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Speaker: Israeli repression cannot be tolerated

Macron chides Netanyahu on settlements, urges new Mideast talks

Bollywood superstars dazzle at Indian film awards

Federer wins record 8th Wimbledon as Cilic in tears


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GOVT WITHDREW KD 28.5BN IN 3 YEARS AMID OIL SLUMP

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FRENCH FM MEETS AMIR FOR GULF CRISIS TALKS

KUWAIT: French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian held talks with top officials in Kuwait yesterday in a bid to bolster the state's attempts to mediate in the Gulf crisis. Le Drian met with HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait's foreign minister, state news agency KUNA said, for talks on a regional rift which has seen Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain sever all ties with Qatar.

Le Drian, who was due in the United Arab Emirates yesterday night, stopped in Qatar and Saudi Arabia at the start of his two-day Gulf tour on Saturday. The French foreign minister has supported Kuwait as a mediator in the Gulf crisis, which he said should be resolved "by the Gulf countries themselves". "France does not want to substitute the mediator," Le Drian said in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. "It wants to be a facilitator by joining efforts of other countries".

Le Drian's visit comes after a four-day mediation mission by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, which ended on Thursday with no announcement of progress towards defusing mounting tensions in the Gulf. Saudi Arabia and its allies imposed sanctions on Doha on June 5, including closing its only land border, denying Qatar access to their airspace and ordering their citizens back from the emirate. The four Arab states accuse Qatar of ties to Iran and of funding Islamist extremist groups. Qatar has denied the accusations. The Gulf crisis is the worst to hit the region since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1981. — AFP



KUWAIT: HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian at Bayan Palace yesterday. — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The government has withdrawn KD 28.5 billion from the general state reserve over the past three fiscal years starting from the 2014/2015 fiscal year, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday. The minister said in a reply to a parliamentary question that KD 9.64 billion was withdrawn in 2014/2015 and KD 11.47 billion in 2015/2016, while KD 7.46 billion was withdrawn in the past fiscal year, the minister said. The withdrawal coincided with the start of a sharp drop in the price of oil, whose revenues made up around 95 percent of total public revenues before the slump in oil income.

But the ministry of finance later explained that only a small portion of the withdrawn funds were used to finance the budget deficit. A spokesman for the ministry said the bulk of the funds, or KD 15.55 billion, were injected into the Reserve Fund for Future Generations, from which the law forbids any withdrawals. A ministry spokesman said KD 5.74 billion was used to finance the budget deficit of 2016/2017, while KD 1.4 billion was used to pay for a short-fall at the pension agency. The remaining funds of KD 5.1 billion were withdrawn in the 2015/2016 fiscal year, he said.

In a related development, Saleh said the ministry of finance is considering the implementation of value added tax (VAT) on certain sectors, but is studying measures to minimize its impact on citizens. He said the ministry is studying alternatives to safeguard low-income people from the negative impacts of applying the economic reforms program following the slump in oil revenues.

The minister said the sharp drop in oil prices resulted in a massive decline in the state revenues, prompting the government to carry out economic reforms including diversifying sources of income. Accordingly, the government established the national program for financial and economic sustainability with the aim to reduce the budget deficit.

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A picture taken on June 25, 2016 shows Penon de Velez de la Gomera, a peninsula within Spanish territory off the coast of Morocco's Al-Hoceima national park. — AFP

MOROCCANS EYE SPANISH ENCLAVE ACROSS BORDER

BADES, Morocco: It's one of the shortest land borders in the world: A few dozen meters of plastic cord across a sandbank separate Morocco from the tiny Spanish enclave of Penon de Velez de la Gomera. Wooden boats lie amid nets worn by sea-water at the foot of the imposing mini-peninsula, home to a Spanish military base. "Don't approach the string!" a Moroccan soldier shouted from a pillbox, his helmet askew. "They might shoot you with plastic bullets," he said in a lower tone of voice, before retreating to the shade of his wooden shelter on a slope

facing the Mediterranean.

Penon de Velez de la Gomera is one of seven Spanish enclaves on the northern coast of Morocco, which claims sovereignty over all of them. The best known are Ceuta, which overlooks the strategically vital Strait of Gibraltar, and Melilla, further to the east. But a string of islets remain under Spanish control, including several occupied by Spanish forces. These tiny leftovers of Spain's once vast empire have been a source of tension between Morocco and its former colonial occupier.

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MUSLIMS REFUSE TO ENTER AQSA SITE

ROUHANI BROTHER HELD ON FINANCIAL CRIME CHARGES

TEHRAN: Iran's judiciary yesterday announced the arrest of President Hassan Rouhani's brother Hossein Fereydoun on financial crime charges, in a long-running feud between two of the country's centers of power. "Multiple investigations have been conducted regarding this person, also other people have been investigated, some of whom are in jail," deputy judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejeie said in a televised press conference. "Yesterday, bail was issued for him but because he failed to secure it he was referred to prison," Ejeie said. "If he secures bail, he will be released. But the case will take its course."



The conservative-dominated judiciary has clashed with Rouhani, who has sought to ease social restrictions and release political prisoners. News of the arrest comes a year after the head of the General Inspection Organization, Naser Seraj, first accused Fereydoun, who acts as a key adviser and gatekeeper to Rouhani, of financial violations. The brothers do not share the same name because Rouhani changed his when he was younger.

Conservatives have demanded that Fereydoun be put on trial, accusing him of receiving zero-interest

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JERUSALEM: Israel reopened an ultra-sensitive holy site yesterday that was closed after an attack that killed two policemen, but Muslim worshippers were refusing to enter due to new security measures including metal detectors and cameras. Crowds chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as a number of initial visitors entered Jerusalem's Haram Al-Sharif compound. The flashpoint holy site includes the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Calls to prayer rang out from Al-Aqsa, but dozens of Muslim worshippers held midday prayers outside the site in protest at the new security measures. Around 150 people gathered outside for prayers later in the afternoon. Police said some 200 people entered the compound. "We reject the changes imposed by the Israeli government," Sheikh Omar Kiswani, Al-Aqsa director, told reporters outside. "We will not enter through these metal detectors."

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JERUSALEM: Muslim worshippers, who refused to enter due to new security measures including metal detectors and cameras, pray yesterday as Israeli border policemen stand outside Lion's Gate, a main entrance to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. — AFP



KUWAIT: A commercial aircraft is silhouetted by the setting sun as it lands at Kuwait International Airport yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CAN OPEC RIDE OUT THE STORM?

ISTANBUL: For cartel OPEC - created in 1960 with the aim of supporting a sustainable price on the oil market - it is in some ways a perfect storm. Stocks have surged thanks to the rapid emergence of oil from US shale deposits. And due to the abundant supply, the price of oil now stands at currently less than \$50 per barrel, around a third of the level of 10 years ago, when it topped a high of \$147. This has been terrible news for the leading members of the group - including Iran, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela - who have seen holes blown in their hydrocarbon-dependent budgets.

Meanwhile, on a longer term horizon, the focus has switched from when "peak oil" will be reached - the moment oil extraction starts to decline due to dwindling resources - to when demand itself could fall. So the mood as top energy bosses and ministers met at the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul this week ranged from pensive to somber. "It's hard to come to terms with the fact that this is a different oil industry," said Daniel Yergin, the vice chairman of IHS Markit, who wrote the acclaimed book "The Prize" on the history of

the global oil industry. "The US will later this year or early next year reach the highest production in its history," he told the congress.

OPEC has no control over the revolution caused by the production of shale oil in the United States, which is not a member of the cartel. In a bid to push prices up, OPEC and key non-cartel members - including Russia, but not the United States - agreed coordinated output cuts in December to push up prices. The cuts were envisaged for six months and extended for another three. But so far, they have had hardly any effect - with oil prices still hovering at 45 dollars a barrel.

The oil industry was confronted by market forces "which are strong, stubborn and as a result we are here today with prices that are stuck... where they were six months ago," said International Energy Agency (IEA) director Fatih Birol. "It will be a very, very difficult six months for the oil industry, a case of riding out the storm," he said. OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo admitted there had been "high expectations"

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. —KUNA

KUWAITI FM RECEIVES FRENCH COUNTERPART

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian at Bayan Palace yesterday. The encounter

was attended by Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed

Al-Khubaizi. The Director of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and other ministry officials also attended the meeting. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as he prepares to leave to the United States yesterday. —KUNA photos

CROWN PRINCE HEADS TO UNITED STATES

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah left Kuwait yesterday, heading to the United States on a private visit. His Highness the Crown Prince was seen off at the international airport by Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Deputy President of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Acting Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir's Office Chief Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Advisor at the Crown Prince Diwan Dr. Humoud Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Hawally Governor Lieutenant General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Director of protocols and ceremonials at His Highness' Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan for Local Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. —KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and other state officials bid farewell to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

PRIME MINISTER PATRONIZES 5TH E-GOVERNMENT FORUM (EGOV5)

ORGANIZED BY NOUFEXPO IN COLLABORATION WITH CAIT

KUWAIT: NoufEXPO announced the convening of the '5th E-Government Forum - Digital Transformation' in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) from 5 - 7 November 2017 at Arraya Ballroom of Courtyard Marriott hotel. EGOV5 is set to be held under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. This high level governmental support and patronage made EGOV a manifestation of Kuwait's transformation towards building the information based society. EGOV featured topics and technologies have always helped government departments in Kuwait build their digital transformation plans and set their roadmaps for an advanced futuristic e-services era.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

factors, and the pitfalls or risks that need to be considered and mitigated along the way. EGOV5 will also discuss the new technological phenomena and their impact on digital transformation plans of enterprises. No doubt, digital transformation is a mandatory path that all public and private enterprises alike should pursue to ensure continuity and growth.

Digital transformation can be described as the acceleration of business activities, processes, competencies, and models to fully leverage the changes and opportunities of digital technologies and their impact in a strategic and prioritized way. Regardless of the many definitions or descriptions that digital transformation might have, the real value that everybody seeks is to improve business outcome. This is true whether the organization is a government department or a private sector enterprise.

A NoufEXPO spokesman said that EGOV5 opening ceremony will witness the announcement of the results of the E-Services Excellence Award. CAIT started this initiative during the opening ceremony of EGOV4 last year for the first time. The Award boosts e-government initiatives

of Kuwait's government agencies and encourages these agencies to implement a speedy, yet coordinated, e-Services development effort. The E-Services Excellence Award is granted to the government agency that deploys the best E-Service on Kuwait electronic portal (www.e.gov.kw) according to the criteria that CAIT sets for this Award.

Leading vendors

The NoufEXPO spokesman concluded his statement by saying EGOV, and since its first round in 2013, hosted many world-class leading technology vendors like Microsoft, IBM, EMC, CISCO, Symantec, FireEye, EY, Aruba, and many others as well as major Kuwaiti enterprises such as VIVA, Alghanim Industries, KFH, KNET, and others. Moreover, EGOV features the participation of many government IT Departments that demonstrate their e-Services and e-Government plans. EGOV5's Scientific Committee, as well as other organizing committees, is finalizing EGOV5's program and proceedings. We urge all interested technology vendors and specialists to contact the Scientific Committee or NoufEXPO on +965 22469921 or send their messages to info@noufexpo.com.kw in order to reserve their spot in this unique technology event.



KUWAITI DOCTORS VOLUNTEER TO OPERATE ON SYRIAN REFUGEES



Al-Makassed Hospital's Director Dr Ashraf Al-Nawafallah.

AMMAN: A Kuwaiti medical volunteer team dispatched by Al-Rahma International Charity is offering treatment and operation of surgeries for the Syrian refugees in Jordan as part of a relief and cooperation program between Al-Rahma and Jordan's Makassed Charitable Hospital.

The team will provide medical assistance and surgeries for about 100 cases in different fields, Specialist Urology Dr Ahmed Al-Kandari, said yesterday. Head of Syria and Turkey office in Al-Rhama International and head of the delegation Waleed Al-Suwailem said this is the second medical campaign to be organized by the charity as part of a work program that will last for four months. The estimated cost of the campaign, which began today for about 100 patients, at nearly \$210,000,

Suwailem said. Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, the Charity has continued to provide aid and relief to Syrian refugees in various areas, praising the facilities offered by Jordan to the Kuwaiti relief teams and the role of the Kingdom in absorbing the Syrian refugees, he said.

In a similar statement, Al-Makassed Hospital's Director Dr Ashraf Al-Nawafallah said that the cooperation of the hospital with the Al-Rhama Charity began with the construction of this hospital. The charity continues to provide assistance to the hospital, Nawafallah said, praising the efforts exerted by Kuwait to help the needy Syrians and others who deserve help around the world. He also called for increased support for Syrian refugees in providing the hospital with more equipment, medical supplies and medical staff. —KUNA



JEDDAH: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah offered, in Jeddah on Saturday, condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz on passing away of Prince Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Sheikh Faisal conveyed condolences of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and the Kuwaiti people on the demise of Prince Abdulrahman. —KUNA

BRAZIL SUPPORTS AMIR'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE GULF CRISIS

KUWAIT: The Brazilian government has expressed its support of the efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to resolve the Gulf crisis. "The Brazilian government continues to follow with attention the recent developments of the diplomatic crisis in the Gulf region", Brazil Embassy in Kuwait said in a statement yesterday.

The statement added that Brazil would like to renew its appeal to all parties involved to surmount their differences

through dialogue aimed at regional stability. It said that Brazil would also like to express its support for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's mediation efforts in the crisis. His Highness the Amir has been playing a mediation role in mending fences between the parties involved in the crisis. His efforts have been widely welcomed and extolled. Kuwait's mediation efforts emerged as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt had cut their ties with Qatar. —KUNA



AMMAN: The Kuwaiti volunteer doctors are welcomed upon their arrival at Jordan's Makassed Charitable Hospital. —KUNA

Legalese

ABSCONDING

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have received a lot of attention regarding employment issues, even though we have progressed immensely and are still doing so. We saw amendments last week to the benefit of employees, but there is still an issue that I would like to speak about - absconding. It is a very serious matter that can have consequences of deportation or worse - jail. I would like to focus on this issue in hope to bring attention to the matter. Maybe the law or bylaws will be amended soon to resolve issues that arise from absconding.

