are private and secure. They are fully fire protected to safeguard clients' important possessions. KFH offers safe deposit boxes in three sizes: small, medium and large, which can be rented for a short period or a long depending on customers' need. The Safe Deposit Boxes come in separate places for men and women. They have surveillance and security on a permanent basis.

This service is available at 25 branches for men and women in the following branches: the Headquarters branch, Jahra, Fahaheel, Kheitan, Huttein, Sabah Al-Nasser, Andalus, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Khalidiya, Fahad Al-Ahmad, Salmiya, Shaab, Ardiya, Bayan, Rehab, Keifan, Subahiya, Faiha, Rowda, Ghernata, Dhahr, Zahraa, Saad Alabdullah, Yarmouk and Nuzha. Concerning the terms and requirements of renting those Safe Deposit Boxes, client needs to have only Bank account at KFH and the civil ID.



MAJOR CENTRAL BANKS NUDGE THEIR POSITIONS

NBK MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Midyear, things are proceeding more or less as expected back in January. Economic growth is holding up well in most economies. Politics are not much of an impediment, though risk factors remain in the background and may be rising. Brexit negotiations are still a question mark, primarily for the UK. Qatar's dispute with its neighbors is a factor certainly for some GCC equities.

More importantly, the Trump agenda on tax cuts and economic stimulus remains an expected plus for US equities, even if not for this year. However, as we approach the US Congressional mid-term elections of November 2018, the markets will want to see concrete action, surely for reasons economic but also to avoid a Republican setback in the election. The latter would likely be seen as delaying, or even derailing, the current pro-business agenda. US politics are bound also to loom larger, because the above will be taking place against a backdrop of a US Federal Reserve raising interest rates further and embarking on the next leg of undoing years of quantitative easing.

The Fed has recently signaled strongly that it intends to start reducing the size of the massive portfolio, which amassed over several bouts of quantitative easing since 2008. The portfolio today stands at \$ 4.3 trillion (Treasury, Agencies and mortgage-backed securities) versus under \$ 1 trillion prior to 2008. The wind-down will be very slow and gradual, starting probably in September 2017 and in amount of \$ 10 billion per month initially. Still the Fed and the markets will want to see and reassure themselves that the unwinding of the unprecedented QE(s) will not cause undue market or other disruptions.

Chair Fed Janet Yellen seemed confident recently that reducing the balance sheet gradually would



have minimal/spread-out impact on long term rates. Furthermore, if one takes Fed rhetoric at face value (and the latest dot-plots), the Fed should be hiking the federal funds rate once more this year (25 bps), and about 3 times in 2018. The markets, and we, do not share that view at this point, in large part because US inflation, as well as EU inflation, continue to disappoint on the downside of their 2.0% targets. The world economy is still expected to grow at 3%-plus this year, with US GDP growth above 2.0%, EU close to 1.5%, while China should maintain 6.5% growth. The last data from the US is consistent with this outlook, June payroll employment added 222K new jobs, unemployment was little changed at a low 4.4%, and wage growth remains tame, with steady y/y rises of 2.4%.

The uncertainty around the Trump agenda and the strength of the economic recovery are the other factors generating market doubts for the US interest rate forecast ahead. The markets seem to be looking for just one 25 bps in the next 12 months, to June 2018, and that with about 50% probability. While at the same time, the signs from other major central banks, in

particular the ECB, have pointed to the end of aggressive accommodation soon, and to the possible tapering of bond purchases perhaps by end of year.

The result of the above, i.e. Fed hikes, has been a gradual rise in short term interest rates, with the US 2-year reaching a yield of 140 bps for the first time since 2008. The longer maturities, which remain very well behaved, have seen their rate rises contained thanks to low inflation and repressed European yields. However, long rates are finally seeing some upward pressure from signs of the Fed unwinding its balance sheet, as well as from finally higher European rates. The latter were freed up by signs that the ECB was about to "taper" or stop its purchases in 2018. 10-year US rates rose to 2.38% recently, while German 10-year Bunds jumped to 58 bps after starting the year at 18 bps. Nonetheless, rises in long rates are still expected to be gradual thanks to a gradualist Fed and ECB, when its time comes, as well as low inflation. In fact, US rates fell slightly since, following Janet Yellen recent dovish comments on inflation.

Inflation is contained and below

target and the recent downward pressure on oil prices means another bout of soft inflation data. Oil prices in fact were the main surprise or deviation from expectations earlier this year. Oil prices remain under pressure, notwithstanding an extension by OPEC and its partners of the earlier production cuts into 2018.

Oil prices are off 14% from the start of the year, and Brent is well below \$50 pb. With the OPEC production cuts acting slowly on supply, and with still rising US production (primarily from shale oil), the market has had a very difficult time getting to balance. Balance was expected by mid-year but now seem pushed to 2H2017, if not next year. This prospect has pressured GCC equity markets, or at least prevented them from doing better. At the same time, the diplomatic row between Qatar and 3 GCC members (Saudi, the UAE, Bahrain plus Egypt) has also unsettled some investors. These are some of the factors responsible for the year-to-date underperformance of the regional markets, versus international markets. Saudi was helped to a large extent by its consideration and potential future inclusion in the MSCI emerging markets, announced in June.

The change in relative central bank position has also pressured the USD recently, in particular versus a rising Euro. The USD is off 8.4% against the Euro, 2.6% against the JPY. As mentioned above, equities are performing well generally. The US headline markets are up close to 8% ytd, while in Europe the DAX (Germany) is up 7.9% on the year. Moderate growth, low inflation and slowly rising interest rates (toward "normalization") seem to be working nicely for equities, though valuations are getting rich in some markets and raising eyebrows in some investor and policy circles (BIS, Fed...).

ISPs SURPRISE NET NEUTRALITY FANS ON PROTEST DAY

NEW YORK: AT&T has a surprise for tech firms and internet activists supporting net neutrality, the principle that bars internet service providers from playing favorites with websites and apps. Although AT&T has fiercely fought the Federal Communications Commission's net-neutrality rules, it's backing Wednesday's "day of action" denouncing AT&T and other ISPs.

Of course, AT&T doesn't actually agree with the aim of the protest - to support the 2015 regulation that the

FCC wants to overturn now that Republicans are in charge.

AT&T says it supports an "open internet" and believes companies shouldn't block web content or slow down videos from other providers. Rather, AT&T says it merely opposes the FCC rules that set it in place. Comcast and Verizon joined AT&T in making that distinction. ISPs don't like the FCC's approach because it treats internet service as a utility and comes with more oversight. They worry about

price regulation and say the rules hurt broadband investment.

Tim Karr, the campaign director for Free Press, an advocacy group that supports net neutrality, slammed the ISPs for "simply attempting to fake the funk, pretending to support net neutrality while opposing the (FCC) rules that make it an enforceable reality."

The 2015 regulation is the only set of net-neutrality rules that courts have upheld. Internet activists and tech firms hope that the protest will pres-

sure Congress and the FCC, the way a highly visible 2012 online protest - including the blackout of Wikipedia's English-language site for 24 hours - helped kill anti-piracy legislation that tech companies equated to internet censorship.

This year's online protest is more muted. Netflix put a gray banner at the top of its home page and is tweeting out "gif" animations in support. Amazon's website has a small square inviting users to "learn more." Twitter is

promoting "net neutrality" as the top trending topic in the US. Google tweeted a blog post. Smaller tech companies including Airbnb and Etsy have fat banners on their home pages.

Karr said that internet users have taken "hundreds of thousands of actions," like contacting the FCC. There had been about 6 million filings on net neutrality's overturn made to the FCC as of Tuesday night, both supporting and opposing the policy; that had risen to 6.7 million Wednesday afternoon. —AP



SYDNEY: In this June 17, 2016 file photo, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull raises his hands as he speaks during a leaders debate hosted by Facebook Australia and News.com.au in Sydney. The Australian government on Friday, proposed a new cybersecurity law to force global technology companies such as Facebook and Google to help police by unscrambling encrypted messages sent by suspected extremists and other criminals. —AP

AUSTRALIA PLANS LAW TO FORCE TECH GIANTS TO DECRYPT MESSAGES

CANBERRA: The Australian government on Friday proposed a new cybersecurity law to force global technology companies such as Facebook and Google to help police by unscrambling encrypted messages sent by suspected extremists and other criminals.

But some experts, as well as Facebook, warned that weakening end-to-end encryption services so that police could eavesdrop would leave communications vulnerable to hackers.

The new law would be modeled on Britain's Investigatory Powers Act, which was passed by the British Parliament in November and gave intelligence agencies some of the most extensive surveillance powers in the Western world, the government said.

The Australian bill that would allow courts to order tech companies to quickly unlock communications will be introduced to Parliament by November, officials said.

Under the law, internet companies would have the same obligations telephone companies do to help law enforcement agencies, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said. Law enforcement agencies would need warrants to access the communications.

"We've got a real problem in that the law enforcement agencies are increasingly unable to find out what terrorists and drug traffickers and pedophile rings are up to because of the very high levels of encryption," Turnbull told reporters.

Cooperate

"Where we can compel it, we will, but we will need the cooperation from the tech companies," he added. The government expected resistance from some tech companies, many of them based in the United States. But the companies "know morally they should" cooperate, Turnbull said. "There is a culture, particularly in the United States, a very libertarian culture, which is quite anti-government in the tech

sector," Turnbull said. "We need to say with one voice to Silicon Valley and its emulators: 'All right, you've devised these great platforms, now you've got to help us to ensure that the rule of law prevails,'" he added.

Attorney-General George Brandis described the growth of encrypted communication applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, Facebook Messenger and iMessage as "potentially the greatest degradation of intelligence and law enforcement capability that we have seen in our lifetime."

Brandis said he met the British government's chief cryptographer last week and believed it was technically possible to decode encrypted messages in a time frame that police needed to act.

This could be achieved without so-called back doors - built-in weaknesses that allowed a tech company access to a communication but could also leave it vulnerable to hackers, Brandis said.

Facebook said it had a protocol to respond to requests for police help. But the social media giant said it could not read individual encrypted messages. "Weakening encrypted systems for them (police) would mean weakening it for everyone," a Facebook statement said on Friday.

Australia was a major driver of a statement agreed at the Group of 20 leaders' summit in Germany last week that called on the tech industry to provide "lawful and non-arbitrary access to available information" needed to protect against terrorist threats.

The Australian Federal Police say the proportion of communication traffic they monitor that was encrypted had grown from 3 percent to more than 55 percent in only a few years.

Police say 65 percent of organized crime investigations including terrorism and pedophile rings involved some kind of encryption. —AP

NEVADA DMV NABS CRIMINAL WITH FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

LAS VEGAS: A man who fled federal custody more than 25 years ago couldn't escape new-age crime fighting, thanks to facial recognition technology. The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles said it nabbed 64-year-old Robert Frederick Nelson in June as he tried to renew his state identification card. Nelson has since been turned over to the federal Bureau of Prisons. He's expected to serve his remaining sentence and additional time for fleeing federal custody in 1992.

Federal authorities aren't clear on how Nelson fell through the cracks for so long, said Chris Clifford, a spokesman for the US Marshals Service in Minneapolis. "We almost had to rebuild the entire case," he said.

Nevada DMV spokesman Kevin Malone said a technician processing Nelson's paperwork at the North Las Vegas station called agency investigators after noticing something suspicious about him. Nelson's left the DMV unaware a full-scale probe would follow by officers in the department's Compliance Enforcement Division who investigate identity theft and related issues.

"The facial recognition was only part of it. It was good, old-fashioned police work," Malone said. The investigators discovered Nelson's ID card photo resembled another man: Craig James Pautler, who had a commercial driver's license and a state ID card dating back to 1993. Nelson began using his true identity in 2013 when he got an ID card under his real name, which he attempted to renew last month. In Nevada, people apply for identification in person and leave with a paper detailing

their information. The DMV processes the application, and if approved will mail the identification card to the applicant.

In the case involving Nelson, the resemblance between the two identities prompted investigators to run his criminal history. They found felony convictions under both names, and that he had eluded federal authorities in Minnesota for decades. Nevada officials called to inform him of a problem with his application and asked him to return to the DMV office, where he was arrested June 20.

Mug Shot

Malone said the DMV has used a facial recognition technology since 2008, after moving to a central processing system for all state-issued ID cards to tighten security. The technology is strictly for mug shots and isn't the higher-tech type that can pick people out of a group. The facial recognition software shows possible matching faces, allowing the DMV to further scrutinize applications. Malone said most cases just link similar-looking photos but the department catches ID fraud two to three times a month.

"We've caught a lot of ID theft and ID fraud cases," said Malone. "This is the first time I'm aware of that we've captured an escaped prisoner." The program pre-dates the state's compliance with the federal Real ID Act of 2005, which required all states to enhance ID standards. The process and regulations for state IDs were more lenient before 9/11, which Malone said is probably how Nelson got his other identification documents. —AP

APPLE TO OPEN DATA CENTER IN CHINA WITH GOVERNMENT TIES

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple will open a data center in mainland China with ties to the country's government, raising concerns about the security of iCloud accounts that store personal information transferred from iPhones, iPads and Mac computers there.