Absconding by definition, according to Merriam-Webster, is to depart secretly and hide oneself. The word absconding is a harsh word and is usually used for someone running away from something or even escaping from jail, but the general public seem to use the word in Kuwait to describe an offense of leaving an employment contract without agreeing with the employer on the termination method. This can be very misleading. Also from experience, I have seen employers misuse their power to file absconding cases against their employees unrightfully. Today I will be talking about my experience handling legal cases related to absconding.

Lawyers dealing with absconding cases say they are like nightmares - many also say that the procedures and consequences for absconding cases in Kuwait are inhumane. Recently, the Kuwait Social Workers Society spoke about absconding, and I hope to see more organizations and public figures speak about what is right for the people who live in Kuwait and make Kuwait a better place.

Two types

Question: I was told that there are two types of absconding cases and they take 90 days to remove. Can you explain this please? How can I remove an absconding case against me?

Fajer: An absconding case is usually registered at the shuoon (Public Authority for Manpower) for 90 days, before it is transferred to the Ministry of Interior, where it can become a serious matter. You can remove the absconding case against you from the shuoon before 90 days have elapsed - either by the employer himself removing the absconding charge, or the employee can submit a request to a committee to remove the absconding case after proving that he/she was not absconding.

More difficult

Question: I have heard that there are new regulations making it even more difficult for transfers. I was not allowed to transfer before I removed any complaints I had against my employer. Can you please explain this?

Fajer: There is a new regulation number 2 for 2017 that simply states that an employer will not be allowed to transfer without checking if the employee has any restraints from being able to accept such a transfer. This from a practical point means that employees are requested to remove any complaints regarding the transfer of the visa. This is not true for complaints regarding monetary benefits such as termination indemnity, leave balance and so on.

The employer will also not be allowed to transfer 15 days after the permission to transfer by the shuoon, as the previous employer will have a right to appeal this decision.

Abuse

Question: I filed a complaint against my sponsor at the shuoon, but he filed a case against me, claiming that I absconded from work, when I did not. I actually resigned. He would not give me my passport back, which he was holding illegally, so I filed a case at the shuoon. To my surprise, he had filed an absconding case against me. What can I do or what should I have done to avoid such a thing in the future? What is the punishment for absconding?

Fajer: Absconding cases are now becoming stricter in Kuwait towards the employee, and this unfortunately is being abused by violating employers who have other issues against their employees. They do not want to pay termination indemnity, so they might accuse their employees of absconding. How can you avoid this? 1) Always have your termination/resignation in writing. 2) If you do not want to go to work because your employer is violating your rights, and it is not safe for you to stay there, then file a complaint first. Your employer will not be able to accuse of absconding if you have filed a case first.

The punishment for absconding in Kuwait is deportation. It is not looked into by a judge - you will be deported unfortunately.

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

NO UNAUTHORIZED MEDS AT CO-OPS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Social Affairs Minister and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said that an administrative circular banned the purchase, sale and display of products that contain unauthorized pharmaceutical substances. She said the social affairs ministry and its co-operative societies' sector issued a circular to financial supervisors and concerned administrators at co-operative societies and asked them not to purchase such products in order to safeguard consumers' health.



Hind Al-Sabeeh

Non-cooperative

MP Hamdan Al-Azmi said the government does not care about its relationship with lawmakers, and the evidence of this in its rejection of the military rewards law, which is a "bad initiative and the budget deficit is no longer believable". He asked the government to find another way to deal with the National Assembly, as it is illogical to reject a law that is in favor of citizens.

ISRAELI REPRESSION ON PALESTINIANS CANNOT BE TOLERATED: SPEAKER

KUWAIT: Israel must not use Arab and Muslim countries' engagement with internal disputes as an excuse to practice repression on the Palestinians, including its recent shutdown of Al-Aqsa Mosque to prayer-goers, Kuwait's parliament chief said yesterday.

"Ongoing Zionist actions, including the shutting of Al-Aqsa Mosque and continuing repressive practices in Jerusalem and other occupied territories, is something that cannot be tolerated," the lawmaker said in a statement. Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem suggested that Arab countries have remained "silent" because they have been occupied with regional disputes.

However, he underlined that

Palestine is an issue that is of "deep emotional and historical significance" to Muslim populations worldwide. Israel's actions could create public opinions able to sway their governments into encouraging international pressure on Tel Aviv, he warned.

Ghanem urged parliaments of Muslim countries and the free world to address Israel's actions, commenting that these nations' "peculiar silence" gives Israel full authority to do as it pleases with no regard to Security Council resolutions or international regulations.

After Israel's war on Gaza, which included killings based on ethnicity, and illegal settlement expansions, coupled with the forced evacuation of Palestinians from their homes,



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

come "unprecedented practices targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque," he said. Israel on Friday shut the gates of one of Islam's two most revered holy sites, Al-Aqsa Mosque, for the first time since 1969 - a move which has sparked widespread criticism and anger across Arab and Muslim countries. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Mohammad Boushehri is seen during the renewable energy exhibition. —KUNA photos

RENEWABLE ENERGY EXHIBITION KICKS OFF IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water hosted yesterday a renewable energy exhibition at its headquarters, in cooperation with German energy technology and manufacturing firm, Siemens AG. This fair aims at benefiting from German expertise in the field of sustainable, solar and wind energies, Undersecretary at the Ministry Engineer Mohammad Boushehri said. Cooperation with German companies greatly contributes to the development of the ministry's services, he affirmed. The ministry sent 15 engineers and technicians to Germany for two weeks to be briefed on the latest developments on this domain, he said. Boushehri expected the demand on sustainable energy to reach 15 percent in Kuwait. — KUNA



Undersecretary Mohammad Boushehri speaking to the press during the exhibition.

KUWAIT'S 2035 VISION SEEKS TO INCREASE POWER PRODUCTION

KUWAIT: Kuwait's 2035 Vision seeks to increase the production of electric power and build new stations and is working on the production of alternative and renewable sources of clean energy, most notably solar energy.

The number of power plants in Kuwait is currently stands at seven stations producing about 15,000 megawatts up to 32,000 megawatts by 2030. Kuwait is covered by modern electrical networks, some of which

are air lines and underground buried cables.

The State of Kuwait is one of the world's largest consumers of water and electricity in the world for several reasons, most notably the intensity of summer heat, location and

geographical nature, which requires government and public to work together to rationalize the increasing consumption of electricity and water, which cost the state billions of dinars. — KUNA



Al-Zour North Power Plant and Desalination Plant.



Shuaiba North Power Plant.



Al-Subbiya Power Plant.



An example of harnessing solar power to produce energy in Kuwait.



Shuaiba North Power Plant.

Local Spotlight

COSMETIC OBSESSION



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Plastic surgeries have boomed in recent years, and nowadays many men and women go to cosmetic clinics and pay a fortune to look younger and prettier - but it is not always a fairytale. Some have lost their lives or ended up with permanent deformations. Yet, some people still take the risk with these costly operations with hope that eventually they will look gorgeous without ascertaining about the reputation of the doctor and their qualifications and efficiency, or even their own need for the process.

An incident occurred in Kuwait this year and caused much debate. A woman went to a doctor for a liposuction to remove excessive fat from her body. But she was not aware that the operation would be filmed and shown to the public via social media with semi-nude pictures of her. The doctor posted the video on his Facebook account while he was doing the liposuction, while the woman appeared almost naked. The doctor tried to justify his act as a way to show his skills and dazzling achievements.

The Ministry of Health took a decision to suspend the doctor from practicing his job for six months, which means that he will suffer from financial loss for not being able to conduct operations throughout this period. His reputation in the society is also damaged for not being honest or trustworthy, which is important for any doctor.

It is noteworthy that Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi has called on the department of medical licenses at the ministry to investigate the incident due to its violation of the patient's privacy and ignoring the standards of the medical profession. The Ministry of Interior, through its electronic crimes department, also filed a legal complaint against the doctor for violating regulations and laws and publishing semi-naked images on social media.

This issue is now over and the doctor has to accept the results. But, the problem is with the obsession with plastic surgeries globally and not just here, and this is scary for the future. A report was recently published on the most popular cosmetic operations in 2017, and breast lifting and tightening came first on the list. The number of cosmetic operations in the United States and Britain rose 4 percent compared to last year. The facelift is also one of the top five operations on the list after breast lifting, followed by liposuction and nose and eyelid lifts.

I am not against cosmetic surgery, but it should only be used to rectify a deformity or as a solution to a health problem. I am not convinced that the reduction or enlargement of the breasts is necessary, for example. The increasing number of slimming operations means that people will not be interested in exercising and healthy eating, because cosmetic surgeries and liposuctions are easy ways out - but they aren't. Many people do not think about the possibility of medical errors and the expensive costs of these procedures. They could pay with their lives if they go to the wrong doctor.

In Brief

GOLD PRICES UP

KUWAIT: Gold prices went up by 1.5 percent to reach \$1,228 per ounce in last week's trading in New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), according to Sabaek Al-Kuwait Company. It added in its weekly report yesterday that this upraise came for the first time since the last five weeks after the gold reached its lowest levels during the last four months as it hit \$1,204 per ounce. It later went up again by the end of last week with \$19 difference from the beginning of the week. — KUNA



MUTAIRI WINS GOLD

LONDON: Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Mutairi came first Saturday in the men's 100M. wheelchair track race, T33 category, of athletics competitions at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships, currently held in London. Mutairi came in lead at record time of 17 seconds, coming ahead of his three British competitors who finished the race at 17.79 seconds. Al-Mutairi's win has, once again, hoisted Kuwait's flag and played the national anthem at a major international sports event, Anwar Al-Mutawa, head of the Kuwaiti participating team, stated. — KUNA



US DOLLAR DOWN AGAINST DINAR

KUWAIT: The US Dollar exchange rate against the Kuwaiti Dinar went down yesterday exchanging at KD 0.302 while the Euro went up to KD 0.347, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). Meanwhile, the Sterling Pound was up to KD 0.396, whereas the Swiss Franc stood at KD 0.314 and the Japanese Yen was firm at KD 0.002. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly building. — KUNA photo

ROYAL SENTENCED FOR INSULTING AMIR

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The cassation court sentenced Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to three years in jail for insulting HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and several dignitaries. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, the states Minister of Cabinet Affairs was one of those who filed complaints against the convicted royal.

False claims

The Interior Ministry denied yesterday that a lawyer came forward with evidence to prove that a fake doctor had impersonated a Kuwaiti doctor who had left Kuwait nearly thirty years ago. A lawyer had posted online that he gave police the Bangladeshi man's ID and original passport, in addition to the forged Kuwaiti passport that allegedly belonged to a Kuwaiti man who used to work for the Health Ministry and also served as his sponsor. The Interior Ministry said in a statement yesterday that those claims are not true, and that police had instead called the lawyer who failed to provide any concrete evidence to support his claims. Investigations in the case are still ongoing.

Smuggling foiled

Police arrested an Asian man who brought in opium hidden in sweets in an attempt to smuggle it through Kuwait International Airport. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Fire put out

Mubarak Al-Kabeer firemen responded to a call about a fire in a vehicle in Dhahar, and put the blaze out. No injuries were reported.



KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality carried out inspections at the governorate's co-ops, in addition to stores and restaurants in Aswaq Al-Qurain. Inspectors issued 15 violations for not complying with general hygiene rules, storing spoiled food, employing a worker with expired health certificate and another without one. Meanwhile, 615 kilos of foodstuff unfit for human consumption were destroyed. Separately, Jahra municipality checked 666 stores, removed 440 signs and issued citations to 110 stores. —Photos by Meshaal Al-Enezi and Hanan Al-Saadoun

Crime

Report

MAN HOSPITALIZED
IN BOTCHED SUICIDE

KUWAIT: A Bangladeshi was admitted to Jahra Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) after attempting suicide by ingesting two cans of insecticide. The man was taken by his sponsor to Abdaly health center after he found him prone at his farm.

Stab wound

An 18-year-old Kuwaiti man was admitted to Jahra Hospital with a stab wound. He said he fought with men he does not know in Taima, who then stabbed him and left him bleeding. A case was opened to investigate the reason behind the fight.

Drunk driving

A drunk citizen offered police three imported liquor bottles to let him go, but he failed and was sent to the Drug Control General Directorate (DCGD). The man faces charges of alcohol possession, public drunkenness and driving under the influence.

Woman escapes rapist

A girl escaped being raped at a Kabd farm. The girl went to Sulaibiya police station and lodged a complaint. A security source said the 23-year-old girl said she received a dinner invitation at a farm and was hesitant, but the man assured her he plans to marry her. He told her not to be afraid as there will be other people there. She said that when dinner was over, and while on the way to her car, the man "tried to push me into a room, but I resisted and ran out".

Car thefts

A thief stole the car that belongs to a citizen while he was filling it up at a gas station, and sped off. Police are investigating.

KD 75 stolen

A bedoon went into a tailor shop asking for a dishdasha he had asked to be sewn earlier. When the Pakistani tailor told him he did not recall such a thing, he threatened the tailor and stole KD 75. The suspect was arrested and confessed to have not given the tailor any tailoring order.

—Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Jarida

الراي

Al-Rai

THE SECRET IN PERSISTENCE

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

There is a good saying by Sheikh Ali Al-Tantawi in which he emphasizes the importance of fighting fitna (strife), and not to despair from reform. He said, "if you see your house on fire you will rush to put out the blaze and will call for help from anyone you see. You won't stop until the blaze is under control, or goes out completely. The secret in that persistence is that what is burning is your house, and no matter how strong the fire is and seems hard to extinguish, it will still not keep you from fighting it, as you do not have any other choice."

We, the Gulf people, need to understand this advice very well, practice it, and also deliver it to our leaders. If any side is wrong, it is supposed to first discuss the mistakes at the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), and accusations should be heard as well as answers to them. Then the Gulf judges, I repeat the Gulf judges, should look into the case and submit their reports to the council's leaders who in turn will reveal the results to their people.