The data center announced Wednesday will be located in the Guizhou province and run by a company owned by the Chinese government. Apple is teaming up with the company, Guizhou on the Cloud Big Data, to comply with a new Chinese law requiring data-storage providers to keep the information of mainland China customers on computers located within the country.

The Guizhou data center will store photos, video, documents and other personal information uploaded to iCloud accounts by Apple customers who live in mainland China, even when they're traveling outside the country. Backups and other data stored in iCloud accounts by customers outside China will continue to be stored in data centers in the US and eventually Denmark.

Other major technology companies, including Amazon, Microsoft, and IBM, have already made similar deals to run data centers in mainland China to remain in the good graces of the country's Communist government.

But Apple's acquiescence is striking because CEO Tim Cook has made preserving customers' privacy a company cornerstone. The Cupertino, California, company underscored that commitment last year in a high-profile battle with the US government over a legal demand to crack open the iPhone of a suspected killer in a mass shooting.

Apple has a strong incentive to toe the line in China because that country already is its third-largest market behind North America and Europe, with all signs pointing to it become an even bigger profit center.

China currently accounts for about 20 percent of Apple's revenue.

Even though it's working with a government-owned company, Apple sought to reassure customers in China that the arrangement won't compromise their privacy. "As our customers know, Apple has strong data privacy and security protections in place and no backdoors will be created into any of our systems," the company said in a statement.

What's more, Apple says it will hold to the security keys protecting the data that people routinely back up in iCloud accounts. But experts believe the data center will make it easier for the government to retrieve the information through legal

demands or other means. Apple will find it more challenging to resist any order from a Chinese court to give authorities there access to an iCloud account that they want to sift through, predicted Nate Cardozo, a senior staff attorney specializing in privacy for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights group. Currently, the Chinese government has to funnel those demands through the US court system, a more difficult process to negotiate.

Cardozo recommends that Apple customers in mainland customer turn off the iCloud feature on their iPhones and other devices to protect their information from prying eyes. Data stored on the devices them-

selves should remain secure as long as they lock them with passwords that only the user knows. Even if the government seizes a device, Apple won't have the keys to unlock data. But with iCloud, Apple does have the keys. The exception is passwords and credit card data synced with iCloud Keychain.

Ajay Arora, CEO of data security specialist Vera, also warns that Apple's partnership with a company owned by the Chinese government increases the chances that authorities could secretly pry their way into iCloud accounts.

"It's like Apple is putting the fox in charge of the henhouse," Arora said. —AP



BEIJING: In this Friday, May 13, 2016, file photo, a man uses his mobile phone near an Apple store in Beijing. Apple recently announced it will open a data center in mainland China with ties to the country's government, raising concerns about the security of iCloud accounts that store personal information transferred from iPhones, iPads and Mac computers there. —AP

HYPERLOOP MOVES CLOSER TO NEAR-SUPERSONIC RAIL

SAN FRANCISCO: US startup Hyperloop One announced the first successful full-systems test of its near-supersonic rail transit system. The test took place in May at the company's development track in the Nevada desert near Las Vegas, and involved a vehicle coasting above tracks for slightly more than five seconds using magnetic levitation, according to the startup.

The test vehicle accelerated to a speed of 70 miles (112 kilometers) per hour during the test, and the company's next goal is to ramp the speed to 250 mph (400 kph), Hyperloop One said in a release. "Hyperloop One has accomplished what no one has done before by successfully testing the first full scale Hyperloop system," said startup co-founder and executive chairman Shervin Pishevar.

"By achieving full vacuum, we essentially

invented our own sky in a tube, as if you're flying at 200,000 feet (60,000 meters) in the air."

Hyperloop One had originally promised a full-scale demonstration by the end of 2016, after a successful test of the propulsion system. Systems tested in May included the motor, vacuum pumping, magnetic levitation, and electromagnetic braking, according to the company. Hyperloop One also announced on Wednesday that it has built a prototype pod designed to carry people or cargo through the systems low-pressure tubes. Hyperloop One early this year disclosed a list of locations around the world vying to put near-supersonic rail transit system to the test. Viable submissions had to be condoned by government agencies that would likely be involved in regulating and, ideally, funding the futuristic rail. Hyperloop One wants to get three systems

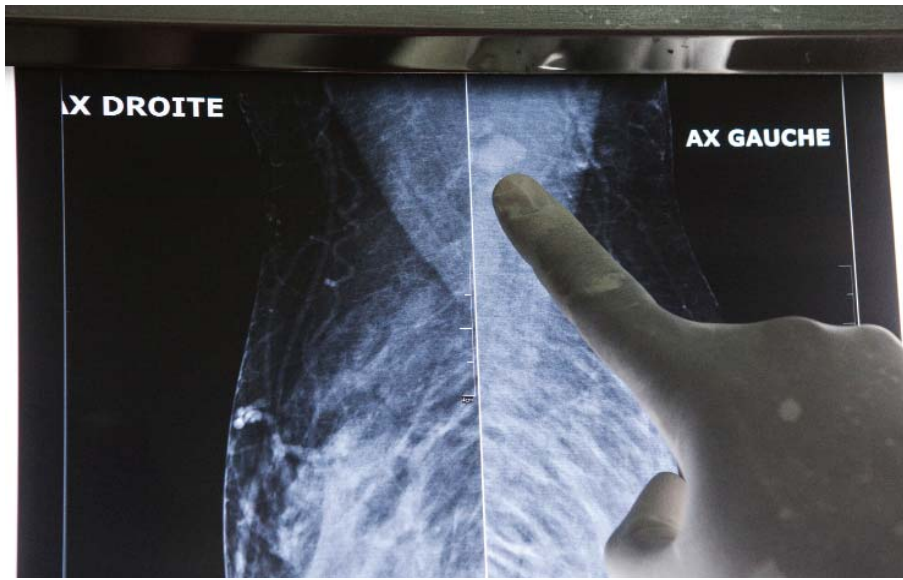
underway, chief executive Rob Lloyd told AFP at the time.

Hyperloop One, which has raised more than \$160 million, was set on an idea laid out by billionaire Elon Musk, the entrepreneur behind electric car company Tesla and private space exploration endeavor SpaceX. Pods would rocket along rails through reduced-pressure tubes at speeds of 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) per hour. Hyperloop One says the system offers better safety than passenger jets, lower build and maintenance costs than high-speed trains, and energy usage, per person, that is similar to a bicycle.

Port colossus DP World Group of Dubai last year invested in the concept, joining backers including French national rail company SNCF, US industrial conglomerate General Electric and Russian state fund RDI. —AFP



Hyperloop One has published a feasibility study that aims to link Stockholm in Sweden and Helsinki.



DAKAR, Senegal: Dr Abdoul Aziz Kasse looks at a mammogram that shows signs of cancer in his office at the Clinique des Mamelles in Dakar, Senegal.—AP photos

IN WEST AFRICA, CANCER PATIENTS FORCED ABROAD FOR TREATMENT

DAKAR, Senegal: Christine's doctor felt a small lump in her left breast at a checkup in 2015, though she was flooded with relief when the technicians assured her they had detected nothing amiss. Still in pain more than a year later, she pushed for another mammogram. The 44-year-old mother of four was then diagnosed with advanced breast cancer.

"It was the descent into hell," she said. "You ask, 'Why, why, why?' ... I was so angry. Because why in 2015 did they not see this, and why was it left for so long?" The word "cancer" is rarely spoken in Senegal, synonymous with death in a country where many like Christine are only diagnosed in the later stages of disease and radiation therapy can be difficult to access. Cancer has become an emerging public health problem in West Africa, and the lack of strong prevention, good screening and treatment often leaves outcomes grim. For that reason, Christine and most other patients don't share their diagnosis, and they ask not to be identified by their full names.

Two new machines

For now, radiation treatment is impossible without leaving the country. Senegal's sole radiotherapy machine, donated in 1989, broke down last year. Senegal's government had promised two new machines by December, and they were delivered weeks ago, but patients must wait until they are functional. In the meantime, their only option is to seek treatment in North Africa or Europe. "Wherever you go in Africa you have the same problem. Late diagnosis is a fact ... and you don't have the same treatment that you have in Europe or the United States or other developing countries," said Macoumba Gaye, head of the radiotherapy department of Dalal Jamm Hospital outside Dakar.

The need for radiation in West Africa is greater, too. While about 70 percent of patients might need radiation in developed countries, more than 80 percent require the treatment in Senegal because their cases are caught at more advanced stages, Gaye said. The problem is only expected to worsen unless improvements are made. The number of cancer cases in Africa is projected to double between 2008 and 2030 because of an aging population, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

The Senegalese Ministry of Health did not respond to several requests for an interview on the broken radiotherapy machine. The country has been planning to set up a National Cancer Institute within five years, plus a registry to track cancer patients. There is also a program to have mammogram machines in all regions of Senegal by next year. Gaye said they hope to have the two new machines up and run-

ning by September. Until then, Senegal's government is paying for patients' travel to nearby Morocco, said Gaye, who is on the committee that approves who can get such funding. He says some 70 patients have been sent to Morocco so far. Treating stage 3 to 4 cancer costs at least \$5,000-\$10,000, he said, while preventative planning such as a pap smear costs only \$20. It's unclear how many people have had to forego the important treatment, but Gaye said it's likely in the hundreds.

Hide their illness

Christine's husband had insurance that allowed her to undergo radiation treatment in Casablanca after her tumor was successfully removed by surgery in Senegal in November. She was fortunate to have a daughter who already lived there, but still had to attend 30 treatment sessions by herself. Christine said she and other West Africans didn't feel entirely welcome in Morocco, adding to the burden of being sick and trying to hide their illness. "Treatment there was frustrating because they were indifferent to me," she said. "But when the Moroccan patients came in they got kisses, greetings and were treated with kindness."

Wearing a wig, a bright purple dress and a bra with inserts, she said she hopes to start a consultation service for others who have to fight cancer, helping them find such bras and wigs. She especially credited Dr. Abdoul Aziz Kasse, her Senegalese surgeon, with helping to save her life. Kasse has been at the forefront of Senegal's cancer care for decades and has been pushing for improved treatment options and government planning to focus on prevention. Kasse has saved lives with mobile screening units as well, saying that screening can reduce cancer rates by some 30 percent. He now hopes to continue helping others like Christine by opening a new private clinic in Senegal's capital that would expand treatment options.

Medical evacuation

Once opened, it will offer advanced technology at a lower cost than treatment in Morocco. He and his French partners hope that their business model can be replicated with satellite facilities in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin, Ivory Coast and Rwanda. Burkina Faso has no radiotherapy machine but expects one by next year, said Paulin Somba, head of non-communicable and chronic diseases at Burkina Faso's health ministry. The government has suspended since 2015 sending its citizens to other countries for medical evacuation because of the costs - the lowest coming in at about 1.5 million CFA, or \$2,500, he said. Because of that, the death rate is at 50 percent, he said, adding that surgery and chemotherapy are available. — AP

TRUMP'S 'DYING IN THE STREETS' LINE VS HEALTH CARE REALITY

PREVENTIVE CARE AND ROUTINE SCREENING CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has often said he doesn't want people "dying in the streets" for lack of health care. But in the United States, where chronic conditions are the major diseases, people decline slowly. Preventive care and routine screening can make a big difference for those at risk for things such as heart problems and cancer, especially over time. That edge is what doctors and patients fear will be compromised if Republican efforts to repeal the Obama-era health law lead to more uninsured people. The uninsured tend to postpone care until problems break through.

It's a message that lawmakers are hearing from doctors' groups and constituents, in letters and emails, and at town hall meetings. About 10 years ago, Cathy Cooper of Ocala, Florida, was battling a blood cancer. Against doctor's advice, she continued to work full time as a paralegal, through chemotherapy and radiation, just to preserve her health insurance. Cooper said she would schedule chemo on Fridays, spend the weekend sick from side effects and report back to work Monday.

Now in her early 30s, Cooper is healthy. She has her own business as a photographer specializing in maternity, newborns, families and seniors, and a family of her own. Her health insurance is through HealthCare.gov. With her cancer history, Cooper is worried about changes under debate that may reduce options for people with medical conditions. She said she voted for Hillary Clinton in the presidential election.

Medicaid coverage

"The 'dying in the streets' thing - it's an over-time process," said Cooper. "If I didn't have insurance, it (cancer) could just keep forming inside me and I wouldn't know. Then I'd go into the hospital, and there's nothing they could do. And then, yeah, I could die in the street. But that's because I wouldn't have had insurance to get things checked out prior to that point."

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr Octavia Cannon said that's basically what happened to one of her patients several years ago. The patient, a working mother with three young children and more than one job, was uninsured after losing previous Medicaid coverage. She went to Cannon, an osteopathic ob-gyn, because of abnormal bleeding. Cannon said she knew something was horribly wrong on the basis of her initial physical examination. The pathology lab confirmed advanced cervical cancer.

"In six months, she was dead," Cannon recalled. "All I could think was 'Who is going to take care of these babies?' If she had only come in for a Pap smear." Such stories are swirling around the Senate debate as Majority Leader



OCALA, Florida: In this photo Cathy Cooper leaves her photo studio in Ocala, Fla.—AP

Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, pushes toward a vote on legislation rolling back much of former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. The GOP bill has been facing headwinds since the Congressional Budget Office estimated it would lead to 22 million more uninsured people by 2026.

Administration officials say the nonpartisan budget office has been wrong before about health coverage, and its analytical methods may give too much weight to the current requirement that most people carry health insurance or risk fines. (Republicans would repeal that immediately.) Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said Trump's goal is more people with health insurance, not fewer. "Nobody is looking at it in its totality," Price said recently on NBC. "We will bring down premiums, we will increase coverage, we'll increase choices. And I believe we'll increase the quality of care provided in this nation."

There's not much debate about the negative consequences of being uninsured. Studies by the National Academies have found that the uninsured are more likely to receive too little care, and too late; be sicker and die sooner; and receive poorer care in the hospital. But surprisingly, there are questions about whether gaining coverage produces tangible health benefits. Major government surveys have documented clear improvements to family finances associated with Obama's coverage expansion. On health itself, the evidence is mixed.

Having insurance is a start

Medicaid expansions in New York, Maine and Arizona in the early 2000s were associated with a 6 percent decline in death rates in those states, compared with neighboring states that did not expand coverage for low-income people. A study of Massachusetts found a similar trend. But in Oregon a Medicaid expansion study that found a marked reduction in depression failed to detect significant improvement in blood sugars, blood pressure and cholesterol levels - risk factors for heart disease and diabetes.

Dr Cyrus Hamidi, a solo family medicine practitioner in Sparks, Maryland, said having insurance is a start, reducing barriers to access for patients. "If you have to pay to go to the doctor, then you worry about payment instead of what you need to do to reduce the risk of dropping dead," he said. Gaywin Day, a union electrician from Austin, Texas, said being able to get coverage under Obama's law in the aftermath of a medical crisis has been "a lifesaver." Day, in his early 60s, was between jobs and uninsured when he had a stroke in March. A couple of months later, a "special enrollment period" enabled him to get subsidized coverage through HealthCare.gov, opening doors to physical therapy and follow-up medical care. Now, Day no longer uses a walker or cane. He's thinking about returning to work. "Nobody wants anybody dying in the streets, but if I hadn't got this ... I could just be shriveling up in my bed," he said. He didn't cast a ballot last year. "I don't vote," said Day. "I do a lot of praying." — AP

FDA OKS NEW JOHNSON & JOHNSON TREATMENT FOR PSORIASIS

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey: People with the skin disorder psoriasis will have another treatment option after US regulators approved a new drug from Johnson & Johnson. The Food and Drug Administration approved Tremfya (trahm-FEYE-eh) Thursday for people with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

Johnson & Johnson said that in one patient study about seven in 10 patients getting Tremfya had clear or nearly clear skin after 24 weeks of treatment, compared with about four in 10 patients receiving rival AbbVie's Humira, the world's top selling drug. Tremfya, which is injected every eight weeks, can cause infections and other serious side effects. It will cost \$9,684 per dose, or about \$58,100 per year, without insurance.—AP



NEW BRUNSWICK: This photo provided by Janssen Biotech, Inc shows the drug Tremfya.—AP

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AL-SAAD FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 'SHAYOUKHA SUMMER CLUB'

Chairwoman of Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research Sheikha Fadiya Al-Saad Al-Sabah announced the launch of the Summer Program for Ibtikar Kuwait Initiative which focuses on

relaying education using fun methods to take advantage of past time with fruitful activities. Sheikha Fadiya said the foundation empowers women through investing in the girls of today, discovering their

skills and developing them. She said that the 'Shayoukha Summer Club' achieved notable success in its first year, and aims to help kindergarten, elementary and intermediate students learn through playing and entertaining trips

organized under the supervision of specialized women. Sheikha Fadiya added that 'Ibtikar Kuwait' is a Kuwaiti initiative that is inspired by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Flow House announced hosting a surfboarding festival next Saturday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and extended an open invitation for people who would like to participate to register before that date. Meanwhile, Flow House also announced organizing the second surfboarding training course soon.

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:30 Company Business
02:10 Larceny
03:50 In The Heart Of The Sea
06:00 The 5th Wave
07:55 Shanghai Knights
09:55 6 Ways To Sundown
11:40 In The Heart Of The Sea
13:45 Insurgent
15:50 The Call Up
17:25 Tracers
19:05 Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
21:10 Die Hard
23:20 Never Back Down: No Surrender

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
01:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
02:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
03:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
04:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
05:02 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
05:49 Catching Monsters
06:36 Meet The Orangutans
07:00 Meet The Orangutans
07:25 Lone Star Law
08:15 The Lion Queen
09:10 After The Attack
10:05 Dog Rescuers
11:00 Wildest Africa
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
12:50 Wildest Latin America
13:45 Wildest Latin America
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
16:30 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
17:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
18:20 Treehouse Masters
19:15 Lone Star Law
20:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
21:05 Lone Star Law
22:00 Treehouse Masters
22:55 Tanked
23:50 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 00:00 Doctors
00:30 EastEnders
01:00 Cold Feet
01:50 Cold Feet
02:35 War And Peace

- 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Coaching Bad
06:20 Bondi Ink
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Sweat Inc.
11:50 Lip Sync Battle
12:15 Coaching Bad
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Urban Tarzan
14:20 Tattoo Disasters
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Lip Sync Battle
17:20 Ridiculousness
17:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagel
18:12 Key And Peele
18:35 Impractical Jokers
18:59 Disaster Date
19:22 Lip Sync Battle
19:46 Lip Sync Battle
20:08 Ridiculousness Arabia
20:33 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagel
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The Half Hour
22:00 Chappelle's Show
22:25 Chappelle's Show
22:50 Live At The Apollo
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

- 00:30 Unchained Reaction
01:20 Unchained Reaction
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
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:25 Doki
07:50 Kids vs Film

- Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
07:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 The Zhuzhus
08:10 Bizaardvark
08:35 Bunk'd
08:50 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 Zapped
12:20 Stuck In The Middle
12:45 Stuck In The Middle
13:10 Stuck In The Middle
13:35 Stuck In The Middle
14:00 Stuck In The Middle
14:25 Jessie
14:50 The Zhuzhus
15:15 Bizaardvark
15:40 Elena Of Avalor
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Stuck In The Middle
17:25 Lemonade Mouth
18:05 Best Friends Whenever
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Elena Of Avalor
20:20 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies
20:45 Bizaardvark
21:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
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
23:55 Loirock

Disney Junior

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopydoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive

- 11:40 How Do They Do It?
12:02 How Do They Do It?
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters
13:10 Gold Rush
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 Storage Hunters
18:20 Storage Hunters
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 Mega Trains
21:50 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon
22:40 Ocean Warriors
23:30 Fast N' Loud

Disney XD

- 06:00 Supa Strikas
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Walk The Prank
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Disney11
09:25 Disney11
09:50 Disney11
10:20 Disney11
10:45 Disney11
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior
13:30 Milo Murphy's Law
13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
14:40 K.C. Undercover
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Supa Strikas
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
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 Mighty Med
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Pick Me!
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Royal Stories
04:15 Royal Stories
04:50 The Royal Good Guys
05:50 Inside Windsor Castle
06:50 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
07:40 Grantchester
08:35 This Is England '88
09:30 Broadchurch
10:25 Victoria
11:45 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
12:20 Royal Recipes
13:15 Grantchester
14:10 Doc Martin
15:00 Inside Windsor Castle
16:00 The Royal Good Guys
16:55 This Is England '88
17:50 Royal Stories
18:15 Royal Stories
18:45 Grantchester
19:45 Broadchurch
20:40 The Royal Good Guys
21:35 This Is England '88
22:30 Victoria
23:40 Lewis

EHD

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

food network

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
02:00 Mystery Diners
02:30 Mystery Diners
03:00 Man Fire Food

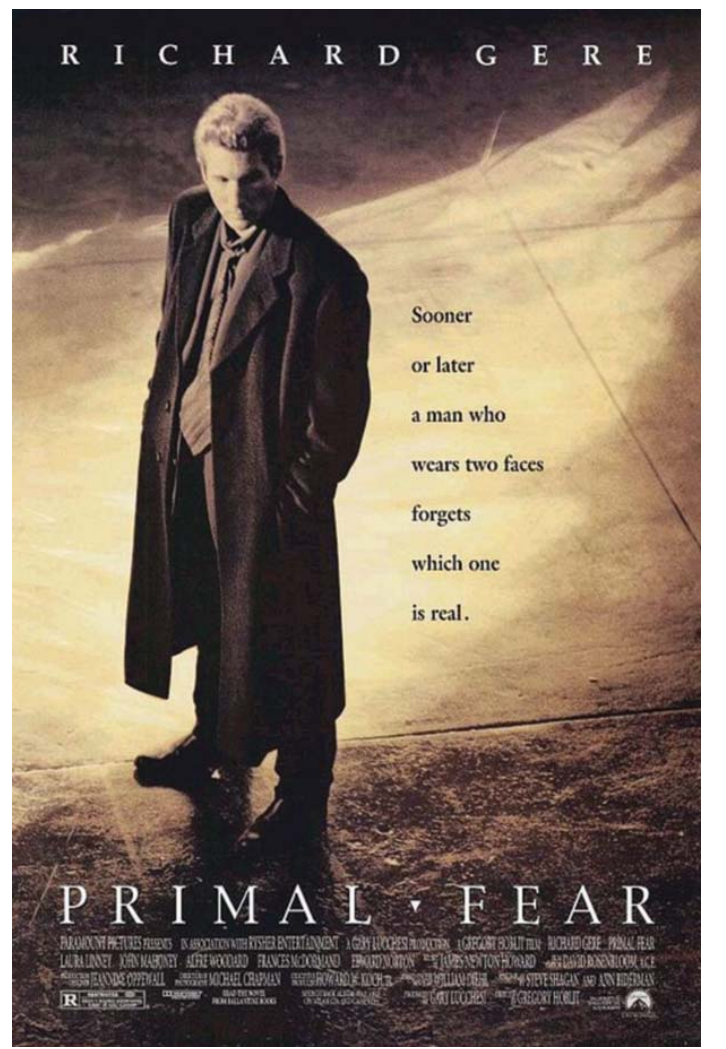
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa
08:30 Barefoot Contessa
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table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

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Pick Me!
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Royal Stories
04:15 Royal Stories
04:50 The Royal Good Guys
05:50 Inside Windsor Castle
06:50 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
07:40 Grantchester
08:35 This Is England '88
09:30 Broadchurch
10:25 Victoria
11:45 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
12:20 Royal Recipes
13:15 Grantchester
14:10 Doc Martin
15:00 Inside Windsor Castle
16:00 The Royal Good Guys
16:55 This Is England '88
17:50 Royal Stories
18:15 Royal Stories
18:45 Grantchester
19:45 Broadchurch
20:40 The Royal Good Guys
21:35 This Is England '88
22:30 Victoria
23:40 Lewis

HISTORY HD

- 00:20 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Counting Cars: Best Of
02:25 Counting Cars: Best Of
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 Pawn Stars
03:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
04:05 Storage Wars Texas
04:30 Storage Wars Texas
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Fifth Gear
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
18:30 Lost Worlds
19:20 Mountain Men
19:50 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Pawn Stars
21:50 Storage Wars Miami
22:15 Storage Wars Miami



PRIMAL FEAR ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 22:40 Detroit Steel
23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Invasion Earth
01:00 King Fishers
02:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
03:00 Mega Factories
04:00 Nazi Megastructures
05:00 China's Golden Monkeys
06:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
07:00 Border Wars
08:00 Underworld, Inc.
09:00 Locked Up Abroad
10:00 World's Most Extreme
11:00 Primal Survivor
12:00 Surgery Ship
13:00 Cesar To The Rescue Compilation
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 King Fishers
16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
17:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
18:00 Hell On Earth
20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
20:50 Continent 7: Antarctica
21:40 Hell On Earth
23:20 Nazi Megastructures

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Mind Of A Giant
01:10 Dangerous Encounters
02:00 Secrets Of The Wild
02:50 Search For King Cobra
03:45 Hunter Hunted
04:40 Jobs That Bite!
05:35 Hippo vs Croc
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Safari Live
09:15 Africa's Deadliest (2017)
10:10 Wild 24
11:05 The Monster Project
12:00 Alien Crab
12:55 Ultimate Predators GPU
13:50 Man vs. Octopus
14:45 Hunter Hunted
15:40 Jobs That Bite!
16:35 Penguinalooza
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Savage Island Giants
19:20 Hunter Hunted
20:10 Jobs That Bite!
21:00 Penguinalooza
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Savage Island Giants
23:30 Alien Crab