Today, there are those who work to widen the strife and feed the fire with wood from all sides. Also, there is a manipulation with the Gulf people's fate, dreams and hopes, and it does not seem that there are those who listen or care. It is ok, for Gulf

nationals who dream of unity to scream and never stop, as either Allah will guide everyone to remove the differences, or we continue screaming until the blaze of the strife burn us all until we become unable to scream or cry anymore.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

*We, the Gulf people,
need to understand this
advice very well*

GULF BANK PLATINUM SPONSOR OF 29TH
MEMORIAL JOURNEY FOR PEARL DIVING

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to be a platinum sponsor of the 29th Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving for the 8th consecutive year. The journey, which begins on July 27 and ends on August 3, is organized on yearly bases by the Committee of the Marine Heritage of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, under the Patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The journey will kick off at 8:30 am on Thursday, July 27 to start with a special 'Al-Dasha' ceremony. The dhows will leave carrying captains as well as other participants heading to Bandar Al-Khairan for an entire week trip. The return ceremony 'Al-Qoffal' is planned for the afternoon of Thursday, 3 August, 2017.

The Pearl Diving Memorial Journey is one of the initiatives that Gulf Bank sponsors it on an annual basis, it forms a key part of its long-term commitment to preserving the heritage and continuing the traditions of Kuwait's unique past. The Journey aims to remind young Kuwaiti generations of the difficulties and challenges faced by their forefathers in earning their living, along with a message urging these genera-



tions to uphold the traditions and values their ancestors developed during that time.

The journey is organized each year by the Committee of the Marine Heritage of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, which has Kuwaiti sailors using dhows to sail great distances away from their families and to dive for pearls in the traditional way.

Gulf Bank continues to maintain and strengthen its position as an integral part of the Kuwaiti society. The Bank supports and emphasizes the true Kuwaiti identity and the importance of the Kuwaiti traditions and customs, through sponsoring different of social activities and events, for more details about Gulf Bank initiatives, please visit the bank's website www.e-gulfbank.com.

KUWAIT DELIVERS AID
WORTH \$53M TO YEMEN

RIYADH: Kuwaiti aid worth \$53 million trickled into Yemen yesterday, setting in motion the third batch of emergency assistance the Gulf country has earmarked for the war-torn nation. The third phase of a Kuwaiti aid campaign, christened 'Kuwait is By Your Side,' encompasses 17 Yemeni provinces and includes educational, healthcare and food aid, read a statement issued by the joint Yemeni and

Kuwaiti Relief Authority. Meanwhile, Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Bin Daghr heaped praise on Kuwait for its earnest desire to come to the aid of the Yemeni people, many of whom live in penury because of a war that remains largely unabated. Kuwait launched the aid campaign to provide much needed aid for Yemen as the country is languishing amid a grinding civil war. — KUNA

ELEVEN PLAYERS WITH VIVA TO MANCHESTER
UNITED TO JOIN THE SOCCER ACADEMY

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced that top 11 qualifying players headed to Manchester, England, to practice at VIVA Manchester United Academy, from July 15 until July 23, 2017.

Players were selected from over 300 participants who joined the VIVA MU Soccer Academy's tryouts, held in last April, and will get the opportunity to travel to Manchester, to join a training camp and get educated and trained by famous soccer team coaches. A team from VIVA in addition to professionals and coaches will accompany the players to take care of them and ensure their safety.

Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "We are looking forward to an exciting trip with this group of young players, as they have shown great potential and are keen to learn more." He added: "VIVA MU soccer Academy is one of the initiatives that VIVA aims to support the youth through it, enhance their skills and grant them the opportunity to learn and communicate with interna-



tional and professional coaches to earn the needed experience that lead them to fulfill their dreams."

A judging committee from Manchester United Soccer School chose the top 11 players. Each of them were judged based on their soccer capability and talent, physical fitness, discipline, their communication skills amongst

each other as players and their general conduct on and off the field. The training program focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. The programs were also designed to develop young players in other fields, such as tactical understanding, and mental, physical and social growth.

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Turkey marks coup defeat with rallies

16 PILGRIMS KILLED IN BUS CRASH IN NORTHERN INDIA



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron, right, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, give a joint press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris. — AFP

MACRON CHIDES NETANYAHU ON SETTLEMENTS

PARIS URGES ISRAEL ON NEW MIDEAST TALKS

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron told Israel's visiting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday that Paris opposes Israel's expansion of settlements in occupied Palestinian territory as he urged fresh Middle East peace talks. Stressing that international law should be "respected by all", Macron said: "I am thinking here of (Israel's) continued building" in occupied Palestinian territory.

Israelis and Palestinians should be able "to live side by side within secure and recognized borders with Jerusalem as the capital", Macron said after his first official talks with Netanyahu. "I hope everything will be done for negotiations to move forward," he said. Talks between Israel and the Palestinians have been at a standstill since the failure of US mediation in the spring of 2014. Macron, elected in May, appears to be following the proactive line taken by his Socialist predecessor Francois Hollande, whose efforts to mobilize the international community on the peace process angered Israel.

The French leader met Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas on Wednesday, when he said he backed a two-state solution and opposed Israeli settlements. "France has always condemned the continuation of settlement building, which is illegal under international law and has reached an unprecedented level since the beginning of the year," he said in his first public remarks on the conflict since taking office.

The United Nations reported in June that Israel had announced a substantial increase in settlements in the past three months despite a UN resolution demanding a halt to the Jewish outposts. Earlier yesterday, Macron and Netanyahu underscored their two countries' longstanding friendship as they marked the 75th anniversary of a notorious 1942 roundup of 13,000 Jews to be sent to Nazi death camps. Netanyahu was the first Israeli prime minister to attend a Vel d'Hiv commemoration, and he said the invita-

tion was a "very, very strong gesture". Macron addressed Netanyahu as "dear Bibi" and called "anti-Zionism" a new form of anti-Semitism. Netanyahu's presence at the event drew fire from some groups, notably the Union of French Jews for Peace, which accused the Israeli government of "usurping the memory of the victims of Nazism to make people believe that Israel represents all the world's Jews".

Vigilance on Iran

During their talks afterwards, Macron assured Netanyahu of his "vigilance" regarding the 2015 nuclear accord reached by Western powers with Israel's arch-enemy Iran. Netanyahu was a vocal opponent of the deal, which saw sanctions against Iran eased in return for curbs on its nuclear program. The French presidency said Sunday's meeting would be an occasion to "signal our lack of complacency towards Iran".

Since taking office, Macron has drawn praise for his balanced but firm handling of encounters with world leaders such as US President Donald Trump and his Russian opposite number Vladimir Putin.

Macron rolled out the red carpet for Trump on Friday when he was guest of honor for France's Bastille Day festivities. The French leader criticized Trump over his renunciation of the Paris climate accord, but he stressed their close cooperation against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. Similarly with Putin, whom Macron hosted at the sumptuous Versailles palace in May, the French leader stood firm on French opposition to Russia's annexation of Ukraine in 2014. But he said the removal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad-Moscow's chief ally in the Middle East-was not a prerequisite to a solution to the six-year-old conflict in Syria.—AFP



DAKAR: People look at the scene after a wall collapsed at Demba Diop stadium in Dakar after a football game between local teams Ouakam and Stade de Mbour. — AFP

EIGHT DEAD IN SENEGAL FOOTBALL STADIUM CRUSH

DAKAR: Eight people were killed during Senegal's football league cup final in Dakar on Saturday, the sports minister said, as a wall collapsed onto clashing supporters triggering a panicked stampede. Sports minister Matar Ba said a young girl was among the dead, while around 60 injured fans had been taken to health facilities in Dakar. He vowed "strong measures so that such an event will never be repeated in Senegal," speaking to AFP by phone. A mass deployment of firefighters and ambulances remained at the scene late Saturday.

An AFP journalist who attended the match described a stadium full to bursting with people for the long-awaited clash between local teams US Ouakam and Stade de Mbour. At 2-1 during extra time, US Ouakam supporters began throwing stones at Stade de Mbour fans, causing spectators to begin vacating their seats in a rush, the journalist said. Part of a wall supporting bleachers seating fans from both sides then collapsed, while police had begun firing tear gas and panic spread in the stadium leading to a crush.

"All of a sudden when the wall fell... we knew exactly that some of our own had lost their lives because the

wall fell directly onto people," said Cheikh Maba Diop, a witness who helped evacuate victims from the stadium and lost a friend in the tragedy. Also speaking at the scene, football fan Mara Die Diouf said policing at the stadium had been inadequate. "What I find terrible is that we have this kind of final in this kind of stadium here where there isn't enough security," he said.

Diouf described police retreating from an area separating the two teams' supporters once projectiles began being thrown, triggering dangerous movements by spectators unable to defend themselves. AFP journalists at the scene saw belongings covered in blood at the site, with a pair of glasses and clothing strewn among broken pieces of concrete. Campaigning for Senegal's legislative elections due on July 30 would on Sunday be suspended in respect for the victims, said a spokesman for President Macky Sall.

Sall also wanted "punishments serving as a warning," following the tragedy, spokesman El Hamidou Kasse said on TFM television. Senegal's safety record at large gatherings has been heavily criticized this year after the death of dozens of people at a religious retreat in April when a fire ripped through makeshift shelters.—AFP

CONGO VOTES FOR PARLIAMENT WITH OPPOSITION CALLING FOUL

BRAZZAVILLE: Voters went to the polls in legislative elections in the oil-rich Republic of Congo yesterday, the first since a violence-marred presidential poll last year which returned Denis Sassou Nguesso to power. The first round of polling to elect National Assembly members as well as local councils is taking place with the opposition calling foul, accusing the ruling Congolese Labor Party (PCT) of giving its candidates an unfair advantage. Electoral officials said voting was nevertheless proceeding calmly although some polling stations opened more than an hour late because of a delay in receiving voting materials.

Henri Bouka, head of the National Election Commission (CNEI), said that "for the moment all is going well" but that voter turnout so far was low. "We hope that as the day goes on we will see a greater number of voters," he added. However, an incident was reported in the northern town of Kelle where opposition protesters briefly took away the ballot boxes, a local resident who gave his name only as Antoine said by phone. "The ballot boxes have been returned after a lot of

negotiation," he said, adding that one protester was beaten up by police but that his injuries were not life-threatening.

Sassou Nguesso returned to office in March 2016 after a constitutional referendum ended a two-term presidential term limit, amid deadly violence notably in the Pool region neighboring the capital Brazzaville. The 73-year-old president's PCT is running 128 candidates for the 151 seats available, while several independents have close ties to the party. The main parliamentary opposition group, the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UPADS), has put forward 43 candidates, compared to 31 run by the UDH-Yuki group of Guy-Brice Parfait Kolelas, who came second in the presidential last year.

But an opposition coalition has said it will only take part under certain circumstances, including "the end of the crisis in Pool and the release of all political prisoners". Two leaders of the coalition, Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko and Andre Okombi Salissa, were arrested and jailed in June 2016 and in January "for threatening the internal security of the state". —AFP

ISRAELI FORCES SHOOT PALESTINIAN GUNMAN

JERUSALEM: Israeli soldiers and police on an arrest mission in the town of Nabi Salah in the occupied West Bank shot dead a Palestinian who attempted to open fire at them early yesterday, the army said. "The forces encountered the suspect, who attempted to open fire at them," a statement from the Israeli army read. "In response to the immediate threat forces fired towards the attacker resulting in his death." Palestinian security forces and family identified the sus-

pect as 34-year-old Amar Tirawi from Kafr Ein, a town near Nabi Salah in the central West Bank.

Officials had earlier given another name for the suspect. Another Palestinian suspect was lightly wounded and arrested, the statement from the military read. On Saturday, a gunman targeted a vehicle near an Israeli settlement north of Ramallah and wounded a foreign national of Palestinian descent who is residing in a Palestinian village. In a

separate incident, gunshots hit a military post near Nabi Salah. The army said Tirawi was behind both incidents.

Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency named Tirawi as Amar Halil and said he had carried out the shootings along with his fiancée Rawan Ambar due to their families' refusal to accept their engagement. According to the Shin Bet, Tirawi was a former member of the Palestinian preventive security who became an arms trader.

Tirawi's fiancée had turned herself in to Palestinian security forces, the Shin Bet said, confirming to AFP she was in their custody since late Saturday, hours before the fatal raid. Sources in Tirawi's village said he had been detained by Palestinian security forces for a number of days in the past few weeks, and that he was wanted by Israeli security prior to the Saturday shootings. The Shin Bet refused to comment on that report.

A wave of unrest that broke out in

October 2015 has claimed the lives of at least 282 Palestinians or Arab Israelis, 44 Israelis, two Americans, two Jordanians, an Eritrean, a Sudanese and a Briton, according to an AFP toll. Israeli authorities say most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks. Others were shot dead in protests and clashes, while some were killed in Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip. The violence has greatly subsided in recent months.—AFP



MOSUL: A member of the Iraqi forces holds a position in west Mosul a few days after the government's announcement of the 'liberation' of the embattled city from Islamic State (IS) group fighters.—AFP

News

i n b r i e f

Border attack kills two Iranians

TEHRAN: Two Iranian civilians were killed in a cross-border attack by Pakistani insurgents, the Revolutionary Guards said. "On Saturday evening, a terrorist team... fired (ammunition) from within Pakistani territory toward the Iranian border region of Saravan" in Sistan-Baluchistan province, the Guards said in a statement on their Sepahnews website. "Two local workers in the region were martyred in this terrorist attack," it added. Forces from the Quds force-the Guards' foreign operations wing-killed one of the attackers and wounded two, while others fled back into Pakistani territory, the statement said. President Hassan Rouhani wrote to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif calling for greater efforts to prevent insurgent attacks along the border. The Guards also said on June 19 that they had killed the leader and four members of another jihadist group called Ansar Al-Furqan in the Iranian port city of Chabahar in Sistan-Baluchistan province.