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 01:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
03:35 The Secret Of The Magic Gourd
05:15 Mary Poppins
07:35 The Boxrolls

- 09:15 Nancy Drew
11:00 Mary Poppins
13:20 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
15:00 The Emperor's New Groove
16:20 James And The Giant Peach
17:45 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
19:25 Houbal On The Trail Of Marsupilami
21:15 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
22:55 The Emperor's New Groove

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 00:00 Boys Don't Cry
02:00 East Side Sushi
03:50 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
05:35 The Better Angels
07:15 East Side Sushi
09:10 Land Of Mine
10:55 Still Alice
12:35 The Inevitable Defeat Of Mister & Pete
14:20 The Sting
16:30 Fort McCoy
18:10 Ed Wood
20:15 Whiplash
22:05 Breaking And Entering

OSN MOVIES KIDS

- 00:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
01:20 Robopans: Rebooted
02:55 Two Buddies And A Badger
04:20 Twiagon
06:00 Get Squirrelly
07:25 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
08:55 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
10:40 Last Wizard
12:10 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
13:20 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
14:35 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
15:45 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
17:25 Paws
18:50 Oops Noah Is Gone
20:20 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
21:30 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
22:50 Last Wizard

OSN MOVIES

- 01:45 The Bucket List
03:30 Air Force One
05:50 Paddington
07:40 The Bucket List
09:25 Big
11:15 Pitch Perfect 2
13:15 War Horse
15:45 Goosebumps
17:35 Big Fish
19:45 Enemy Of The State
22:00 Primal Fear

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 00:30 Da Vinci's Machines
01:20 Weird Or What?
03:48 Food Factory
05:24 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Da Vinci's Machines
08:14 Da Vinci's Machines
09:02 Weird Or What?
11:26 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
19:30 Cosmic Collisions
20:20 Cosmic Collisions
21:30 Cosmic Collisions
22:00 Mega Engineering
22:50 Extreme Engineering
23:40 Extreme Engineering

TLC HD

- 00:20 My 600lb Life
01:50 Suddenly Rich
02:35 Suddenly Rich
03:20 Sister Wives
04:05 Toddlers & Taras: Coach Wars
04:50 Toddlers & Taras: Coach Wars
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 7 Little Johnstons
07:07 Say Yes To The Dress
07:30 Sister Wives
08:15 Little People, Big World
08:37 Little People, Big World
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Taras: Coach Wars
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Separated At Birth
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knobs Best
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knobs Best
13:10 Kate Plus 8
13:55 Toddlers & Taras: Coach Wars
14:40 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm



INSURGENT ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 03:20 EastEnders
03:50 Doctors
04:20 Orphan Black
05:10 Agatha Raisin
06:00 Holby City
07:00 Doctors
07:30 EastEnders
08:00 New Tricks
08:50 Call The Midwife
09:45 Father Brown
10:30 Doctors
11:05 EastEnders
11:35 New Tricks
12:30 Call The Midwife
13:25 Father Brown
14:05 Doctors
14:35 EastEnders
15:10 New Tricks
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:00 Father Brown
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 In Plain Sight
21:00 Ashes To Ashes
21:50 Ripper Street
22:45 One Of Us
23:40 Doctors

- 08:15 Kids vs Film
08:40 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Ultimate Survival
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Unchained Reaction
17:50 Unchained Reaction
18:40 Breaking Magic
19:05 Breaking Magic
19:30 Prehistoric
20:20 Clash Of The Dinosaurs
21:10 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
22:00 Untamed & Uncut
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Untamed & Uncut

ID X

- 00:30 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
01:20 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
02:10 Murder Calls
03:00 Murder Comes To Town
03:48 Unravell'd
04:36 Unravell'd
05:24 Unravell'd
06:12 Unravell'd
07:00 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
09:55 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
10:20 The Locator
10:45 The Locator
11:10 Florida's Craziest Crimes
12:00 California Investigator
14:55 California Investigator
15:20 Lone Star Mystery: A Disappeared Special
16:10 Nightmare Next Door
17:00 Southern Fried Homicide
17:50 Southern Fried Homicide
18:40 Southern Fried Homicide
19:30 Southern Fried Homicide
20:20 Gone In Georgia: A Disappeared Special
21:10 Blood Relatives
22:00 Shadow Of Doubt
22:50 Murder Calls
23:40 Grave Secrets

Disney Channel HD

- 00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermore Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 02:40 Loopydoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopydoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopydoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopydoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
07:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
07:50 Goldie & Bear
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
09:05 PJ Masks
09:35 Sofia The First
10:00 The Lion Guard
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 Lady And The Tramp 2
12:25 The Lion Guard
12:50 Sofia The First
13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:45 Doc McStuffins
14:10 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
15:05 PJ Masks
15:30 The Lion Guard
16:00 Miles From Tomorrow
16:25 Sofia The First
16:50 PJ Masks
17:05 Goldie & Bear
17:35 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:05 Lady And The Tramp 2
20:15 Goldie & Bear
20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:30 Sofia The First
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopydoo

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Ocean Warriors
01:05 What On Earth?
01:50 What On Earth?
02:35 What On Earth?
03:20 What On Earth?
04:05 What On Earth?
04:50 What On Earth?
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Gold Divers
06:45 Wheeler Dealers
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Deadliest Job Interview
09:00 Storage Hunters
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Yukon Men
10:55 Ice Lake Rebels

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
01:00 I Was Possessed
02:00 Babies Behind Bars
03:00 Escaping Polygamy
04:00 My Ghost Story: Caught On Camera
05:00 I Was Possessed
06:00 The First 48
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Gangs Of Britain...
09:00 Babies Behind Bars
10:00 Babies Behind Bars
11:00 Evil Up Close
12:00 Evil Up Close
13:00 Evil Up Close
14:00 It Takes A Killer
14:30 It Takes A Killer
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Crime Stories
19:00 Crime Stories
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Killers

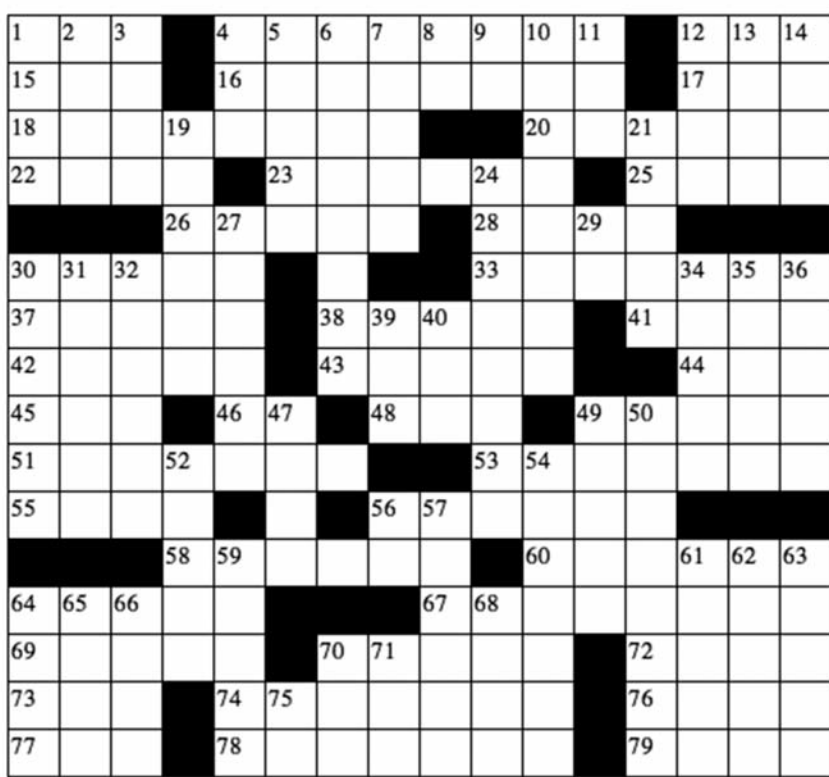
COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Chappelle's Show
00:30 Chappelle's Show
00:55 Tosh.0
01:20 Tosh.0
01:45 The Alternative Comedy Experience
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition



STILL ALICE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CROSSWORD 1660



ACROSS

1. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
4. Dance and make rhythmic clicking sounds by means of metal plates nailed to the sole of the dance shoes.
12. A light touch or stroke.
15. A shape that sags.
16. Anise trees.
17. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
18. Unusual or striking.
20. A hinged vertical airfoil mounted at the tail of an aircraft and used to make horizontal course changes.
22. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
23. Medieval artillery used during sieges.
25. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
26. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
28. Type genus of the Nepidae.
30. Candlewood of Mexico and southwestern California having tall columnar stems and bearing honey-scented creamy yellow flowers.
33. A figure of a person made of packed snow.
37. (Greek mythology) One of the mountain nymphs.
38. Of or related to the amnion or characterized by developing an amnion.
41. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
42. Any spherical or nearly spherical bacteria.
43. Support column consisting of a steel cylinder filled with concrete.
44. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
45. Used of a single unit or thing.
46. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
48. An accountant certified by the state.
51. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
53. A person who makes a grant in legal form.
55. Chief port of Yemen.
58. Respiratory disorder characterized by wheezing.
60. (Akkadian) Mother of the gods and consort of Apsu.
64. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
67. (Italian cookery) Squid prepared as food.
69. Greek mythology.
72. Not fake or counterfeit.
73. (prefix) Bad or erroneous or lack of.
74. The ninth month of the Moslem calendar.
76. A man who is the lover of a girl or young woman.
77. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
78. A flammable gas obtained by cracking petroleum.
79. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).

DOWN

1. A former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia.
2. Type genus of the Majidae.
3. God of fire.
4. God of war and sky.
5. Give out.
6. Of or relating to or resembling the physical or orbital characteristics of a planet or the planets.
7. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
8. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
9. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
10. The metal or paper medium of exchange that is presently used.
11. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
12. An informal term for a father.
13. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
14. Denuded of leaves.
19. Hard greenish-brown wood of the lignum vitae tree and other trees of the genus Guaiacum.
21. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
24. Fodder harvested while green and kept succulent by partial fermentation as in a silo.
27. A belt-shaped region in the heavens on either side to the ecliptic.
29. A radioactive metallic element that is similar to tellurium and bismuth.
31. (of linens or clothes) Smoothed with a hot iron.
32. Pull back or move away or backward.
34. A master's degree in literature.
35. (informal British usage) Aggravation or aggression.
36. A person who gives a name or names.
39. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
40. The branch of information science that deals with natural language information.
47. Consideration in dealing with others and avoiding giving offence.
49. A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
50. Any amoeba of the genus Endamoeba.
52. Complacently or inanely foolish.
54. A small horizontal rope between the shrouds of a sailing ship.
56. Before noon.
57. The face or front of a building.
59. A long steep slope or cliff at the edge of a plateau or ridge.
61. An official who carries a mace of office.
62. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.
63. Emperor of Rome.
65. A sudden short attack.
66. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
68. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
70. The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
71. A reproach for some lapse or misdeed.
75. A colorless and odorless inert gas.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself awake at an early hour this morning. You could be helping someone move or driving someone to the airport. Whatever the case, you are available to help. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on a greater importance now. Even though it is the top of the morning when you help this person, you are reflective and may be a mirror for this person's focus. You are equality-minded and easy to talk with—a good mediator as well. As a sociable and slightly frivolous orientation sets in this afternoon, you may find yourself planning a neighborhood get-together. There is time to relax—perhaps a massage or some leisure time in a pool. You are driven to excel in any form of physical or creative expression today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are good at relations regarding politics, diplomacy and sales—not to mention considerate and helpful. This is a good day for you to deal in sales or presentations. You have an inner urge to be all things to all people and would rather bend than argue. You will be helping a friend today because you are willing to listen and not criticize. You are a natural diplomat, always concerned with the comfort and welfare of others. You stay in the background, but are able to manipulate and bring out cooperation in others every time. A real estate profession is something you might seriously consider. This is a day you should enjoy—relax. With your strong drive to do and accomplish, every bit of relaxation you get will be beneficial.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Progressive people and idealistic groups or concepts play a more important role in your life now—a new cycle begins. There is a concern for something bigger than any one person—perhaps an interest in civic affairs or even some new recycling technique. You are very communicative, flexible, mental and other-oriented today. You will find many, particularly young people, listen to your ideas and advice. Your laser-like mind makes conversations fast-paced and illuminating. A ready wit and a great sense of humor create a rewarding day. You may join a self-help group or find yourself talking about a self-help book to a close friend this evening. Whatever the case, you have insight into your own emotions and drive. You can be a good mentor.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Easy does it—this is one of those busy days. If you need to concentrate on a particular chore, it would be a good idea to suggest that others either help you or leave you alone to do your work. This way, you will not get as many interruptions—and who knows—someone might help you with your special chore or project. A family gathering may be planned for later this day, perhaps a picnic. Tonight could complete your little gathering with a nearby outdoor concert. A music festival or some other type of fun activity with lots of children and unique exhibits just gives everyone the perfect opportunity to get to know each other better. There are opportunities to teach young people a sense of sharing and support of each other.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Having and appreciating things of beauty and value plays a big role in your life at this time. Making the most of what you have, striving for security and stability; that's the impulse that stirs in you now. You find yourself talking about investing and may even have a personal plan. Provided you do not spend the entire budget on the fancy things that catch your eye, a shopping expedition can be a financially favorable one for you now. Circumstances may expand your appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. Your system of values may deepen, providing you with a better sense of discrimination and good taste. There is a desire to purchase items and you might forget when to stop adding to your basket. You are inspired to write poetry.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are not bound by relationships and are thus not much of a domestic. You find it easy to work with other people and tend to pour a lot of energy into those around you. Foreign affairs may catch your attention at this time. Perhaps an investment you are thinking about is beginning to show quite an upswing in potential. You will find support from others when you turn your attention to health, food, nutrition and areas where service or attention to detail is in high focus. You may enjoy working with a group of people that have similar thinking or politics. With your powerful spirit, you enjoy your strong emotions and have an active social life. There are opportunities to show off your charming side this evening at an upscale social affair.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are very much the creature of habit. The encircling network of friends and relationships are crucial to your success or lack thereof from time to time. You are nourished in great measure by the atmosphere and conditions you are able to set up. You may, however, tend to fluctuate between uninspired routine and crazy binges. For the next few days you may want to spend some time in organizing your thoughts and goals-making lists. Do not forget to walk around your home and make any necessary notes about updates. This is a good time to change the air filters, set out a soaker hose, clean vents, etc. Enjoy a bit of time away from work and responsibilities, perhaps by short trips to fun places this weekend. Consider creating a butterfly garden.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is easy for you to express yourself to others—you always manage to make a good appearance. You have an easy manner and find it easy to communicate with just about anyone. You like beautiful surroundings, everything that is calm, tasteful and harmonious. You may be planning a water garden for those hot summer days—maybe a few goldfish. This afternoon you will find yourself involved in several fun conversations with those you love. You are very giving, conciliatory and even flattering in relationships, able to adjust to any situation. Budget restraints are definitely needed so that some item you want in the future will be more attainable. Suggestions by young members in the family will give you new ideas.