Syria war has killed more than 330,000

BEIRUT: More than 330,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict since it started six years ago, around a third of them civilians, a monitor said yesterday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it has documented the deaths of 331,765 people across Syria since the conflict erupted in mid-March 2011 with anti-government protests. Included in the overall death toll are 99,617 civilians, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said, adding that the figures were for the period between March 15, 2011 and July 15, 2017. A total of 18,243 children and 11,427 women were among the civilians killed, the Observatory said. The figures were the latest provided by the Observatory since March when it said 320,000 people, including 96,000 civilians, had been killed. In its latest report, the Observatory said a total of 116,774 members of the regime forces or regime supporters have been killed in Syria since the conflict began.

US citizen accused of infiltration sentenced to 10 years in prison

TEHRAN: A United States citizen accused of "infiltration" in Iran has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, a spokesman for the judiciary said yesterday. "The person was identified and arrested by the intelligence forces. The court has sentenced the person to 10 years," deputy judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejeie said in a televised press conference. The individual, whose name was not provided, has appealed the sentence, he added. The foreigner holds dual nationality of the United States and another country, he said, promising to give more details once the appeals court confirms the sentence. In October, US-Iranian business consultant Siamak Namazi and his 80-year-old father Baquer, a former UNICEF official, were given 10 years in prison for "espionage and collaboration with the American government".

Turkey President Erdogan voice message surprises mobile users

ISTANBUL: When making a social phone call, you don't expect to hear the voice of the head of state. But mobile phone users in Turkey were surprised to hear a voice message by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan when placing a call around midnight on the anniversary of the failed July 15 coup. After dialling a number, instead of hearing a dial tone users heard a voice message from Erdogan congratulating them on the national holiday of "democracy and unity" that marks the coup's defeat. Only after Erdogan's message did the dialtone begin. "As president, I send congratulations on the July 15 National Day of Democracy and Unity and wish the martyrs mercy and the heroes (of the defeat of the coup) health and wellbeing," said the message read by Erdogan. The message could be heard on Turkey's largest network Turkcell, AFP correspondents said.

Yemen troops killed in suspected Qaeda attack

ADEN: Five Yemeni soldiers were killed and three wounded yesterday when gunmen suspected of ties to Al-Qaeda opened fire on a military checkpoint, an army source said. The source said the gunmen managed to escape after the attack on the checkpoint in the northeast of Shabwa province, a southern stronghold of Yemen's powerful Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Yesterday's attack is the latest in a string of suspected AQAP shootings targeting military checkpoints and outposts in Yemen. AQAP, seen by the United States as the global terror network's most dangerous branch, has exploited years of deadly conflict between Yemen's government and Huthi rebels to expand its presence, especially in Shabwa.

TURKEY MARKS COUP DEFEAT WITH RALLIES, ERDOGAN WARNING

ERDOGAN WARNS TURKEY COULD REINTRODUCE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

ANKARA: Turkey on Saturday marked one year since the defeat of the failed coup bid with mass nationwide rallies seeking to showcase national unity and a stern warning by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "chop off the heads" of traitors. The authorities declared July 15 an annual national holiday of "democracy and unity", billing the foiling of the putsch as a historic victory of Turkish democracy. In an intense program aiming to hammer home the anniversary's importance, Erdogan attended a special session of parliament in Ankara, spoke to a mass rally in Istanbul and then flew back to the capital for a rally outside parliament and a special event at the presidential palace in the early hours of the morning.

Speaking to hundreds of thousands by the bridge across the Bosphorus in Istanbul that was a fighting flash-point, Erdogan warned Turkey could reintroduce capital punishment. "First of all we will chop off the heads of those traitors," Erdogan said, reaffirming he would sign any passed by parliament bill on resuming executions. Any move to restore capital punishment-which Turkey abolished in 2004 — would effectively end Ankara's European Union membership ambitions.

Erdogan also said the suspects being tried over the failed coup should wear uniform clothing like the notorious orange jumpsuits used at US military prison at Guantanamo Bay. "When they appear in court, let's make them appear in uniform suits like in Guantanamo," Erdogan said to cheers. Supporters chanted "we are soldiers of Tayyip (Erdogan)", with some even brandishing nooses in a symbol of their support for the death penalty.

In the later speech to thousands outside parliament in Ankara which was bombed by warplanes that night, Erdogan declaimed "our nation showed the whole world what a nation we are on July 15." The crowds later made their way to the palace where dozens had camped outside for the final official event during which Erdogan inaugurated a monument to the victims which has people hold up the crescent and star symbols of the Turkish flag.

I would stay out again

Two hundred and forty nine people, not including the plotters, were killed when a disgruntled faction of 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.

"Did my citizens have weapons? They had their flags like today but they had a more efficient weapon: their faith," Erdogan said in Istanbul. Murat, an Erdogan supporter at the Ankara rally, said: "If that happened once more, I would stay out again. That night, it was like a war. We take ownership of this country and this people." In



ISTANBUL: People stand under a collection of Turkish national flags as they gather on the 'July 15 Martyrs Bridge' (Bosphorus Bridge) in Istanbul.—AFP

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. Erdogan said a decision would be made on Monday over whether to recommend extending the emergency by another three months.

Immorality

Turkey's opposition had 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" in a move that irked Erdogan. "Over the last year, the judicial proceedings... moved outside the framework of the law," Kilicdaroglu told the special session of 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. But Erdogan angrily slammed as an "immorality" opposition claims of a "controlled coup" which the authorities had known about in advance and then taken advantage of. 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.

Epic of July 15

The scale of Saturday'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 and Ankara showing gaudy paintings that portray the key events of the coup night with the slogan "the epic of July 15". Illuminated anti-coup slogans were hung between the minarets of some of Istanbul's greatest Ottoman mosques. Meanwhile mobile phone users in Turkey were surprised to hear a voice message by Erdogan himself when placing a call, congratulating them on the defeat of the coup.—AFP

DETROIT AT CROSSROADS 50 YEARS AFTER RIOTS DEVASTATED CITY

DETROIT: Deborah Chenault Green is 62, a writer. But 50 years ago she was a pre-teen, sleeping on the porch to escape the oppressive heat, awakening to see a sky that glowed unnaturally. Azerine Jones is a retired baker. But in 1967 she was the 12-year-old daughter of a barber who watched his business go up in smoke. Girard Townsend is 66 now, living in a seniors building near the Detroit waterfront. But a half century ago, he was just a kid on a city bus.

The bus stopped near 12th and Clairmount streets. Townsend stepped off - and into the very start of the Detroit riot. "I saw all these guys with masks and shields," he said - city police officers, most of them white, far outnumbered by a seething black crowd. In the days that followed, he would witness - and take part in - an epic eruption of violence that still reverberates in his life and the life of this city. Five days of violence would leave 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 people were arrested.

A decline that had already begun would accelerate; Detroit was the nation's fourth biggest city in 1960, but would rank 21st by 2016. The middle class fled, and a proud city fell into poverty, crime and hopelessness. There are signs of rebirth in Detroit. But the men and women who lived through the riots are getting older, and most doubt they will live to see Detroit reclaim its former glory, when its very name was synonymous with American know-how and industry. "Detroit still hasn't come back to where it was," Townsend said sourly, sorting through 50 years of memories.

Blind pig raid

Detroit wasn't the first of the riots in the summer of 1967, and it was far from the last. Buffalo, New York, and Newark, New Jersey, preceded it; in the course of the summer, more than 150 cases of civil unrest erupted across the United States. Detroit's started after a July 23 police raid on an illegal after-hours' club - a "blind pig" - at 12th and Clairmount. The raid, though, was just the spark. Many in the community blamed frustrations blacks felt toward the mostly white police, and city policies that pushed families into aging and over-crowded neighborhoods.

"We had a fear and kind of a hatred toward the police department," Green said. "They would harass people, especially

young black men. Stop them for no reason. A lot of men and women were beaten. A lot of that led up to the city exploding." When Gerard Townsend got off the bus that night, he stumbled into the immediate aftermath of the blind pig raid. By the next day, the riot was in full bloom: "I got up the next morning and the whole west side was on fire. Everything was burning. People were running around with clothes in their hands, TVs and all kinds of stuff."

Townsend was among them. He made off with a television from a furniture store. "We stole liquor and stuff," he said. "I watched it. I lived it. I was part of it." There is general agreement that the rioters did not focus their fury on whites. Theresa Welsh and her husband, David, rented an apartment early that summer about eight blocks from where the riot started. "Nobody bothered us. We were a couple of white people wandering around," said Welsh, 71. Deborah Chenault Green recalls she was at a cousin's home. They slept on a mattress on the porch because it was such a hot night.

"The noise, I think, is what woke us up," she said. "You could hear cars and people and police sirens. I looked in the sky and I saw red. There was looting. It was mayhem everywhere. Everybody was just going crazy." National Guard tanks and other armored vehicles rumbled through the streets. There were reports of snipers firing on law enforcement, the National Guard and even firefighters from rooftops and other secreted spots. Authorities fired back.

The city lost more than 2,000 shops to fires or looting, many of them owned by blacks. Among them was the barbershop on Warren Avenue owned by Azerine Jones' father. "They were burning some of everything," she said "It wasn't a matter of them saying this was white-owned or black-owned. Stuff just got caught on fire." When the smoke cleared and the military rolled out, Detroit stood bruised and battered. "A lot of the fires may have started in white-owned business and spread," Green said. "A lot of black businesses were destroyed. A lot of people had jobs in those shops. The majority of them didn't reopen. After the riot, it looked like a war zone and the burnt smell still lingered." Jones said her father never rebuilt his barbershop. He took on other jobs after the riot. "Owning your own business as a black in the 1950s and '60s was an accomplishment in itself," she said. — AP



EGYPT: A picture shows a general view of the Sunny Days Elpalacio beach in the Egyptian Red Sea resort city of Hurghada.—AFP

LIBYA PM CALLS FOR ELECTIONS IN MARCH

TRIPOLI: The head of Libya's UN-backed unity government has announced a new political roadmap for his violence-ravaged country, with presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in March 2018. Political rivalry and fighting between militias have hampered Libya's efforts to recover from the chaos that followed the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi. The Government of National Accord has been struggling to assert its authority since it began work in Tripoli in March 2016, with a rival administration based in the remote east refusing to recognize it.

"Presidential and parliamentary elections will be organized in March 2018," GNA head Fayez al-Sarraj said in a speech broadcast on television late on Saturday. He said the polls aimed to elect a new president and parliament whose mandate will be of "three years maximum or until the drafting and organization of a referendum for a constitution". Sarraj

spoke haltingly and sounded tired as he delivered his speech flanked by Libya's flag and behind him the slogan "Libya, together towards reconciliation and reconstruction".

He outlined a nine-point roadmap which he said would help shake off years of security problems, division and economic woes, and was aimed at relaunching the Libya Political Agreement. The UN-backed LPA agreed in 2015 by rival Libyan groups paved the way for the creation of the GNA. Sarraj said the GNA would remain as a caretaker government until after the elections. He said the lack of security in Libya was the most "thorny" issue facing the country, and regretted that his predecessors did not disarm militias after the 2011 revolt. "We are now harvesting the fruits of these mistakes," said Sarraj. "The time has come for unity and the rescuing of our nation." Sarraj continues to face opposition despite receiving the backing of many political and military leaders.—AFP

TRUMP FACES TOUGH RETURN TO WASHINGTON 'SWAMP'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump returns to Washington yesterday after a brief overseas respite, facing an enduring and intensifying storm over his campaign's contacts with Russia. During two pomp-filled days in Paris and another two playing maitre d' to professional female golfers driving, chipping and putting their way around his Bedminster course in New Jersey, Trump was in his element. In the French capital, Trump played the role of honored guest, wooed by new President Emmanuel Macron who was determined to reassert France's importance on the world stage.

The visit seemed-and indeed was-tailor made for Trump. It was the presidency as he would no doubt like it, ceremonial, aggrandizing and shorn of its onerous security briefings and tedious policy debates. Trump even got to attend a military parade of the sort he is rumored to have wanted for his own inauguration. For a few days, the angry tweets and the rants against the media were largely gone. In their place, more than a dozen effusive electronic missives that were part tourist postcard, part thank-you note to a cherished host.

Trump variously thanked Macron "for the beautiful welcome ceremony," for a "great evening" dining at the Eiffel Tower and for "great conversations." "It was a great honor to represent the United States at the magnificent #BastilleDay parade. Congratulations President @EmmanuelMacron!" Trump wrote in one tweet. Trump's staff appeared



NEW JERSEY: US President Donald Trump waves to spectators at the Trump National Golf Club during the third round of the US Women's Open Golf tournament in Bedminster, New Jersey.—AP

to welcome the respite just as much as their boss, stealing away a few minutes for a late-night Parisian cocktail or Croque Monsieur. But for staff, the release was tinged with a sense of exhaustion.

The last few grueling weeks have seen them fly the president from Washington to Poland to

Germany, back to Washington, on to Paris and then to Bedminster. All the while, aides like chief of staff Reince Priebus have been chained to their phone trying to minimize the damage from new scandals at the same time as manage the passage of major legislation. Simultaneous travel, scandal and law-making would be a massive challenge for even the most efficient White House, much less for Trump's understaffed, chaotic, besieged and backstabbing administration. Their return to the "swamp"-as Trump's camp nicknames the US capital-is unlikely to bring much comfort.

Welcome home

In Washington, the Trump administration faces a fresh string of questions about contacts with a Russian lawyer and lobbyist, further raising the stakes in the federal investigation into whether Trump's team colluded with Russia to tilt last year's election. Trump and most of his top associates-from his son Donald Jr to son-in-law and close aide Jared Kushner-have retained hard-charging defense lawyers. The rolling storms-like the Jupiter tempest captured this week-have made life difficult on the face of planet Trump, without fundamentally altering its trajectory.

While investigations are sucking up vital oxygen in Congress, and lawmakers get asked about little else, there is so far little sign Russiagate is costing Trump votes. His allies in Congress appear to be

edging closer to repealing and replacing healthcare reform that was the signature legislative achievement of Barack Obama's presidency. On Saturday Trump posted on Twitter a video in which he praised the Republican bill while denouncing Obamacare.