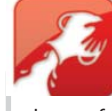
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like your conversations and thinking to stay somewhere near the surface today. This is a day of rest, and deep problem-solving conversations are certainly not on your to-do list. You can create new subjects easily with all the interests you have. You will enjoy your friends today—you love to interact with them. There may be an occasion to teach someone how to write music or to put one of your poems to music. You appreciate change, variety and making local connections—there may be an open house or opening day for some new business. You have many avenues to explore this weekend and many positive things to accomplish. You are more attractive than usual. Intimacy with a person you love will go beyond the usual.



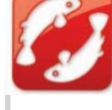
Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Circumstances may press you and tend to bring out the rebel in you. A little bicycle ride or just a change of scenery for a short while will help to bring your emotions back in balance. Self-control is the accepted and admired behavior, and you are able to respond in positive ways. Circumstances work together to bring out your ideals—making it easier to make your dreams real. You are very original when it comes to home and surroundings—the environment you build around you. This could also manifest in new ideas for unusual ways of supporting yourself in the future. Get outside and be with friends this afternoon—enjoy a breath of fresh air! This evening, literature is on your mind. That book you want to write or read may hold your attention.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

There are changes around your household that may not be the most pleasant for you. Change would be easier if you could have more control. However, if you are paying for these changes, you have the power! This doesn't mean you could be bossy, but it does mean you could become more influential with the price, color, style, etc. If you do not care about any of these, the changes will probably stay. Progressive people and idealistic groups or concepts play an important role in your life. This may be a special day when you have been looking forward to a trip to a museum, art show or the opening night of a play where a family member is performing. You enjoy a bit of culture from time to time and this experience is special.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Everything points to your taking the lead in today's activities. You could feel great support from those around you. You feel healthy and natural. You will find that today is packed full of communication with friends, especially those you may not have seen in some time. Perhaps it is time for a reunion. Practical and effective ideas are the ones that make the most sense—putting them to good use is a focus for you. Material things are foremost on your mind in many respects; an emphasis on the real rather than the ideal. This is the time you may decide to install a porch instead of a deck. Now when company comes, there will be a place to put them. If it is a porch with wide windows, you will enjoy sitting out there for meditations.

WORD SEARCH

Les Misérables

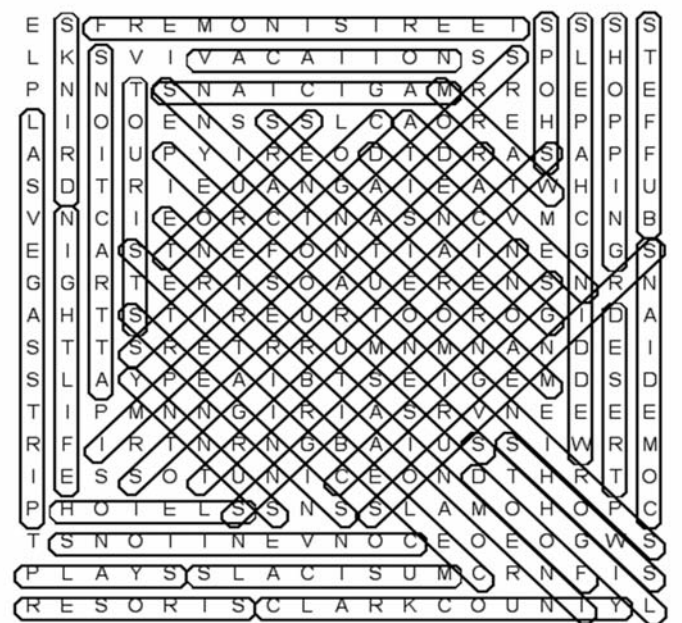
Find and circle all of the names and items from the novel Les Misérables. The remaining 47 letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| ARGOT | FACTORY | MARIUS | REVOLUTION |
| AZELMA | FANTINE | MAYOR | RUE PLUMET |
| BARICADES | FRANCE | MERCY | SEWERS |
| BISHOP MYRIEL | FRANCIS | MONTFERMEIL | SOLDIERS |
| BREAD | FRENCH | NOVEL | STUDENTS |
| CONVENT | GAVROCHE | PARIS | SUICIDE |
| CONVICT | GORBEAU HOUSE | PATRON-MINETTE | THE SEINE |
| COSETTE | INNKEEPER | PRISON | THENARDIER |
| DOLL | INSPECTOR JAVERT | RECONCILIATION | VICTOR HUGO |
| ENJOLRAS | JEAN VALJEAN | REDEMPTION | WEDDING |
| EPONINE | JUNE REBELLION | | |

Friday's Solution

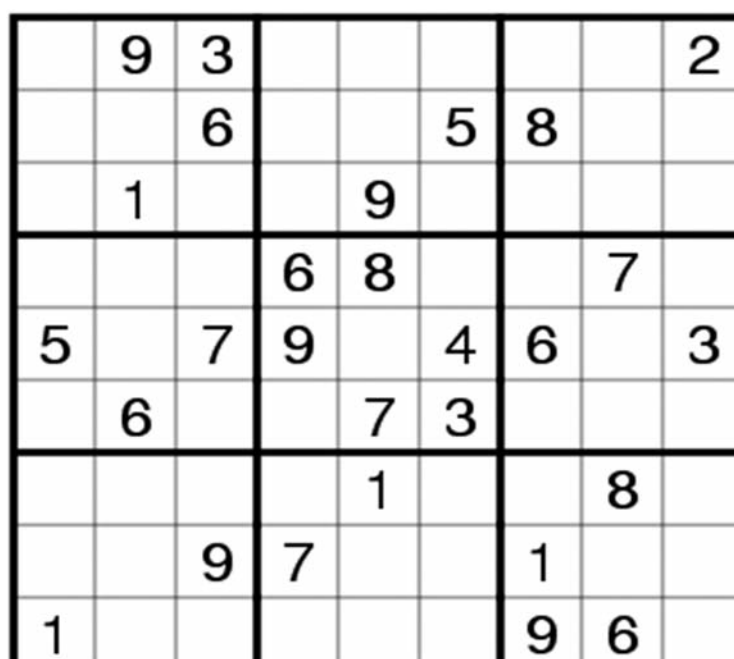
Las Vegas



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| ATTRACTIONS | ENTERTAINMENT | NEON SIGNS | SINGERS |
| BUFFETS | FOOD | NEVADA | SOUVENIRS |
| CASINOS | FREMONT STREET | NIGHTLIFE | SPRING MOUNTAINS |
| CELEBRITIES | HOTELS | PLAYS | SUNNY |
| CLARK COUNTY | IMPERSONATORS | PERFORMERS | TOURISTS |
| COMEDIANS | LAS VEGAS STRIP | RESTAURANTS | TOURS |
| CONCERTS | LIGHTS | RESTAURANTS | TRIBUTE ACTS |
| CONVENTIONS | MAGICIANS | SHOPPING | VACATION |
| DESERT | MARRIAGES | SHOPS | WARM |
| DINING | MUSICALS | SHOWS | WEDDING CHAPELS |
| DRINKS | | | |

The hidden message is: ELVIS PRESLEY IMPERSONATOR

Daily SuDoku



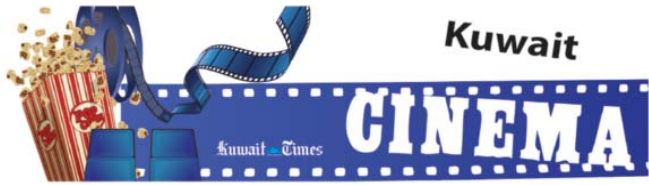
Friday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (13/07/2017 TO 19/07/2017)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme
11:40 AM	SHARQIA-1	6:45 PM	THE HUNTER'S PRAYER
1:55 PM	CARS 3	9:45 PM	
4:10 PM	CARS 3	12:30 AM	AVENUES-2
6:30 PM	CARS 3	11:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX
8:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:15 PM	CARS 3 -3D-4DX
10:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX
12:45 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	7:15 PM	CARS 3 -3D-4DX
		9:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX
		12:15 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX
11:45 AM	SHARQIA-2	12:30 PM	AVENUES-3
2:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
4:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
6:25 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	6:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
9:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	8:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
12:05 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
		12:45 AM	THE MUMMY
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-3	12:35 PM	360°-1
1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:25 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
4:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:20 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D
7:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:05 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
9:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:55 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		
11:30 AM	MUHALAB-1	11:55 AM	360°-2
1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
3:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
5:45 PM	CARS 3	6:05 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
8:00 PM	CARS 3	8:05 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
10:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:05 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
12:15 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
1:00 PM	MUHALAB-2	11:45 AM	360°-3
1:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:45 AM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi
3:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
6:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	5:45 PM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi
9:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	5:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
12:05 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	8:55 PM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi
		8:55 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)
12:15 PM	MUHALAB-3	12:15 AM	AL-KOUT1
3:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	5:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3
7:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	7:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
9:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
12:30 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:45 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING
12:15 PM	FANAR-1	1:00 PM	AL-KOUT2
2:50 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	1:45 PM	CARS 3
4:50 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
6:50 PM	THE HUNTER'S PRAYER	3:45 PM	CARS 3
8:50 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	3:45 PM	CARS 3
10:50 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:00 PM	CARS 3
12:50 AM	THE HUNTER'S PRAYER	7:00 PM	CARS 3
		10:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
1:15 PM	FANAR-2	12:30 AM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales
2:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		
4:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		

PREFABRICATED OFFICE FOR SALE

Prefabricated office for sale at east Ahmadi 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'. (built on the ground, at project site).

Ground and first floor with 52 office rooms, 4 kitchens, 4 toilets and 30 car park shed. Steel structure and Sandwich panels walls.

Interested parties may inspect and submit their bid in a sealed envelope on or before Sunday 23rd July 2017. for more details contact on: 99473630 / 97489645.

The Management reserve the right to cancel/amend the Bid at any stage without assigning any reason and without any obligation on the part of the Company.