"I am pleased to report that we are very, very close to ending this healthcare nightmare. We are so close," he vowed. Trump's popularity has settled at around 39 percent, according to opinion polls. "About four in 10 Americans approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president," said Gallup analysts. "That figure has not changed materially over the past four months." But a failure to pass healthcare reform, tax reform or a massive infrastructure spending could prove a devastating blow, weakening so-far solid support among Republicans.

There are early signs that support may be ebbing. Even some leading voices at Fox News, the cable network popular with conservatives which has been in lock-step with the administration, have expressed dissent about the administration's shifting explanations on Russia. The last six months have seen Trump aides shift from denying any contact with Russians to dramatically raising the bar for censure-worthy behavior. In light of Trump Jr's bomb-shell admission he met a Russian lawyer last year in a bid to get dirt on his father's Democrat rival Hillary Clinton, top aide Kellyanne Conway seemed to dramatically shift the goalposts.—AFP

VENEZUELANANS CAST BALLOTS IN OPPOSITION VOTE

NEC REFUSE TO BOYCOTT THE VOTE

CARACAS: Polls opened in Venezuela yesterday in an opposition-organized vote to measure public support for President Nicolas Maduro's plan to rewrite the constitution, against a backdrop of worsening political violence. Dozens of people were queuing in Caracas neighborhoods including Chacaito and Los Palos Grandes before polling stations opened at 7:00 am (1100 GMT), according to the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) opposition coalition. They are due to close at 4:00 pm (2000 GMT), though they will remain open as long as people are in line.

Delegates and volunteers, many dressed in white, manned tents and tables at some 14,300 polling stations nationwide. Maduro supporters are boycotting the vote, and the National Electoral Council has refused to authorize it, so the outcome is not binding. Opposition leaders expect as many as 11 million of people to cast

ballots anyway, voting to reject the president's controversial plan for a separate referendum July 30 to elect a constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution. The opposition is boycotting the Maduro-backed vote.

They hope a big turnout yesterday will increase pressure for Maduro's removal from power, clearing the way for new presidential elections before his term ends in January 2019. The rival elections have given rise to international worries-voiced by the Catholic Church and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres-that the chances of bringing both sides together for dialogue have become more remote. That in turn is stoking fears of more protests and running street battles with police, clashes that have cost the lives of nearly 100 people since the beginning of April. Maduro portrayed Sunday's vote as merely an "internal consultation by the opposition parties" with no electoral legitimacy. But he

also urged Venezuelans to "participate peacefully." While Maduro is deeply unpopular-with 80 percent of Venezuelans criticizing his rule, according to the Datanalisis survey firm-he enjoys backing from some, mostly poor, parts of the population and, most importantly, from the military. Many Venezuelans, though, are less focused on the political power play than they are on just getting by day to day under a crushing economic crisis that has led to shortages of food and medicine.

Mandate for change

The opposition accuses Maduro of attempting to assume dictatorial powers through the constitutional rewrite and other steps. Opposition figure Maria Corina Machado predicted the vote would not only reject the Constituent Assembly but also "give a mandate for a change of the regime." She envisions a post-Maduro transition in which a national unity government would assume power. In a national radio and TV broadcast on Friday, Maduro called on his followers to take part in a rival poll exercise Sunday that would serve as a dry run for the July 30 constituent assembly election.

Unlike the opposition-backed referendum, the government-backed exercise has been approved by the country's electoral authorities. Maduro has accused foreign powers of being behind the opposition's bid to block the constituent assembly, and contends that international press coverage of the plebiscite was aimed at justifying foreign intervention.

Foreign observers

According to Datanalisis, 70 percent of Venezuelans reject Maduro's plan for a constituent assembly. Five former Latin American presidents-from Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico and two from Costa Rica-were in Venezuela at the opposition's invitation to act as observers of the vote, alongside electoral experts from various countries. Former Mexican leader Vicente Fox said on arriving in Caracas that the vote could be the "beginning of the end" of Maduro's government. The head of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, called on Venezuelans to take part in the vote "to prevent the definitive collapse" of the country's institutions.—AFP



MADRID: Two Venezuelan residents in Madrid, show their little fingers stained with ink after voting during a symbolic plebiscite on President Maduro's project of a future constituent assembly, called by the Venezuelan opposition and held at the Puerta del Sol in Madrid.—AFP

S AFRICAN COMMUNISTS MULL QUITTING ANC ELECTION PACT

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's communist party has said it could contest elections on its own rather than as part of the alliance led by the ruling African National Congress, local media reported yesterday. SACP secretary general Blade Nzimande announced the proposals during his closing speech to the SACP party congress in Boksburg near Johannesburg on Saturday. Analysts say that the move, which would hurt the ANC's electoral chances, could be a bid by the SACP to influence the party's leadership contest later this year.

The SACP currently fields candidates under the ANC's electoral banner as part of South Africa's "tripartite alliance", which comprises the two parties and the COSATU trade union federation. Nzimande said the party had not yet decided which elections to contest or how it would field its own candidates. "The alliance mode of operation is incapable of holding together the alliance any further," he said. "If the modus operandi of the alliance does not change, the alliance will inevitably disintegrate with serious consequences," said Nzimande, according to the Sunday Times newspaper.

Under the proposals, the SACP would remain part of the tripartite alliance, meaning that it would not compete against the ANC in elections. But successful SACP candidates would have greater autonomy to oppose ANC policies and ministers than they currently do by standing on the ruling party's electoral list.

Gun to the ANC

The move might also rob the ANC of some of its campaigning clout. The two parties, which along with COSATU were

the leading anti-apartheid forces, have campaigned together since the end of whites-only rule in 1994. But neither of the junior partners in the alliance, the SACP or COSATU, have ever contested an election in their own right. Independent political analyst Ralph Mathekga suggested the move was a way of applying pressure on the ANC. The SACP wants its preferred candidate, deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa, to succeed President Jacob Zuma when the ANC elects a new leader in December.

"What they've done with this move is to hold a gun to the ANC and say 'fine, if you don't go with our candidate, good luck.' They're in a win-win situation," Mathekga said. "They've done a very crafty cost-benefit analysis. They will not want to remain in the tripartite alliance if it's not a governing alliance that wins elections." Some within the SACP fear that Zuma's ex-wife Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who with Ramaphosa is a front-runner in the ANC leadership contest, would represent a continuation of Jacob Zuma's presidency and be an electoral liability.

There has been growing disquiet within both the SACP and COSATU over the leadership of Jacob Zuma who has been mired by allegations of corruption and incompetence. Proposals for how the SACP could contest elections in its own right will be discussed at a party meeting in December. South Africa will go to the polls to elect a new parliament-and president-in 2019. ANC treasurer general Zweli Mkhize told a party meeting in the Western Cape region yesterday that "challenges within the alliance must be resolved".—AFP

WEST, RUSSIA BATTLE FOR BALKANS GAS CORRIDORS

ZAGREB: The West and Russia are battling for control of the transport of natural gas through the Balkans, as both sides pursue their geopolitical agenda in the volatile region. Moscow has suffered a series of setbacks in the Balkans. Montenegro has joined NATO, while Macedonia's new social democratic government seems to be distancing itself from its previous pro-Russia stance. But while the West can offer Balkan countries incentives such as the prospect of membership of the European Union or investment locally, Russia can play the energy card.

Gas accounts for a quarter of the European Union's energy consumption and in 2016, Russia's Gazprom supplied a third of Europe's gas. And in the Balkans, dependence on gas looks set only to increase as coal-fired power stations shut down under pressure from the EU. Croatia is already an EU member, but the other so-called Western Balkan countries-Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia-are all at different stages on the path to joining the bloc.

"In Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria and Macedonia, Russia tries to convert dependence on gas supplies into political dependence, and obstruct their integration with the West," said Timothy Less, head of the Nova Europa political risk consultancy. Nevertheless, for the moment at least, Russian influence in the Balkans' energy sector is limited by a lack of infrastructure. Without gas pipelines, it cannot supply most of the countries in the region, said Less. And it is here that the West hopes to steal a march on Moscow by backing rival projects.

Battle of the pipelines

The competing interests of the West and Russia in the Balkans gas market only serve to increase the geostrategic importance of the region. "Southeast Europe lies at the crossroads of energy corridors linking East and the West," Albania's former foreign minister Paskal Milo said. "The region does not interest them as an economic resource, but it is becoming more important as a transit territory for other strategic markets in Europe and for gas storage."

According to analysts, the West feels it must respond to Moscow's use of energy as leverage for control in the region. "After some years in which Russia was winning in the energy game, the West seems to be gaining the advantage," Less said. A number of gas transmission projects that will ultimately reduce the region's energy dependence on Russia are underway.—AFP



GUAM: This photo shows tourists on a beach in Guam's capital Hagatna.—AFP

GUAM EYES END TO US COLONIAL RULE

HAGATNA, Guam: As Guam prepares to celebrate Liberation Day this week, political leaders on the Pacific island say it's time to decide whether to remain a US colony or become an independent nation. Debate about independence has raged for decades but legal complications mean plans to take the issue to a vote have stalled several times. Former senator Eddie Duenas said a self-rule plebiscite was long overdue and should be held alongside a gubernatorial election due next year.

"We have been driving but we don't know where we're driving to and how far we will go," he told a recent meeting of Guam's decolonization commission in the capital Hagatna. "We just keep driving and driving. It's annoying." Guam has been an unincorporated territory of the United States since 1898, meaning its 160,000 inhabitants are US citizens but have limited rights. They cannot participate in US elections and Guam's sole representative in the US Congress does not get to vote on legislation.

The United Nations lists Guam as one of only 17 remaining colonies worldwide, a situation Governor Eddie Calvo wants remedied. Calvo has long campaigned for a referendum on self-determination that would give voters three options for the future-independence, becoming a US state, or remaining in "free association" with Washington. All options have their advocates and Calvo says whatever the outcome, at least voters would have had a say in their future. "Anything is better than the status quo," he said earlier this month.

"I would be happier if we became a state (but) if voters chose independence or free association I would be happier than I am right now."

Goldilocks zone

The independence question is complicated by Guam's long and complex relationship with the United States since becoming Washington's colony in the wake of the Spanish-American War. It endured brutal Japanese occupation during World War II and was recaptured by US marines after a bloody month-long battle on July

21, 1944, a date celebrated as Liberation Day on the island. It still hosts one of the largest US military contingents in the Asia-Pacific, often referred to as America's "tip of the spear" in a region where tensions with China, North Korea and Russia are all too common.

In addition, many in Guam are heavily dependent on US welfare, with about 44,900 individuals and 15,650 households receiving food stamps and public health-care benefits. Federal grants and taxes on US service personnel in Guam also play a large role in meeting the island's budget and infrastructure needs. Marites Schwab, a resident of Agana Heights village, said she was concerned about whether Guam was politically mature enough to govern itself if it became a state. "What would they do in terms of continuing the services currently provided by the federal government?" she asked.

"What are the concrete plans going forward? I need to see something practical and we can attain that by becoming a state." Adrian Cruz, an advocate for maintaining free association, said dependency on US funds made changing the status quo a difficult proposition. "The US has got us into a Goldilocks zone where we don't get too poor to revolt but we're not too prosperous that we don't need them anymore," he said. The debate is academic anyhow, at least in the short-term, after the US Federal Court in March struck down plans to hold a self-rule plebiscite.

It ruled that limiting the vote to the indigenous Chamorro population, which numbers about 65,000 in the multi-ethnic territory, was race-based and therefore unconstitutional.

The decision is under appeal and the government has asked the United Nations to take up its cause. Michael Bevacqua, a Chamorro culture expert at the University of Guam, said indigenous people should have a vote on their future after being denied basic rights under generations of colonial rule. "A process of decolonization that must follow the rules of the colonizer is not decolonization," he said. "It is an extension of colonization," he said.—AFP



PARIS: Fireworks light the sky above the Eiffel Tower in the French capital Paris, as part of France's annual Bastille Day celebrations.—AFP

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NEW KIDNAPPINGS, JAILBREAK HIT RESTIVE PHILIPPINE ISLAND

FORCES ORDERED TO DESTROY RANSOM-SEEKING MILITANTS

JOLO, Philippines: Suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen abducted four workers in a school in a southern Philippine province where President Rodrigo Duterte visited troops waging an offensive against the militants, officials said yesterday. About 20 militants barged into a grade school compound in Sulu province's Patikul town shortly after midnight Saturday and seized six painters and carpenters, one of whom managed to escape and alerted the police. Army troops later rescued another worker.

Duterte pinned medals on wounded troops during a brief visit late Saturday to Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers south of Manila. The tough-talking president has ordered government forces to destroy the ransom-seeking militants, who still hold about 25 foreign and Filipino hostages in Sulu's jungles.

Meanwhile, 14 inmates, including suspected Abu Sayyaf fighters and drug dealers, escaped early yesterday from a jail in a new building that also houses the police headquarters in a government compound

in Sulu's main town of Jolo, police said.

Three of those who escaped were gunned down by police and another was shot and captured. Army troops were helping police track down the rest with the use of military drones and sniffer dogs, a police statement said. The new kidnappings and jailbreak reflect the diverse security challenges confronting Duterte's administration in the south, where thousands of troops have been separately battling militants aligned with the Islamic State group who laid siege to the city of Marawi on May 23.

After nearly two months of fighting, more than 530 people, including 405 militants and 95 soldiers and police, have died in the violence in the lakeside city, a center of Islamic faith in the southern third of the largely Roman Catholic country. Backed by airstrikes, troops are fighting about 60 to 70 remaining militants, who are holding an unspecified number of civilian hostages in four Marawi communities in an offensive that Duterte said last week was winding down. He said the offensive won't stop

until the last militant is killed.

Duterte, however, has said he would likely extend the martial law he imposed in the south because the situation in Marawi remains critical. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he gave the president his recommendation on the question of extending or ending martial rule last week. Nearly 400,000 people, including most of Marawi's 200,000 residents, have been displaced by the crisis and many have yearned to return home amid the misery in overcrowded evacuation centers.

Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, however, said Marawi remains fraught with danger, especially for children and women. "There is no assurance that areas outside the main battle zone are already safe to reside and live in as incidents of cases of stray bullet victims have been reported," Abella said. "The clearing of the entire city of Marawi of IEDs and booby traps left by terrorists, unexploded ordnance and other explosives is still ongoing. The danger and risks these pose still remain high."—AP



MANILA: In this file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while addressing Filipino Muslim leaders during a reception at the Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines.—AP

News

in brief

Thai police arrest gang behind family massacre

BANGKOK: Thai police yesterday said they have arrested all those who took part in the brutal mass slaying of a family in the country's south earlier this week, a massacre that caused widespread revulsion. Detectives say a gang of seven men wearing camouflage outfits entered a village chief's house in the southern province of Krabi yesterday, casually executing him and seven other members of his family, including three children, with single shots to the head. Three others were shot but survived, including a woman who played dead after the bullet passed through her ear and was able to give vital clues.

Four killed, six missing in India's Gujarat amid monsoon floods

AHMEDABAD: Heavy monsoon flooding has killed four people in western India, officials said yesterday, with grave fears held for at least six others still missing following torrential downpours. Major rail networks and dozens of highways in Gujarat state have been interrupted by floodwaters, and power to more than 120 villages cut in badly-hit areas. "Four people died after being swept away in rain waters since Saturday morning. Six others are missing," Pankaj Kumar, a senior state government official, said, adding the National Disaster Response Force was searching for survivors. The force, plus India's military, had rescued more than 2,000 people from the worst-hit regions and relocated them to higher ground.



INDIA: Indian commuters drive along a waterlogged street after heavy rains in Allahabad. —AFP

Islamist extremists surrender after shootout in Bangladesh

DHAKA: Four suspected Islamist extremists surrendered yesterday after a night-long standoff with Bangladeshi police in which they detonated explosives and opened fire outside the capital Dhaka, an official said. Police said the armed militants belonged to a new faction of Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an outlawed group blamed for a wave of attacks including the murder of 18 foreigners at a cafe in Dhaka last July. Acting on a tip-off Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion surrounded a building in the garment district of Ashulia, around 25 kilometers west of Dhaka, just after midnight, RAB spokesman Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan said. "They rented the house posing as garment workers two months ago. When we raided the place, they fired back with live rounds and exploded IED (improvised explosive devices)," he said. No casualties were reported.



BANGLADESH: Bangladesh Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) personnel detain a suspected Islamist extremist after he surrendered in Ashulia, some 25 kms from Dhaka. —AFP

Pakistan launches military operation near Afghan border

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says it has launched a new military operation near the Afghan border to combat militants. Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, an army spokesman, says an infantry division backed by air force and artillery will clear the Rajgal Valley in the Khyber tribal region. He says Pakistan has informed Afghan authorities and urged them to take similar measures on their side of the border. Afghanistan and Pakistan have long accused each other of turning a blind eye to militants operating along their porous border. Pakistan's construction of a fence along part of the frontier has also caused tensions, as Afghanistan does not recognize the colonial-era line as an international border.—Agencies

16 PILGRIMS KILLED IN BUS CRASH IN NORTHERN INDIA

PM MODI OFFERS HIS CONDOLENCES TO PILGRIMS

SRINAGAR: At least 16 Hindu pilgrims were killed and many more injured yesterday in a bus crash in northern India, police said, just days after gunmen shot dead eight worshippers making the same holy visit. The bus plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir, the state where hundreds of Hindus make the annual pilgrimage to a Himalayan cave revered as the abode of the god Shiva. "16 people are now confirmed dead, 19 with serious injuries and eight others with minor injuries," the state's police force said in a statement yesterday.

Some of the worst injured are being airlifted to hospital, while others were taken to local clinics for treatment, police said. For the second time in a week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences to the pilgrims who died making the holy journey. "Extremely pained by the loss of lives of Amarnath Yatris (pilgrims) due to a bus accident in J&K," the prime minister said, referring to the state by its initials. "My thoughts are with the families of the deceased."

The tragedy came as another Hindu pilgrim died Sunday from injuries sustained six days ago when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a bus full of worshippers. "One lady who was injured in the July 10 attack succumbed to her injuries in hospital," S P Vaid, the state's director general of police, said. Her death takes the toll from Monday's attack to eight, with seven women and one man killed in the late-night assault. Most of the victims were from the western state of Gujarat.

It was the worst such attack in the divided Himalayan region since 2000 when gunmen



RAMBAN: Indian police personnel and locals carry injured and dead from the site of a bus accident in Ramban district, about 140km from Jammu yesterday. At least 16 pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra were killed and more than 30 injured when the bus carrying them fell in a gorge in Ramban district on Jammu Srinagar National Highway, media reports said. —AFP

fired on a group of Hindu pilgrims, killing 32 people including two police officers. Indian leaders and Kashmiri separatists united in their condemnation of this latest attack. No group has yet claimed responsibility. Authorities said the two-month pilgrimage season would continue after the attack on

the bus, which was not part of the official convoy carrying pilgrims.

Tens of thousands of Hindus from all over India travel to Kashmir every year to visit a phallus-shaped ice formation in the Amarnath caves that is worshipped as a symbol of Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction.

The caves, which lie 3,900 meters high and can only be reached on foot or on horseback, are seen as a symbol of religious unity in the volatile region. The ice formation is said to have been discovered in 1850 by a Muslim shepherd who became a custodian of the shrine, along with two Hindu priests. —AFP

UN REPORTER FLAYS CONTINUED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SRI LANKA

COLOMBO: A visiting United Nations reporter said Friday that torture remains "endemic and routine" in Sri Lanka's counter terrorism methods and a number of persons being detained without trial under a harsh anti-terror law is a stain on the country's international reputation. Ben Emmerson UN special reporter on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism said at the end of a five-day visit to Sri Lanka that he is concerned that even those arrested as recently as late last year have been subjected to torture, despite a new government promising to end such practices.

"In Sri Lanka, however, such practices are very deeply ingrained in the security sector and all of the evidence points to the conclusion that the use of torture has been, and remains today, endemic and routine, for those arrested and detained on national security grounds," he said. Emmerson said that he heard "distressing stories" during his interviews with former and current detainees under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of extremely brutal methods of torture, including asphyxiation using plastic bags drenched in kerosene, the pulling out of fingernails, the insertion of needles beneath the fingernails, the use of various forms of water torture, the suspension of individuals for several hours by their thumbs, and the mutilation of genitals.

Human rights violations

He said he obtained official figures which said 70 persons detained under the terrorism act have been in detention for more than five years without trial, with 12 having been detained for more than 10 years. "These staggering figures are a stain on Sri Lanka's international reputation. Steps should be taken to release these individuals on bail immediately, or bring them to trial within weeks or months, not years or decades," he said. Sri Lanka's bloody civil war ended in 2009 when government troops crushed ethnic Tamil rebels' 26-year campaign for an independent state.

Both sides were accused of serious human rights violations in the conflict. The number of deaths in the conflict is not clear, however, a conservative UN estimate suggests 100,000

deaths. A subsequent UN report said at least 40,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the final months of the fighting. Sri Lanka was facing international sanctions for refusing to investigate allegations of human rights violations and war crimes.

But the country's outlook changed after the election of a new president whose government co-sponsored a UN resolution in 2015 promising to address the past and ensure accountability and reconciliation. According to a March report by the International Truth and Justice Project - an evidence-gathering organization administered by a South Africa-based nonprofit foundation - the abuse has continued through 2016, well after the change of government.

The report is based on testimony from 46 Sri Lankan Tamils who fled to Britain or Switzerland and were once held at a Sri Lanka security forces' headquarters. Some victims said they were held for months or even years without due process, kept in cells so small they could not lie down or were beaten, raped or tortured. The military's chief aim, they said, was to learn of any ongoing rebel activity as well as the location of hidden weapons caches, according to the report. Emmerson said that the fulfillment of the Sri Lankan government's commitments to the UN human rights council has virtually ground to a halt. —AP



NEW YORK: In this file photo, Ben Emmerson, UN special investigator on counter-terrorism and human rights, holds a news conference on migration policies, at UN headquarters. —AP



MUMBAI: Indian pedestrians carry umbrellas as they walk through heavy rain showers in Mumbai.—AFP

THOUSANDS TAKE TO STREETS TO PROTEST MAURITANIA REFERENDUM

NOUAKCHOTT: Several thousand Mauritians took to the streets Saturday to protest a controversial constitutional referendum due on August 5, according to AFP journalists at the demonstration organized by an opposition coalition. The "No" coalition is drawn from a broad political spectrum including Islamists and anti-slavery activists in the conservative west African nation, all of whom oppose measures including abolishing the senate and changing the national flag.

Saturday's march was followed by a rally where speakers denounced President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz for what was termed a "coup d'etat against the constitution." Jemil Ould Mansour, head of the Islamic Tewassoul party spearheading the

movement against the vote, described the protest's turnout as "giving the result in advance," calling it "a clear message to the regime to put an end to this useless venture."

Senators rejected the abolition of their own chamber in March, apparently to the government's surprise as a majority are from the ruling party, prompting Aziz to call the referendum. But the opposition fears that despite Aziz's claims to the contrary he is laying the groundwork for a third term in power, with his own prime minister saying recently he supported the idea. The march was the first action by the new "active boycott" movement, which has vowed to oppose the vote at every step. —AFP

GOVT WITHDREW KD 28.5BN IN 3 YEARS AMID...

Continued from Page 1

The ministry is currently assessing the possible impact of VAT before implementing it, the minister

said, adding it is considering exempting certain sectors and commodities from VAT to minimize its impact. He said that the impact of VAT is lower on low and middle class people because they spend less, and VAT depends on spending.

CAN OPEC RIDE OUT THE STORM?

Continued from Page 1

that markets would respond to the deal in 2017, but so far these had not been realized. The failure of the deal to make a difference is particularly irksome for OPEC as compliance - the implementation of the pledges - has been over 100 percent. Undeterred, OPEC and the non-cartel members party to the deal will have a committee meeting in Saint Petersburg on July 24 to review its effects. Meanwhile, an effort to tighten coordination, Barkindo revealed that OPEC had held "very useful preliminary meetings" with US shale producers. OPEC's own influence has also slipped in recent years and it now counts for just a third of global oil supplies compared with 40 percent a decade ago. As well as the US shale revolution, the greater importance of additional non-OPEC market players - including Brazil and Mexico - is also being felt, according to Sarah Emerson, head of the US-based Energy Security Analysis.

Meanwhile, rapid global changes could also hit demand

for oil in the long term, especially with the expected growth in electric cars. "At what point demand stops growing is very much linked to the automobile," said Yergin. "We are seeing now a convergence of a whole lot of technology which will change the nature of what vehicles are," he said, pointing also to the growth in ride-hailing apps.

But participants in the congress emphasized that the growth in electric cars was starting from a very low base and petrol would likely still be needed in trucks and planes for years to come. Renewable energy is also seeing unprecedented growth - encouraged by some traditional oil majors like BP - while companies are under pressure to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change. But the chief of the Saudi Arabian energy giant Saudi Aramco, Amin Nasser, said he was optimistic that fossil fuels would remain part of the world's energy mix for decades to come. "The renewables still have major challenges and they do not compete with oil," he said. "The energy transition underway will be a long, complex process," he added. — AFP



People attend the opening ceremony of the 'July 15 Martyrs' Monument' at the Presidential Complex within the July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day's events held to mark July 15 defeated coup's first anniversary in Ankara yesterday. — AFP

ROUHANI BROTHER HELD ON FINANCIAL CRIME...

Continued from Page 1

loans and influencing the appointment of two bank directors. One of the bank directors was later accused of involvement in a "large corruption scandal" by the intelligence services of the Revolutionary Guards, and the other was fired as part of a widespread scandal into exorbitant salaries at public institutions.

The attacks on Fereydoun began around the same time as the pay scandal last summer - both milked by conservatives to smear Rouhani in the build-up to the presidential election in May. Voters still convincingly backed Rouhani's policies of rebuilding ties with the West, though there were signs that the corruption allegations had eaten away at his support. A

report by the Audit Court found in October that executives at state-owned banks had earned as much as 622 million rials (\$20,000) a month - compared with average public sector salaries of \$400 - leading to hundreds of prosecutions and a new government salary cap.

There have been barbed exchanges between the presidency and the judiciary for months. Rouhani has lashed out against perceived arbitrary arrests, telling a conference that was also attended by judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani: "We cannot summon or arrest people first and then look for proof." Larijani has repeatedly blasted Rouhani's nuclear deal with world powers, which took effect in January 2016, as having brought too few economic benefits. — AFP

MOROCCANS EYE SPANISH ENCLAVE ACROSS...

Continued from Page 1

One of them, Perejil - known to Moroccans as Leila - was at the heart of an angry spat between the two countries 15 years ago this week. A handful of Moroccan soldiers briefly took over the outcrop just 200 m off the coast in 2002. The incident ended with a bloodless intervention by Spanish commandos.

But today, the topic of Madrid's enclaves receives little attention. Local press reports say "things have changed", and the two are now close partners. "Here we don't have any real problem with the Spaniards, even though it's as if our village is occupied," said Hamed Aharouch, 27.

Aharouch sat on a plastic chair outside his fisherman's hut in the hamlet of Bades, a stone's throw from the Spanish base. Perched at the end of a dusty track crisscrossing the mountains of Al-Hoceima national park, Bades seems to lie at the end of the world. The Spanish peninsula, 87 m at its highest point, dominates the bay, an enchanting cove of blue waters hemmed in by rocky slopes.

Spain's gold and red flag flies above the fortress which its forces have held since the 16th century. Military helicopters fly in to a landing pad part way down the slope, and below it, a guard peered from an observation post. Once separated from the mainland by a narrow strip of water, Penon is now linked by an isthmus of grey sand. "It seems the Spaniards want to put up a fence in place of the string," said Aharouch.

"We don't agree to that - it would be oppression. Already we can't approach. In any case there's nothing we can say," he added, smoking his pipe.