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available on June 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 13-7-2017

SITUATION WANTED

I am an Accountant holding qualifications of ACCA, MBA Finance and B.Com, with 8 years of experience in Kuwait, looking for suitable job in reputed Audit Firms, Investment companies or Islamic banks. Contact: 55829223, email: acconline@ymail.com (C 5328) 16-7-2017

FOR SALE

A women's beauty shop with all its equipment, of an area of 190 meters. Tel: 99006777

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:26
Shorook:	04:59
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:49
Isha:	20:19

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 16/7/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 16/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:55	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	AEE	943	ATH	03:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	UAE	775	Dubai	03:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	THY	753	Istanbul	04:00
AEE	942	ATH	02:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	KAC	103	London	05:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	QTR	8320	Beirut/Doha	06:50
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR	238	Amman	07:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
QTR	8320	Doha	05:20	KAC	521	Al Najaf	07:35
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	WAN	953	GYD	08:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	177	Vienna	08:25
KAC	1802	Cairo	06:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	513	Tehran	08:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	JZR	256	Beirut	09:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	165	Rome	09:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	101	Dubai	09:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:25	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:25
KAC	522	Al Najaf	11:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	SAW	704	Damascus	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	VIZ	201	AN12	TQD
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
FEG	1933	Sohag	12:55	VIZ	203	TQD	12:00

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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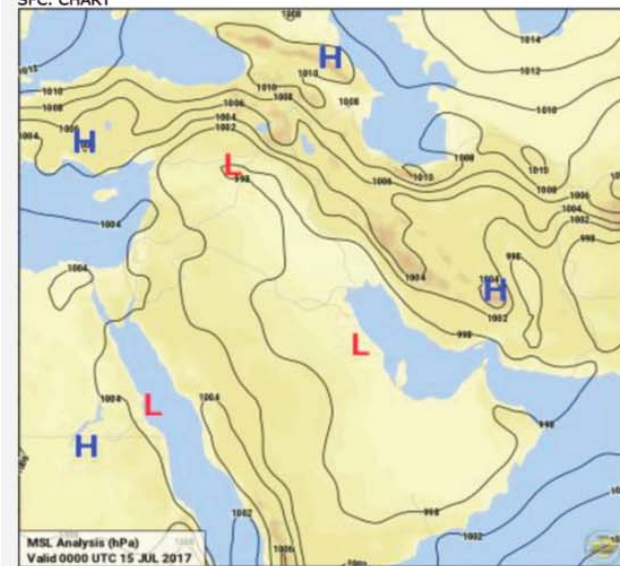
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 15/07/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 47 °C

By Day : Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.
By Night : Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h .

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	Very hot	Very hot	Very hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas
Min Temp °C	33	34	35	33
Max Temp °C	48	50	49	47
Wind Direction	variable changing to northerly westerly	northerly westerly	northerly westerly	variable changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 32	15 - 40	15 - 40	08 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	35		46	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33		47	
ABDALY	31		46	
BUBYAN	31		45	
JAHRA	34		48	
FAILAKA ISLAND	32		46	
SALMIYAH	34		44	
AHMADI	33		42	
JAL ALIYAH	33		48	
QAROH ISLAND	32		40	
UMM AL-MARADEM	32		40	
NUWAISIB	33		45	
WAFRA	30		48	
SALMY	31		48	
MUTRIBA	33		49	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	34
Max Rel Hum (%)	21
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:59
Sunset	18:49

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:26
Sunrise	04:59
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:49
Isha	20:19



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

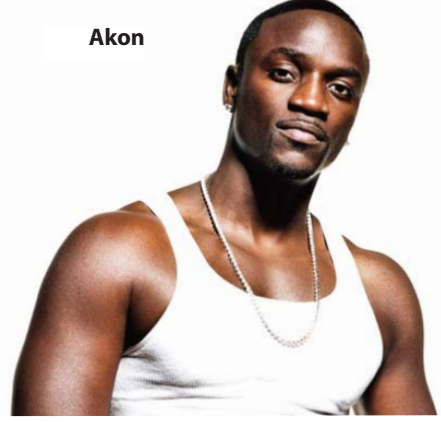
Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax:
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MUSIC & MOVIES

Rapper Akon to buy 50% of African music download service

Senegalese-American rapper Akon announced yesterday he would purchase 50 percent of African music download service Musik Bi, as the platform struggles to gain a foothold after its launch 18 months ago. Africa's first home-grown platform for legal music downloads, Musik Bi launched in

Akon



Senegal in February 2016 with a mission to promote African artists, pay them properly, and fight internet piracy.

Akon, whose real name is Aliaune Badara Thiam, announced in Dakar he would become the majority shareholder in the service, describing Musik Bi as "the platform of the future." "It's not

just a platform for Senegal but for Africa," he added, refusing to be drawn on what he had paid for the transaction. Best known for his singles "Locked Up" and "Smack That", Akon has devoted more of his time in recent years to his Lighting Africa solar energy initiative and other charitable pursuits. He launched his latest single "Khalice", a collaboration with Senegalese superstar Youssou N'dour, exclusively on Musik Bi.

More than 200 internationally famous musicians, along with younger rappers, jazz artists and Christian and Muslim vocalists, initially agreed to put their music on Musik Bi, where users can download it using their phone credit. CEO Moustapha Diop, whose company Solid pioneered the project, said ongoing disputes with phone companies over their cut of takings had hindered Musik Bi's reach. "We have the ambition of developing across Africa and being 'the' musical distribution platform in Africa," Diop told journalists. "The profit made by the operators is problematic because it goes against the interests of the artists and the platform in general. We will keep pushing to get a reasonable deal," he added.

After mobile operators took their share, artists keep 60 percent of their income from the service, while Musik Bi take the remaining 40 percent. The platform also hopes to broaden into a music festival, television channel and a streaming service, Akon said. Piracy and changing consumer habits have seen record sales drop across the continent, with illegal downloads tempting African consumers looking online for music while copyright enforcement remains relatively weak. — AFP



In this undated image Beyonce poses with her newborn twins Sir Carter and Rumi. — AP

BEYONCE INTRODUCES NEWBORN TWINS SIR CARTER AND RUMI

Beyonce has finally debuted her twins a month after they were born. The singer posted a picture of herself holding the babies on Instagram late Thursday night and wrote in the caption, "Sir Carter and Rumi 1 month today." She didn't mention the babies' genders, but Beyonce's mother wrote on Instagram that the pop star had given birth to a boy and a girl. Beyonce is wearing a flowing garment with a long veil in the photo and standing in front a flowered arch with the sea behind her.

It gained millions of likes in a matter of hours and already is among the most-liked Instagram photos of all time. Beyonce already holds that crown with her Instagram pregnancy announcement in February. Rumors have swirled about the twins' birth in recent weeks, but her representatives had declined comment. Sir Carter and Rumi join 5-year-old big sister Blue Ivy. Celebrities congratulated Beyonce on social media Friday, including Nicki Minaj, who posted happy emoji's under Beyonce's post. Grammy-nominated R&B singer Tamar Braxton wrote to Beyonce that she is "happy and so honored that God would choose you sis for these type of blessings! Let him continue to guide you."

The real-life Jedi Council policing Planet 'Star Wars'



This file photo shows a general view of the atmosphere during The World Premiere of Lucasfilm's "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, In Hollywood, California. — AFP photos



This file photo shows fans dressed up as Star Wars characters as they pose ahead of the European Premiere of "Star Wars The Force Awakens" in central London.



This file photo shows a Star Wars banner hanging at the Dolby Theatre as preparations are made for the premiere of Walt Disney Pictures And Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, California.

Deep within Lucasfilm's San Francisco headquarters, a group of elders act as a real-life Jedi Council-keepers of sacred knowledge who police everything that happens in the "Star Wars" universe. Their job is to make sure every movie, animated television show, novel, guidebook, comic and video game is part of one, big, internally-consistent story. Known as the "Lucasfilm Story Group," this cabal of around a dozen experts maintains a meticulously detailed database of "Star Wars" lore, from major plot points to the tiniest specifications on a spaceship never seen on camera.

"A lot of what we do, and what I do specifically, is basically keeping track of 'Star Wars' as a real place with a real history," said creative executive Pablo Hidalgo, sometimes referred to as the "Yoda of Lucasfilm." "And then we see what that gets you as far as storytelling opportunities go." Set up when Disney bought "Star Wars" in 2012, it was one of the first innovations of producing legend and newly appointed Lucasfilm chief Kathleen Kennedy. Led by Hidalgo, Carrie Beck, Diana Williams and a handful of other lifelong fans, the group's big

first task was wiping the slate clean to make way for this new single narrative. The group staged a Brexit of sorts from their own EU-George Lucas's mainly fan-created "Expanded Universe" of comics, novels, video games, and more, built up over decades.

Obscure

That material would stay in circulation under a new "Star Wars Legends" banner, but movie episodes seven to nine would not have to honor its many stories. From then on, all material-from the new movies to the "Clone Wars" and "Rebels" animated series-would go through the Story Group for approval as part of the official "canon." "We had decades and decades of publishing that was written with the assumption that there would be no more 'Star Wars' movies," said Hidalgo, who joined Beck and Williams at a Disney press day in Los Angeles this week.

"When it became apparent that we were going to do 'Episode VII'-and the storyline that George kicked off made it

clear that 'Episode VII' did not resemble the galaxy described in the books-we said, 'Let's align all this stuff.'" From 2014, the Story Group was able to furnish creative, from comic book writers to theme park designers, with a rich trove of background material fact-checking dialogue, plot lines and the most obscure ephemera.

Beck, who worked on the relationship between "Rebels" and "Rogue One" -- which shared the "Clone Wars" character Saw Gerrera-said it was important to make sure all these properties worked together but could still be enjoyed independently. "We think about how (characters) enter into this narrative in a way which feels honest to their story," she said.

'We see it all'

The system might seem unwieldy and dictatorial, but it is appreciated by fans and filmmakers alike. The last thing you want in your "Star Wars" novel is Chewbacca winning a tap dancing competition when a video game released years earlier established that he has two left feet. "What we don't want

to do is create something that feel like it is an outlier in a way that it doesn't feel like it fits within the larger universe," said Williams. "What we want is for people to feel engaged and that no matter how varied that expression might be, all things are authentic, valuable." It's not just about nit-picking either-Story Group members work with writers and filmmakers to develop new ideas.

Some are turned down because the timing is wrong, they don't fit in or are just plain silly. Others such as "Rogue One"-offered to the Story Group by Industrial Light and Magic's special effects guru John Knoll in his first-ever movie pitch are given the green light. "It's not like we tell them what story to tell, but we together find the story that they are looking to tell," said Hidalgo. "And because we are a connection point for all that creative activity... we see it all, we communicate it all and we make sure we're all in sync." — AFP



Bollywood music composer and singer AR Rahman performs at IIFA Rocks at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey during the 18th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Festival. — AFP



Bollywood Actor Varun Dhawan (right) gives an award during IIFA Rocks.



Bollywood singers Jonita Gandhi (left), AR Rahman (center) and Neeti Mohan perform on stage.

IIFA KICKS OFF NEW YORK AWARDS EXTRAVAGANZA

The International Indian Film Academy fired the opening salvo in a weekend of glitz, glamor and music for its annual awards, sending fans wild with excitement by hosting Bollywood stars in Times Square. Hundreds of people-overwhelmingly South Asians joined by bemused onlookers, confused tourists and a smattering of Western converts to Bollywood cheered a fashion show and shrieked in delight when actors Shahid Kapoor blew kisses and Varun Dhawan performed on stage.

The crowd turned into a sea of camera phones and raised arms, a taste of the excitement building among Indian cinema fans in New York, the heart of a tri-state area home to around 1.8 million Indian-Americans. "It's so nice, I feel so proud," beamed Neelam Singh, a 47-year-old software consultant and mother of one. "It looks like a mini India," she said of the so-called IIFA "Stomp" party in Times Square. Living in the United States for more than 20 years, she and her girlfriends have been planning what to wear for weeks, some jetting in from as far as Atlanta and Panama in the hopes of seeing their idols.

Events kick off in earnest Friday with a concert honoring A.R. Rahman, the movie composer who won two Oscars in 2009 for best original score and best original song for "Slumdog Millionaire." That bonanza-together with the awards ceremony-will be held at the 82,500-seat MetLife Stadium, an outdoor NFL venue across the Hudson River in East Rutherford, New Jersey. "We need you to play a little for the rain Gods to be on our side," joked Kapoor on Thursday with downpours forecast.

Soft power

The 18th edition of the awards, which some dub the Oscars of Bollywood, comes at a time of growth for Indian film in North America. The organizers have been on a publicity blitz, ringing in the Nasdaq stock exchange bell Wednesday, drumming up sponsorship and marketing. Mohammad Asif, founder of the Bombay Theatre in Queens, said that since he set up shop in the mid-1990s, the number of cinemas showing Indian films in the United States has grown from around 15-20 to 200.

He attributed the increase to the thriving Indian economy, bigger film budgets, an increase in the South Asian diaspora, and growing popularity among Afghans, Arabs, Russians and Caribbean immigrants. Increased cross-over with Indian stars such as Priyanka Chopra having roles in Hollywood is giving



Bollywood Actress Katrina Kaif holds an award on stage.



Bollywood actors Ritesh Deshmukh (left) and Manish Paul perform on stage as they host IIFA Rocks.

India more visibility and global exposure. "This is really India's soft power at its best, as we strive to develop our relationship with the United States further," consul general to New York, Riva Ganguly Das, told an IIFA press conference. But if IIFA's hopes to reach out to new audiences by holding its awards ceremony each year overseas, it still has some way to go. "It's a store," one American in Times Square said blankly when asked if he knew what Bollywood was. A passing British tourist said he had never heard of IIFA, nor star actors Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif. "I'll probably move on," he said walking off.

'Waiting'

Neither are drawn-out logistics and fluid timings to every taste in a city well versed in tight schedules. "I'm actually kind of upset because we've been waiting here for about three hours," said Nija Walker, 23, a funk-jazz drummer from New York's Westchester suburb keen to learn more about

Bollywood. But Foram Dalal, 30, who studies management and information systems, travelled in from New Jersey with her parents, seven-month-old daughter, husband and friends determined to savor the moment.

"Even if you see one star, it's worth it," she told AFP in Times Square. "I'm more than overwhelmed to be at this place right now." With a viewership of almost 800 million, IIFA is India's biggest media event and one of the world's most-watched annual entertainment shows. "It's a huge industry," said Habibah Hussain, a 37-year-old teacher and Pakistani tourist soaking up the atmosphere. "I've seen people who don't even understand Hindi-they watch it, because they dub it as well, and they're famous. That's why they're here," she said gesturing to Times Square. — AFP



Eight women sit primly around an elaborately set table making pleasant small-talk about the weather, as immaculately starched waiting staff stand at the ready.



Women learn how to serve a dessert.



A teacher holds a knife and a fork during a lesson.

Mastering manners at Switzerland's last finishing school

Mastering manners is not about snobbism, it's about respect, for yourself and others

Eight women sit primly around an elaborately set table making pleasant small-talk about the weather, as immaculately starched waiting staff stand at the ready. But as one of the servers steps forward holding a silver soup tureen with white-gloved hands, an instructor helps her adjust the angle of the bowl to make sure the ladle is facing the diner. And a second tutor whispers in the ear of another diner to lower her elbow as she brings the spoon to her mouth. The women are not at a fancy restaurant or a high-end social club, but at Switzerland's last finishing school, learning to master good manners, strict etiquette and how to avoid a fatal

decades after her mother founded it. "Obviously we have daughters of presidents and princesses, but those are definitely not the majority," she said, her warm smile offsetting the strictness of her impeccable attire. "We also have people who save money to finance their stay because... they realize that this will give them extra knowledge that very few people have," she said. It is not cheap. Depending on the formula chosen, a six-week course, with exams and board at the school's majestic manor houses, can cost close to 30,000 Swiss francs (\$31,000, 27,000 euros).

The current students, aged between 18 and 50 and ranging from professional businesswomen, to doctors and housewives, do not reveal their last names to each other to ensure equal treatment. Half a century ago, the students at Institut Villa Pierrefeu, which overlooks the picturesque town of Montreux, were among thousands attending a plethora of finishing schools dotting the hills around Lake Geneva. Back then it was common for girls and young women from wealthy, upper-class families to attend so-called "charm schools" to polish their manners and social graces. Britain's late Princess Diana was among the famous alumni of since shuttered finishing schools in this area.

'Ashamed, post-1968'

But today, Pierrefeu is the only one left, after the industry was decimated by the 1968 student revolution and rise of feminism. "There was a huge dip in attendance right after the student revolution," Neri said, adding that "the few who came said they were going to a language school. They were ashamed." Neri attributes her school's longevity to its broad international focus and its rigorous efforts to keep the course material, including textbooks available only to Pierrefeu students, constantly up-to-date.

The students learn and practice the proper etiquette and protocol of 20 different countries, as well as cultural taboos to be avoided. "Cultural differences you are not aware of can create conflicts for very silly reasons," Neri said, pointing out for instance that in Japan it is rude to blow your nose in public, while in Germany it is rude not to. She suggested that many journalists could use a Pierrefeu course to avoid "embarrassing" articles like those criticizing US First Lady Melania Trump for not covering her head during a recent trip to Saudi Arabia.

"She doesn't have to because it is not compulsory for non-Muslims who come to

Saudi Arabia. That's protocol," she said. The students seem to enjoy delving into such details, although some expressed surprise at the intensity of the course. "I don't know if, when you hear finishing school, you take it as seriously as I think we all do now," said Taylor, a 34-year-old American student, who also refrained from giving her last name. "It is very rigorous, very comprehensive," she said, adding that she felt she was "becoming educated here in a very rounded way."

'Not about snobbism'

Unlike the post-1968 generation, she and others said they proudly boasted of attending the school. Former student Nadine Abou Zahr, 46, said she had been skeptical when she first heard about the school while attending university nearby two decades ago. But the French-Lebanese former fashion magazine editor, who declined to reveal her current occupation, told AFP in an email that she could not be more delighted with her experience.

"Learning good manners in my opinion is not about snobbism or superficiality. It's about respect, for yourself and others," she said. The course is not about creating "dramatic" career or life changes, she said, but, rather, designed to broaden cultural horizons and teach the importance of paying attention to detail.

Etiquette roaring back?

Neri said she had noted a clear shift in attitudes towards the need for good manners. "I think people, after two generations of no etiquette, realize that it is so much easier when people share the same codes," she said. The shift has led Neri, along with her son and would-be successor, Philippe, to explore a range of expansion options. Three years ago they opened shorter seminars to men. They are also looking into reinstating a full school year and online courses.

At the same time, Neri is working to clear up common misunderstandings about what finishing schools actually represent. Far from seeing girls walking gingerly with books balanced on their heads, or being focused on how to find a husband, her finishing school provides for in-depth learning and opening-up of the mind, she said. "I always say we don't finish them (the students), we start them," Neri said. "We open their eyes to the diversity there is." — AFP



Women attend a lesson at the Switzerland's last finishing school.

faux pas.

"I realize now that I have been mixing the French style of eating with the British style," said Institut Villa Pierrefeu student Heba, asking that her last name not be given. With some embarrassment, the 34-year-old Egyptian national explained that she had placed her knife on her plate even though she had not used it during her meal—a no-no in French dining etiquette. Heba is among 30 students from 14 different countries taking an intensive Pierrefeu summer course, lasting either three or six weeks, and offering classes like international business etiquette, floral art and staff management.

Not all princesses

The students are a diverse crowd, according to Viviane Neri, who took the reins of the school in 1972 — nearly two



Women talk during a lesson at the Switzerland's last finishing school.



Women taste chocolate during a lesson at Switzerland's last finishing school Institut Villa Pierrefeu.



An instructor helps a woman to adjust the angle of the bowl to make sure the ladle is facing the diner. — AFP photos



Dutch collector tells court he 'no longer owns Chinese mummy'

A fight over ownership of a 1,000-year-old mummified monk opened in a Dutch court on Friday, with an art collector saying he no longer possessed the controversial statue said to contain the mummy. The small eastern Chinese village of Yangchun has accused Dutch collector Oscar van Overeem of having bought the stolen Buddha statue containing the remains of a monk in Hong Kong in 1996. But Van Overeem told the Amsterdam District Court the statue was now in the "possession of a businessman who wants to remain anonymous" after an art swap in 2015.

He declined to name the businessman. "It was a verbal deal," lawyer Turan Teke told the judge, adding his client only knew the businessman's "international English name" without giving further details. The human-sized Buddha statue sitting in a lotus position, called the "Zhanggong Patriarch", disappeared from a temple in Yangchun in late

1995 after being worshipped there for centuries.

Missing for two decades, the Buddha statue resurfaced when villagers in 2015 recognized it as part of a display at the "Mummy World Exhibition" at Budapest's Natural History Museum. The statue was subsequently withdrawn. A scan of the statue revealed a skeleton inside said to be that of the monk who lived nearly a millennium ago during China's Song dynasty. The villagers "without a doubt recognized the statue when they saw it," their lawyer Jan Holthuis told the court. The relatives of the monk-whom Holthuis says have written proof of their family ties—are asking the court to rule that they are entitled to have their ancestor returned to his rightful place.

Holthuis is using an argument under Dutch law that says "a person is not allowed to have a known body in their possession" to get the statue back. He also presented a slew of other arguments intending to show that the statue

bought by Van Overeem is indeed the one stolen from the temple. After three hours of technical discussions, presiding judge Jeroen Thomas asked both parties to submit new written statements.

The judge will now also decide whether Van Overeem should disclose the name of the anonymous businessman, Holthuis told AFP after the hearing. "This will take a few months," he added. The case is being closely watched as it could mark one of the first successful retrievals of Chinese relics in court, the state-run Chinese newspaper Global Times reported on Tuesday. Previously similar retrievals have been done through diplomatic channels, the paper said. Beijing in recent years has vehemently protested the sale of artefacts it says were stolen, particularly in the 19th century when European powers began encroaching on Chinese territory. — AFP



Archaeological findings stored in a lab at the American School of Archeology in Athens.— AFP photos



A conservator of archeological works on a human skull in a lab at the American School of Archeology in Athens.



Bio-archaeologist Eleanna Prevedorou poses in a lab at the American School of Archeology.



A conservator of archeological works on human bones in a lab at the American School of Archeology.

Archaeologists go high-tech in 2,500-year-old Greek cold case

More than 2,500 years ago, an Athenian nobleman named Cylon—the first recorded Olympic champion—tried to take over the city of Athens and install himself as its sole ruler. According to Thucydides and Herodotus, Athenian and Greek historians who wrote about the coup, Cylon enticed an army of followers to enter the city and lay siege to the Acropolis. They were defeated, but Cylon managed to escape.

Now archaeologists in Athens believe they may have found some of the remains of Cylon's army in a mass grave in Phaleron, four miles (6 kilometers) south of downtown Athens. The discovery of the 80 skeletons of men is "unequaled" in Greece, said site project director Stella Chrysoulaki. The men, young and well-fed, were found lying in the unmarked grave in three rows, some on their backs while others were tossed face down on their stomachs.

All of the men had their hands in iron chains and at least 52 of them had their hands tied above their heads. They died from blows to the head, victims of a "political execution" that dates back to between 675 and 650 BC according to pieces of pottery found in the grave, Chrysoulaki said. At the time, Athens was just being formed and the city was transitioning towards a democracy, Eleanna Prevedorou, a bioarchaeological researcher on the project, said. And it was happening "against a backdrop of political turmoil, tensions between tyrants, aristocrats and the working class," she added.

'Crime Scene Investigation'

Bioarchaeological scientists use forensic research, such as DNA profiling, to investigate and ultimately uncover how humans lived and died by

examining skeletons. "We are going to use, roughly speaking, the methods made famous by television series on forensic crime science," joked Panagiotis Karkanas, laboratory director and geoarchaeologist at the Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Probably the most famous of these TV series, CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation", which chronicles the cases of an elite team of police forensic investigators, has spawned the shorthand CSI to describe the technology the agents use.

Karkanas' team, though technically not crime scene investigators, will apply similar high-tech methods using some of the same tools. They will perform a battery of tests—particularly gene, radiographic and isotopic analyses—to uncover the mysteries hidden inside each skull and skeleton fragment. Whatever clues they gather will give them an idea of how old the men were, whether they were related, where they came from, how healthy they were, and where they stood on the socioeconomic ladder of the times. But unlike crime dramas, where investigators reveal exactly how and why the crime took place, this cold case will likely not be resolved for five to seven years.

1,500 skeletons

The mass grave was uncovered in spring last year in one of the largest excavation sites Greece has ever unearthed. Though the site was found a century ago, large-scale excavation of the complex only began in 2012, when archaeologists discovered a large cemetery containing over 1,500 skeletons dating back to between the eighth and fifth centuries BC. More than 100 of them bore the marks of a violent death.

Other small-scale excavations since then have

unearthed other treasures, including the group of men believed to be part of Cylon's army.

Many of the skeletons found were bound or shackled, and face down in unmarked graves, sometimes in sandy holes barely big enough to hold a body. Other skeletons were buried in open pits, placed on funeral pyres and in jars, the preferred coffins at the time for infants and small children. According to researchers, the cemetery measures about 4,000 square meters (372 square feet) and all 1,500 skeletons will eventually be taken to the laboratory's facilities for proper study.

At least 10 of the 80 men found are headed to the lab later this year, while the rest will stay as part of an upcoming exposition on the excavation site. One of the skeletons already at the lab, with his arms twisted behind his back, is a reflection of past Athenian violence. He could have been a "prisoner of war, a criminal or a runaway slave," Prevedorou said.

A story to tell

Even the nonviolent deaths, or deaths without historical reference—notably the hundreds of children's remains found in jars—have a story to tell, Karkanas said. The bones could reveal the children's lifestyles and diseases, shedding more light on ancient Athenian culture and history. Most of the recorded ancient history on Athens and Greek life describes the "elite and the victors," Karkanas added. But to rely solely on those testimonies to understand the past would be like "reading newspapers today to find out what's going on in the world right now". — AFP



A conservator of archeological works on a human skull in a lab at the American School of Archeology in Athens.