In Aug 2012, a group of Moroccan activists climbed onto the rock, and were chased away by Spanish soldiers. The incident went no further. But since the Perejil crisis, residents say they have had almost no contact with Spanish forces. It is a long time since the occupiers of the Penon played football with the village children or bought fish from the fishermen. "The Spaniards threaten us with their weapons," grumbled Ali El-Guedouch, 55. "There shouldn't be that damned border in the middle of our village. I used to fish on the rock - today that's impossible," he said, although he conceded that "if the commander of the garrison is nice, you can still approach with your boat".

It is hard to imagine today, but Bades was historically an active port, a point of passage between Europe and the Moroccan imperial capital of Fes. The main trade today is trafficking cannabis towards Spain, as evidenced by the remains of a speedboat intercepted by the coastguard and abandoned on the beach. According to the fishermen, their main problem is isolation. "We have become destitute. We survive just on fishing," said Guedouch. "There's nothing left here. Just a few tourists in the summer, who kill us a little more with their rubbish everywhere. It's as if we're neither in Morocco nor in Spain." — AFP

MUSLIMS REFUSE TO ENTER AQSA SITE

Continued from Page 1

Some women weiled and cried while telling people not to enter. Waheeb Liftawi, 52, prayed inside Al-Aqsa at midday without knowing of the calls to remain outside. During prayers later in the afternoon, he prayed outside.

"These things should not be put in front of a place of worship, a mosque," he said. "This is why we refuse this or this will become the status quo." Later in the day, a funeral procession sought to enter with a coffin but was not allowed through.

Three Arab Israeli assailants opened fire on Israeli police Friday in Jerusalem's Old City before fleeing to the compound, where they were shot dead by security forces. Israeli authorities said the gunmen had come from the flashpoint holy site to carry out the attack. It was one of the most serious incidents in Jerusalem in recent years. Israel took the highly unusual decision of

closing the Al-Aqsa mosque compound for Friday prayers, triggering anger from Muslims and Jordan, the holy site's custodian.

The site remained closed on Saturday, while parts of Jerusalem's Old City were also under lockdown. Israeli authorities said the closure was necessary to carry out security checks and announced they would reopen the compound yesterday. Police said yesterday that so far two gates leading to the holy site had been opened, equipped with metal detectors.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of the security measures late Saturday before departing for a trip to Paris. "This evening I held a discussion with the top security leadership and I instructed that metal detectors be placed at the entrance gates to the Temple Mount," he said. "We will also install security cameras on poles outside the Temple Mount but which give almost complete control over what goes on there." — AFP

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Focus

MACRON OUTSHINES MERKEL AS EU'S TOP DIPLOMAT

Germany has for years longed for a stronger French partner, but may have got more than it bargained for as the self-confident Emmanuel Macron takes Europe's spotlight. Striking images from Paris this week offered signs of how Europe's de-facto leadership has started to mutate in the two months since Macron took office. The 39-year-old French president welcomed US President Donald Trump to Paris for dinner in the Eiffel Tower and the traditional July 14 military parade.

The smiles and glad-handing between the two men contrasts starkly with Trump's dour relationship with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The abiding image thus far has been his apparent refusal to shake her hand on her first Washington visit following his inauguration - and the tensions remained on display at this month's G20 summit in Hamburg which Merkel chaired. Macron has also reached eastwards, hosting Russian leader Vladimir Putin amid the spectacular surroundings of Versailles in late May. Macron is showing that "France is back in the game," said Jean-Dominique Giuliani of the Robert Schuman foundation, a specialist European think-tank. "There's a rebalancing - which was necessary - of the relationship with Germany," he added.

Leader of the free world?

Merkel until recently was alone on the European stage - even being hailed as the new "leader of the free world" by some English-language media after a 2016 that brought Brexit and Trump's shock election victory. In typically German fashion, the chancellor herself has never laid claim to leadership in Europe - a position that would instantly trigger dark accusations about the country's past. If she had the mantle of leadership cast upon her, it was partly because of the lack of a plausible counterweight in France, which for decades partnered Germany as Europe's political dynamo. Struggling economically compared with a thriving Germany and led by the unpopular Francois Hollande, France was long eclipsed by its neighbor. Britain, the EU's other major actor, quit the field of play with a referendum vote last year to leave the bloc. Elsewhere, Poland's voice holds less sway as it faces accusations of drifting towards authoritarianism, while Spain and Italy remain economically anaemic.

Macron's arrival in the Elysee Palace as a committed pro-European has roused hopes of a return to the Franco-German double act, which forged European integration and created the world's biggest trade bloc. But his vibrant personal style and showcasing of France have also caused some to ask if he would really prefer to be solo. "The Germans were surprised when Trump's visit to Paris was announced," a diplomatic source told AFP.

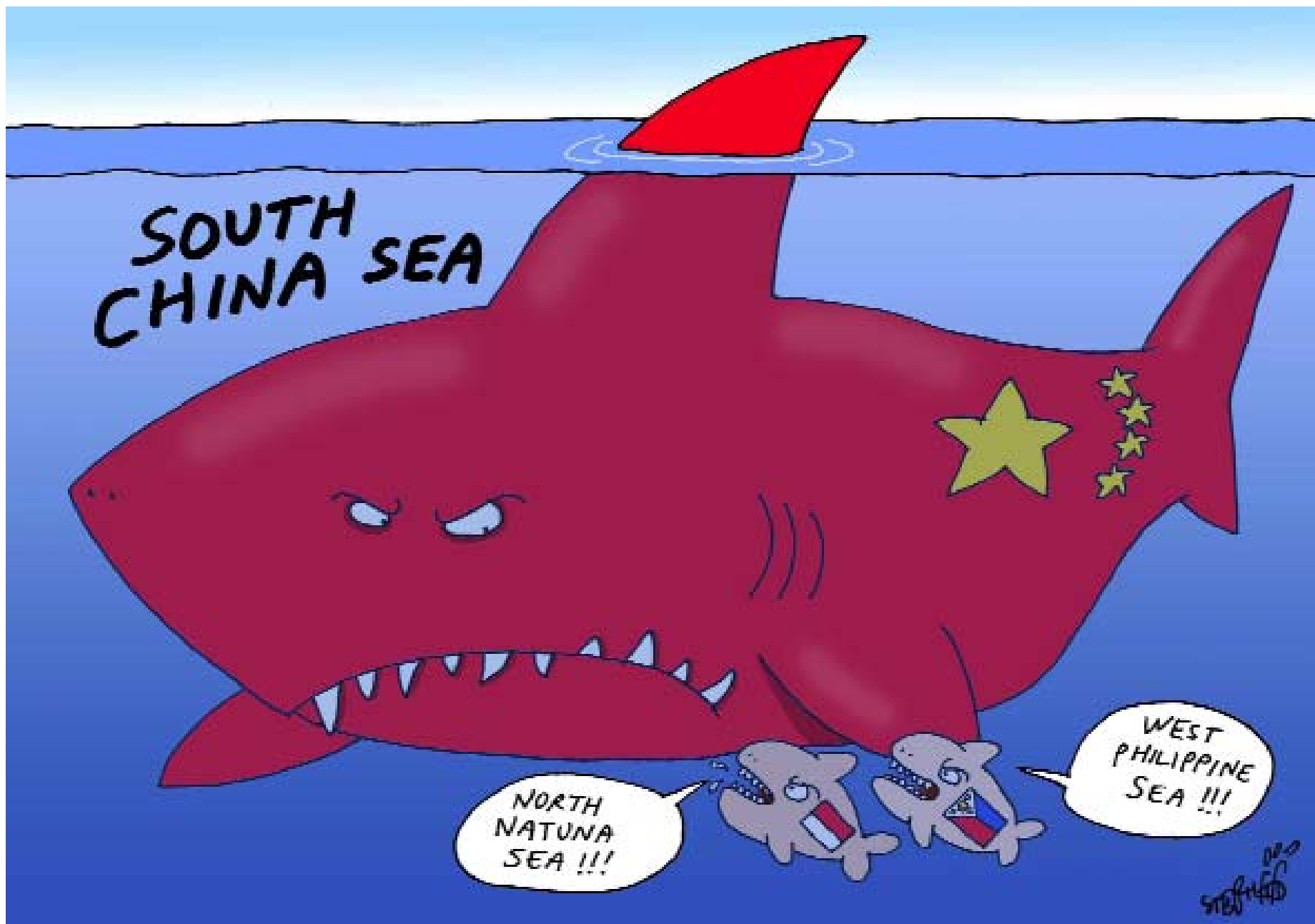
"Macron wants to use this gesture to flatter the American president and make a name for himself as leader of Europe," commented German magazine Der Spiegel in this week's edition. By comparison, Merkel has opted for a somewhat tougher course with Trump, criticizing the protectionist rhetoric that brought him to power and his decision to abandon the Paris climate accords.

Relationship test

Macron, too, has been an open critic of Trump's policies, especially on climate. However, he "didn't greet Trump by rolling his eyes and giving a sermon like Chancellor Merkel at the G20, but with a spectacular military parade, with dinner at the Eiffel Tower, with friendly words and much manly back-slapping," commented Swiss daily Neue Zuercher Zeitung. "It suggests that Macron could become the EU's top diplomat, displacing Merkel from a role she never really wanted," the paper continued.

For now, bashing the US president - a massively unpopular figure in Germany - serves Merkel's domestic political purposes ahead of parliamentary elections in September, when she hopes for re-election to a fourth term. And a more balanced power arrangement is a relief to Germany, conditioned by its Nazi past to shy away from sole leadership in Europe. Macron and Merkel may have conflicting styles, but right now this does not appear to affect the substance of European leadership. Both are wedded to the goal of consolidating the European Union, which faces internal stress from nationalism and the external challenges posed by Brexit and the "America First" Trump. But their relationship will face a critical test after the German elections, when talks on reforming the euro single currency build up steam. At that point, potentially deep divisions between Berlin and Paris are likely to emerge - and it will take more than media-friendly images and rhetoric to bridge them. —AFP

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PENCE WALKS HIGH WIRE OVER TRUMP SCANDALS

Mike Pence is the loyal wingman, the ever-discreet figure who rises above the Washington fray. But as the Russia scandal encroaches ever further on Donald Trump's White House, the vice president is also walking a political tightrope. The 58-year-old former governor of Indiana is currently the man closest to the US presidency - either as Trump's immediate successor should his term end prematurely, or as his heir apparent in 2020 or 2024 elections, depending on how many terms Trump serves.

As the troubles of his boss grow deeper by the day, ensnared in a widening investigation into his campaign ties to Russia, experts say the 48th US vice president remains compelled to stand by his man - at least for now. "Pence is in a very difficult position," Joel Goldstein, an expert on the vice presidency at Saint Louis University School of Law, told AFP. "A vice president is expected to be loyal to the president, but President Trump imposes a heavy burden on his subordinates by saying and doing things that often are hard to defend."

The two men could hardly be more different: Where Trump likes to blur ideological lines, Pence is a committed Christian conservative, as stiff and disciplined as his boss is exuberant and unpredictable. While Trump tweets about a high-stakes health-

care bill, it is Pence who has been shuttling between the White House and Congress in a behind-the-scenes effort to rescue the imperiled legislation. In Trump's turbulent Washington, Pence is seen as the administration's steadying force, the "axe behind the glass you're supposed to break in case of emergency," as The Daily Beast news website put it recently.

'Hang on'

Pence offered a glimpse Wednesday of what it's like on the Trump rollercoaster, as number two to arguably the most controversial US leader in modern times. "You need to keep your arms and legs in the ride at all times," he told student leaders at American University.

"Pull the roll bar down, because you just got to hang on." Yet Pence has taken low-key steps that suggest he could be laying the groundwork for his political future. In an unusual move, two close advisors to Pence have founded a political action committee, The New York Times reported. He has also begun hosting Republican megadonors at his Washington residence, according to the daily.

Next president?

As federal and congressional investigators dig deeper into allegations that

Trump's camp colluded with Russia to tilt the 2016 election, a handful of Democrats are now calling openly for the president to be impeached. However remote the prospect of impeachment by the Republican-controlled Congress, the Russia cloud stubbornly refuses to dissipate. Should Trump eventually be forced from office, Pence would become the 10th US vice president to assume the presidency without being elected - the first since Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon following the Watergate scandal in 1974.

When Donald Trump Jr recently acknowledged that he and campaign aides met a Russian lawyer last year in hope of obtaining dirt on Trump's Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, Pence distanced himself from the snowballing scandal. "He is not focused on stories about the campaign, particularly stories about the time before he joined the ticket," said a statement from Pence's office.

But the vice president has not emerged entirely unscathed so far. As head of Trump's transition team, he publicly backed Michael Flynn during the uproar about contacts with the Russian ambassador which cost the newly-minted national security advisor his job. And having flatly denied any Trump campaign contacts with Russia, Pence's credibility is further rocked with each new revelation.

'Losing credibility'

Pence's defense will look increasingly questionable, especially if Trump's troubles worsen. But it is survivable, said Michael Munger, director of the politics program at Duke University. "Pence was probably not lying. He was lied to, and he took the party line and then kept his mouth shut when they cut him off at the knees," the professor said. "He is losing credibility, I suppose, but he gets extra points for doing his job."

Yet Pence's close ties to the president - as recently as last month he said serving with Trump has been "the greatest privilege of my life" - may yet prove an albatross around his neck. "None of the last seven vice presidents have been so willing to be so sycophantic in their praise and have said so many significant things that later turned out to be untrue," the expert Goldstein said.

Striking the balance between loyalty to an embattled leader and avoiding getting caught up in scandal is a fierce challenge. Pence has "juggled" well, said Paul Beck of Ohio State University. "But if this Russia controversy really gets the Trump administration into deep, deep trouble... then Pence is kind of trapped out there as one of the team." — AFP

SLOW LEAK OF RUSSIA NEWS FLOODING WHITE HOUSE

As Air Force One flew home from Europe, news was set to break about a meeting that Donald Trump's eldest son had with a Kremlin-connected lawyer, promising yet another round of unwelcome headlines about the president and Russia. And that happened twice within a week. The day-after-day drip-drip-drip of revelations over the past week about Donald Trump Jr's contact with the Russian lawyer in 2016 underscores the White House's inability to shake off the Russia story and close the book on a narrative that casts a shadow over Trump's presidency.