A human skeleton with the hands tied in the back stored in a lab at the American School of Archeology in Athens.

Re-creating old weapons for new discoveries of human history

Metin Eren wasn't satisfied just digging up ancient arrowheads to learn about the past. He wanted to use them for their intended purpose. But shooting and shattering priceless millennia-old tips is out of the question, so instead, the archaeologist chips replicas of the stone-age weapons by hand. "We can break 'em and throw 'em," he says. "Our imagination is the limit." The 34-year-old Kent State University professor specializes in experimental archaeology—re-creating ancient pots, knives and arrows. By testing the replicas in ways impossible with the originals, archaeologists study how tools found in archaeological digs were actually used.

"The stuff that we find, it's just stuff," says Brian Andrews, an archaeologist at Rogers State University. "Stuff's cool, but we're not interested in stuff for the sake of itself. We're interested in the human behaviors that went into making it." Eren's experi-

ments focus on making sense of ancient weapons littered across the Americas, illustrating how humans first settled the Western Hemisphere: through careful preparation, long-term planning, and refined technology. "Even though it's the Stone Age, they're still thinking in a very modern way," Eren says.

Already he has cracked one longtime mystery. In the early 1900s, archaeologists found unusually shaped arrowheads in North America, with grooves carved from the base halfway to the head's tip. They first appeared over 13,000 years ago and spread rapidly across the continent, but existed nowhere else. Researchers were puzzled why the grooves were carved, with speculation running from religious rituals to mere decoration. That's where experimental archaeology came in.

By testing the pressure at which the arrowheads would crack using a \$30,000 crusher and computer models, Eren dis-

covered the grooves act as a shock absorber. It allows the arrowhead's thinned base to crumple slightly and absorb energy upon the arrow's impact, making the head less likely to break. Archaeologists call it the "first truly American invention." Scientists from Brazil to Britain previously conducted many kinds of experiments with re-creations, and borrowing techniques and technologies from other scientists has been long-standing practice.

Still, Eren's lab, only a year old, stands out for its cutting-edge equipment and singular focus on archaeological experimentation, says Briggs Buchanan, a professor at the University of Tulsa. "Metin's lab is setting an exceptional example by conducting rigorous controlled experiments," said Buchanan, who has co-authored papers with Eren. "Earlier experimental studies suffered from being of variable quality and rarely built on previ-

ous studies." On a Thursday morning, Eren hunches over a pile of flint shavings. Donning goggles, he grips a chunk of obsidian the size of a large pickle jar and cracks a moose antler down on one edge. With a resounding snap, a blade of obsidian chips off. He examines it gingerly. Obsidian blades are "sharp to the molecule," he says, and one nearly sliced off his left pinky in graduate school.

In his hand, he's holding a piece of the puzzle of how humans came to rule the world. By refining their weapons, ancient Americans learned how to adapt to all sorts of conditions. "They knew they were going into unknown territory, and because of that they actually prepared extremely well technologically," Eren says. "Understanding this process of colonization is important to understanding how we are today." — AP



Michelle Bebbler, a PhD archeology student at Kent State University, loads a bow with a recreated ancient arrow in Kent, Ohio. — AP photos



Metin Eren, an archaeologist at Kent State University, examines an imitation of an ancient arrow in Kent, Ohio.



Metin Eren, an archaeologist at Kent State University, flakes obsidian.



This photo shows two children performing underwater pole dancing for visitors at the Zuohai Underwater World in Fuzhou, in China's Fujian Province. — AFP

20 years after Gianni's murder, Versace has rediscovered its soul

Twenty years ago, stylist Gianni Versace was gunned down in Miami, plunging his fashion house into crisis. Two decades on, it is one of the world's top global luxury brands thanks to his little sister, Donatella. He had gone out for the morning papers: as Versace returned to his Miami beach mansion on July 15, 1997, he was shot dead by Andrew Cunanan, a homosexual prostitute known for his obsession with all things luxury.

The fashion world mourned deeply. The stylist to celebrities from Madonna to Elton John had been just 50 years old. "He was a 360-degree creator, a real artist, he had a pure creative vision on colors and materials," Stefania Saviolo, director of the luxury and fashion center at Bocconi University, told AFP in Milan. The group he had created with his brother Santo in 1978 had been one of the hottest fashion brands in the world.

It fell to Versace's platinum blonde sister Donatella to whom Gianni had entrusted the casual line Versus to take over as artistic director. But the brand struggled to recover from Versace's murder. Donatella, who had worked for 14 years alongside Gianni, was severely affected by the loss of her brother and confessed to feeling "vulnerable".

Depression and cocaine

"You can't invent yourself as an artistic director overnight," says Saviolo, particularly as Donatella took over "at a time when fashion was changing a lot, with many collections and great pressure on artistic directors". Donatella, instantly recognizable for her famous locks and perpetual tan, sank into a period of depression and cocaine use before detoxifying in 2005.

The year before, the brand had acquired a new CEO in Giancarlo Di Risio. The former Fendi boss refocused the Medusa on the luxury market, streamlining licensing and franchising deals and developing the accessories range. Amid rumors in the press of a fall-out between the family and Di Risio over planned cuts, he was replaced in 2009 by Gian Giacomo Ferraris, who moved over from the Jil Sander fashion house. Ferraris wasted no time in launching an extensive reor-

ganization plan to return Versace to profitability, cutting 25 percent of its workforce and closing some boutiques before opening new ones as the books improved.

His intervention "doubled the turnover, which rose from 268 million euros in 2009 to 645 million in 2015," according to David Pambianco, who heads up a consultancy company in his name. By 2011 the historic brand had returned to profit after a gruelling three years of losses.

'So much potential'

"The right balance was struck between Ferraris and Donatella, the dialogue between them was good and there was great respect for Donatella's creativity and vision," Saviolo said. The family, which had always refused to relinquish control to a luxury conglomerate like so many of its fellow Italian fashion houses, finally yielded a 20 percent stake in 2014 to the US private equity firm Blackstone.

The move, which Donatella said would allow Versace to "achieve its potential", resulted in a cash injection into the luxury designer and boosted its presence in emerging markets. The bet paid off: despite a difficult global context, sales increased by some 17 percent in 2014 and in 2015. The house said it was time to "move onto the next phase" and Ferraris was replaced in May 2016 by Jonathan Akeroyd, former CEO of Alexander McQueen. Results last year were mixed, with sales up 3.7 percent to 668 million euros but the company admitting a loss of 7.4 million euros due in particular to funds sunk into its network of boutiques.

These results "have caused some uncertainty", but "the company is healthy, certainly more than 10 years ago," said Pambianco. "Versace remains one of the most beautiful brands in the world in the luxury sector" and has "still so much potential to express", he said, pointing out that luxury house Gucci for example "has a turnover that is seven times higher". Saviolo agrees: "Versace has recovered its lost 'red carpet DNA' and its style is currently 'very daring, very strong.'" — AP

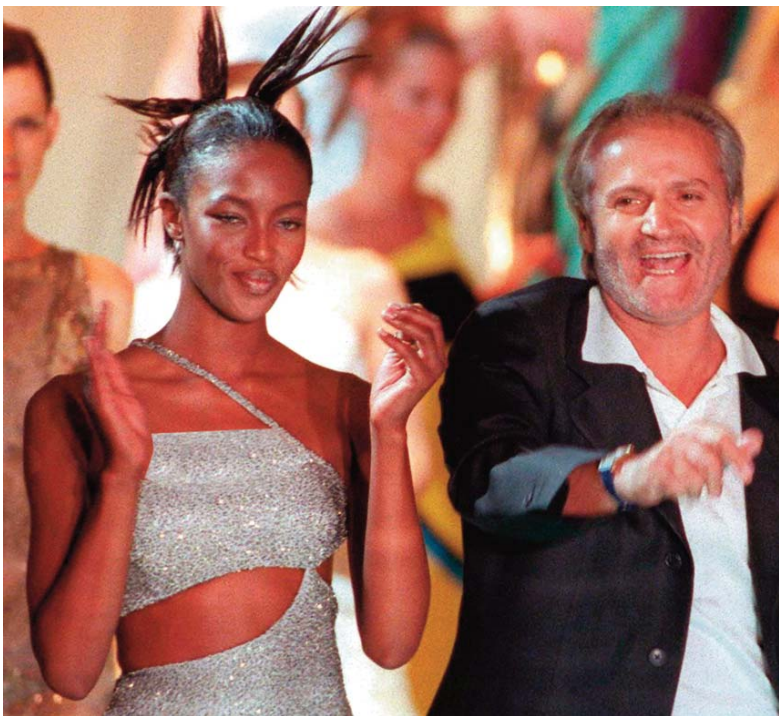


Photo shows Italian designer Gianni Versace (right) and Naomi Campbell after a fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



Italian designer Gianni Versace arrives on scene to receive the 1992 Council of Fashion Designers of America International Award at the council's annual awards ceremony, 01 February 1993.

Pain runs deep for Taiwan artists 30 years after 'White Terror'

When saxophonist Chen Shen-ching was jailed during Taiwan's "White Terror" political purges, it was music that helped him hold on to his sanity. Banned from taking his instrument into prison he scrawled songs on scraps of paper and memorized them during his 12 years behind bars. As the island prepares to mark 30 years since martial law was lifted and it began its journey to become a vibrant democracy, Chen is one of a number of creative Taiwanese who want to ensure those dark days are never forgotten.

Now 75, he continues to sing his prison songs at political rallies and human rights events. "I hope people will listen, sing them and want to learn more about White Terror history," Chen told AFP. At 32, with a promising musical career and a young family, Chen was given a life sentence for sedition after joining a group advocating Taiwan independence-taboo under nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek.

His father died soon after he was arrested and he penned a tribute song to help him through his grief. "I taught others to sing it and we often cried," Chen said. "For a musician, playing a sad song helps release emotions." He composed 20 songs in jail reflecting inmates' homesickness and mental anguish. Chen was freed in 1986 as part of a prison amnesty and slowly managed to rebuild his life in southern Taiwan.

He still wants the self-ruling island to split from China and often performs at pro-independence rallies. Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory and has said it would respond with force if it ever announced a formal break-away. Chen is glad he never wavered from his beliefs. "I did what I did for my ideals," he says. "So, I have no regrets."

Blood and horror

Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing the civil war to Communist forces on the mainland, but saw himself and his authoritarian government as the legitimate rulers of the whole of China. Under his rule, political opponents were killed and imprisoned, there was no free press and songs deemed vulgar or pro-Communist were banned. Official records state around 140,000 people were tried by military courts with as many as 8,000 executed during the 38-year crackdown. Many believe the actual numbers are higher.

Chen Wu-jean was jailed aged 20 for sedition after scribbling anti-government phrases on the back of an aptitude test for new military conscripts as he was about to start his compulsory service. Released after two years, he took up art teaching but only painted portraits and landscapes for fear of being imprisoned again. After martial law was lifted by Chiang's son, Chiang Ching-kuo, on July 15 1987, he was able to truly express himself for the first time.

Since then, almost all his creations revolve around the White Terror. "I regret what I did," Chen, 68, told AFP at his studio in southern Tainan. "But as an artist I feel lucky because this experience has given me a profound subject to work on." His sculpture series "The Verdicts" is a collection of large skulls made from wood, pasted with photocopied sentencing documents. Clawing hands stretch out from the skulls while feet trample them. Paintings depict a woman screaming in front of a train, another suffering a miscarriage and being dragged by her hair through a pool of blood.

He lends his works to exhibitions but does not sell them—currently some are on display in a former dissidents' prison on remote outlying Green Island, which has been converted to a human rights center. "I think artists' depictions of a historical event leave a deeper impression on people than historians' narratives," said Chen. "I hope my works will have some impact."

Young generation

President Tsai Ing-wen's Democratic Progressive Party



Taiwan musician and former political prisoner Chen Shen-ching displays a CD of his music album during an interview in New Taipei City. — AFP photos



Taiwan musician and former political prisoner Chen Shen-ching gestures during an interview.



Taiwan musician and former political prisoner Chen Shen-ching plays the saxophone during an interview in New Taipei City.

(DPP) has organized a music festival featuring young bands performing previously banned songs as part of this weekend's commemorations of the end of martial law. There will also be an exhibition of banned books, magazines and albums. The DPP has its roots in the political movement that opposed Chiang and former rebels have become top officials and lawmakers. The young musicians singing at the festival were mostly born after 1987, but say they want to play a part in keeping history alive.

Bassist and songwriter Mickey Yu, 32, of hip-hop band Community Service says his grandfather was beaten during White Terror interrogations, although never convicted. His group will sing their own political compositions as well as previously banned song "Hometown at Dusk"—popular with those who were blacklisted and forced to live overseas during the purges. "History definitely cannot be forgotten," said Yu. "It should be a lesson for all." — AFP