No matter how presidential Trump may have looked on his back-to-back trips to Europe in recent days, the persistent questions about connections between Trump's team and Russia prevent him from savoring a public relations victory and building momentum for his stalled legislative agenda. "Omissions are as harmful as contradictions because it seems like you're hiding something," Ari Fleischer, former press secretary to President George W. Bush, said of the Trump team's strategy. "From a communications standpoint, it's unforgivable."

Indeed, Trump Jr's account of his Trump Tower meeting has seemingly changed on an almost daily basis. At first, the meeting was said to be about a Russian adoption program. Then, it was to hear information about campaign rival Hillary Clinton. Finally, Trump Jr was forced to release emails - mere moments before The New York Times planned to do so - that revealed he had told an associate that he would "love" Russia's help in obtaining negative details about the Democratic nominee.

Even the number of people who attended the meeting has changed. On Friday, a prominent Russian-American lobbyist told AP that he, too, had been part of the discussion. Each revelation, no matter how small, has been seized upon by Democrats and dissected in detail on cable news. The investigations have thrown the White House off balance, leaving some officials on edge about whether there are more disclosures to come.

Probes to linger

On Saturday, the White House announced that Trump had hired Washington attorney Ty Cobb to serve as his special counsel to handle the White House's response to the Russia probes. The move reflects the president's growing acceptance that the Russia probes will linger over his tenure for months or even years. Trump Jr and Jared Kushner - the president's son-in-law and senior adviser also attended the June 2016 meeting - have retained attorneys separate from those hired by the president.

The Trump campaign paid the law firm of Alan Futerfas, who is representing Donald Trump Jr, \$50,000 last month, according to a campaign finance report filed Saturday. The payment was made nearly two weeks before news reports about the younger Trump's Russia meeting. The new

finance filing also shows the campaign paid almost \$90,000 to the Trump Organization - it's led by the Trump sons - for legal consulting.

The firestorm over Trump Jr's emails has been a frustrating distraction during a stretch in which some White House advisers believed they were finding their footing. Trump's allies also were heartened by his trips to Europe, believing that his speech saluting national pride in Poland was a high point of his presidency and that he appeared statesman-like during a whirlwind visit to Paris. But behind the scenes, a group of Trump aides gathered in a cabin on the presidential aircraft flying home from Germany last weekend to begin preparing for the initial fallout from Trump Jr's 2016 meeting.

And then just six days later, as Air Force One was returning from France, more news was breaking about

Trump Jr's shifting account of the meeting, again launching a bad news cycle and straining the credibility of the president's defense team. For some, the steady drumbeat of Russia revelations echoes how the Watergate story emerged in one Washington Post story after another. "I think the 'drip-drip-drip' is a perfect analogy, for that's exactly what people said about Watergate and President Nixon's Oval Office tapes," said Luke Nichter, a historian who has written several books on the former president. "They were released piecemeal and every release was damaging."

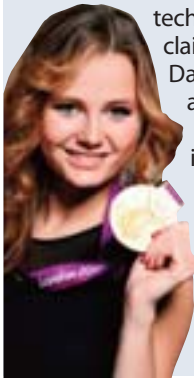
Even if the ongoing Russia questions don't end in legal consequences for Trump, they can still inflict serious political damage if allowed to needlessly drag out. "I don't know that there's anyone powerful enough on the team to marshal this and get all the facts out now," Fleischer said. — AP



In this July 14, 2017 photo, US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump arrive on Air Force One at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey as they return from France. — AP

PATSKEVICH, KOLESNICHENKO
GET RUSSIA'S THIRD GOLD

BUDAPEST: Alexandra Patskevich and Svetlana Kolesnichenko earned Russia its third gold medal of the world swimming championships by winning the women's duet technical synchronized swimming title yesterday. The Russian pair earned a total of 94.0775 points to edge Chinese twins Jiang Wenwen and Jiang Tingting by 0.974 points. Yelyzaveta Yakhno and Anna Voloshyna claimed the bronze for Ukraine. Kolesnichenko, who won the solo technical title Saturday for her first gold in an individual event, claimed her 14th gold overall at the worlds, equaling Anastasia Davydova's tally. Only compatriots Svetlana Romashina (22) and Natalia Ishchenko (20) have more. Aurelie Muller of France defended her 10K open water swimming title, making up for her disappointment at the 2016 Olympics, where she was disqualified and stripped of her silver medal for colliding with Italy's Rachele Bruni at the end. Muller finished in 2 hours and 13.70 seconds, beating Samantha Arevalo of Ecuador by 3.30 seconds, to make it two golds for France from two open water races after Marc-Antoine Olivier's men's 5K title the day before.—AP

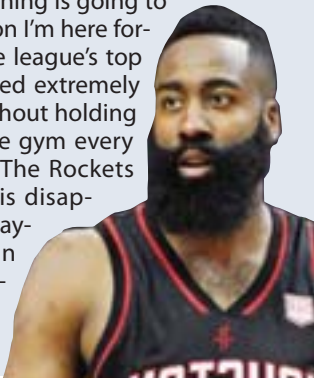


STENSON PESSIMISTIC ABOUT
RETAINING BRITISH OPEN TITLE

IRVINE: Henrik Stenson is pessimistic about his chances of successfully defending the British Open title at Royal Birkdale next week. The Swedish golfer shot his best round of the week at the Scottish Open yesterday - a 4-under 68 for a score of 4 under overall - but it still wasn't enough to raise his hopes of lifting the claret jug again. "I know I'm not really where I want to be in my game and maybe nothing else, either," Stenson said, "but I'll try to enjoy." Stenson hasn't won a title since shooting a final-round 63 at Royal Troon to win his first major. He said his ball-striking hasn't been good for the last 18 months, apart from during a two-month stretch in the summer of 2016 when he won the BMW International Open in Germany followed by the Open Championship three weeks later. "The long game hasn't been in good shape for a long time and you can't really work when you're trying to perform," Stenson said. "It's always that battle and I don't feel I have enough game to play the way I want to, and as soon as you go into practice mode you are losing the possibility to play your best. It's a tricky one." Stenson said he would be heading to Birkdale, in the northwest of England, yesterday evening. — AP

HARDEN PLANS TO BE
IN HOUSTON 'FOREVER'

HOUSTON: James Harden, who recently signed the richest contract in NBA history, says he wants to remain a Houston Rocket "forever". The 27-year-old American agreed last week a four-year super-maximum contract extension that means he will make \$228 million over the next six NBA seasons through 2022-23. "I know where home is," Harden said. "I know where I want to be. I know where I want to retire ultimately and where I want to win a championship. Everything is going to happen here in Houston, and that's the reason I'm here forever." Asked Saturday how it felt to have the league's top contract Harden replied, "It's cool. I've worked extremely hard. But it doesn't really mean anything without holding that championship up. That's why I'm in the gym every single day, and I won't stop until I get it." The Rockets signed Harden to the extension despite his disappearing act in the Rockets season-ending play-off series against the San Antonio Spurs. In game five of the Western Conference semi-finals, Harden delivered a listless performance and game six was even worse. —AFP



SILVERSTONE: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain steers his car, with teammate Valtteri Bottas of Finland in the background, during the British Formula One Grand Prix at the Silverstone racetrack in Silverstone, England, yesterday. — AP

FORMULA ONE

HAMILTON REIGNS AT SILVERSTONE TO CUT VETTEL LEAD

SILVERSTONE: Lewis Hamilton swept to his fourth consecutive victory at the British Grand Prix yesterday to move within a single point of world championship leader Sebastian Vettel. In a dramatic race packed with incident, Vettel suffered a late puncture and finished seventh for Ferrari after his team-mate Kimi Raikkonen also pitted with a similar problem in the closing stages.

Hamilton's victory, a record-equalling fifth in his home event and the 57th of his career, rebooted his title challenge as he came home ahead of team-mate Valtteri Bottas, who started ninth, in a dominant Mercedes one-two finish. "It's a feeling I just can't describe really," said a delighted Hamilton. "Look at this crowd. Thank you to everyone who turned up. God bless you!" It was incredible - I was inspired by all the kids who came."

Raikkonen was third for Ferrari, after the Italian team had made a strategic gamble with their tyres, ahead of Max Verstappen and his Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, who had started 19th on the grid.

Nico Hulkenberg finished sixth for Renault ahead of Vettel, Esteban Ocon and his Force India team-mate Sergio Perez and Felipe Massa, who came home 10th for Williams. Bottas said: "I am really happy for this today. It was not easy, with so many cars to get through, but the team did a perfect strategy. I

just kept my head down and we managed it."

Raikkonen said he was disappointed with his misfortune, but Vettel said he did not blame the team. "It's just one of those things," said the German. Hamilton made a perfect getaway under heavy grey skies while Vettel had flames leaping from his Ferrari's brake drum, a distraction that did nothing to stop Verstappen passing him for third on the opening lap.

The two Toro Rosso cars clashed at Chapel where Carlos Sainz spun off into retirement, having collided with Daniil Kvyat's car. The Spaniard also made contact with Kevin Magnussen's Haas. After an investigation, the stewards gave Kvyat a drive-through penalty.

This accident brought out the safety car for four laps before racing resumed with Hamilton back in control ahead of Raikkonen and Verstappen while Ricciardo climbed to 12th.

VETTEL, VERSTAPPEN DUEL

Bottas, having started ninth after taking a penalty for an unscheduled gearbox change, was soon up to fifth with a set of clean passes. Vettel and Verstappen were scrapping on and off the track in a fight for third, giving the packed crowd several thrilling moments.

Vettel, frustrated by his inability to pass the Dutchman, pitted after 19 laps and rejoined sixth, but moved ahead when Verstappen pit-

ted the following lap and came out behind the German. This gave Bottas his chance to take third ahead of Vettel and Verstappen, both having swept past Hulkenberg, to run behind Hamilton who led Raikkonen by six seconds. By lap 24, Hamilton had a cushion of more than 10 seconds on Raikkonen but knew Bottas was a threat too as the only top driver to have started on softs rather than super-softs. He rejoined in front of his team-mate and the pair led the field with Raikkonen third ahead of Vettel, the Ferraris waiting for Bottas to pit. He finally came in at the end of lap 32 and rejoined fourth behind the Ferraris on fresh super-soft tyres. There was further bad luck for Fernando Alonso though when he retired with yet another engine failure.

With 10 laps remaining, Hamilton was clear by 12 seconds and Bottas, fourth, was closing on Vettel, intent on fighting for a podium finish. The Finn tried to pass him on lap 42, when Vettel defended his position, but succeeded a lap later by surging past on Hangar Straight into Stowe as the German's tyres faded.

This encouraged the men behind him to close in for the final laps as Hamilton reeled off another fastest lap to prove his mastery. And then with two laps remaining, Raikkonen suffered a left-front puncture and had to pit, gifting Bottas second place and Vettel third before the German also suffered the same fate. —AFP



SILVERSTONE: Winner Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (2R) celebrates with his trophy on the podium next to second placed Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas (C) and third placed Ferrari's Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen (R) after the British Formula One Grand Prix at the Silverstone motor racing circuit in Silverstone, central England yesterday. — AFP

LEWIS TUMBLES ON BACK
9 AT US WOMEN'S OPEN

BEDMINSTER: Stacy Lewis was on a roll in the third round of the US Women's Open at Trump National Golf Club. The American birdied four straight holes to pull within a shot of leader Shanshan Feng, a run that included a 40-foot putt on No. 9.

Then, the day unraveled. After her birdie on No. 10, she made a triple bogey on the par-4, 11th hole, chipping her third shot from behind the green off the front and leaving her chip back up short. A bogey on the 12th hole dropped her five shots off the lead. After five straight pars, she hit two wedge shots into the water on the par-5 18th and closed with a 10. Lewis ended up with a 4-over 76 to drop to 2 over - 11 shots off the lead. Lewis declined to speak with the media after the round. "No chance," she said twice to an LPGA Tour official.

The former top-ranked player has 11 victories, including two majors. She has finished second 12 times since her last LPGA Tour victory in 2014.

SPIKES ALLOWED

Christina Kim thinks she's the last LPGA Tour player to wear metal spikes. "I'm old enough where metal spikes were still a thing," Kim said. "A lot of these kids weren't even born when metal spikes were taken away from competition. For me, it provides a sense of comfort. I get great traction with it. You can read the greens with your feet and you can gauge moisture levels of the golf course with

the spikes. With the way golf shoes have evolved, I just don't feel I have as snug of a fit as I used to. I lost a few spikes today, but I always have a few spare in the bag." She shot a 4-under 68 to move to 2 under.

POTUS PRESSURE?

American Lexi Thompson shot a 2-under 74 and then visited President Donald Trump in his box near the 15th green. "I didn't feel any extra pressure," said Thompson, who with her family posed for pictures with the president. "It's cool to have the president of the United States here. It's his golf course. It's all good."

Fellow American Cristie Kerr also wasn't fazed by Trump's appearance. "He's a huge supporter of women's golf," Kerr said. "It's cool to say that I

know the president." Kerr said that she planned to speak with Trump after the day was over. "We'll talk," Kerr said. "But we're not going to talk about politics, I'll tell you that."

LOCAL FLAVOR

New Jersey native Marina Alex admitted that her nerves got to her, playing in front of so many family and friends from her hometown of nearby Wayne, about 35 miles from the club. "It was a little crazy," said Alex, who was the top US player after the second round. "It all just hit me. I had a lot of people here supporting me. I had people here supporting me that didn't even know me. It just got to me. It was a mental thing more than anything." Alex shot a 73 and was tied for 14th at 2 under. — AP



Stacy Lewis

KYLE BUSCH DOMINATES YET
AGAIN IN NASCAR VICTORY

LOUDON: Kyle Busch tossed his 2-year-old son in the air during his latest victory lane celebration. He's taking baby steps toward catching The King. Busch dominated yet again to win the NASCAR Xfinity Series race Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

He won for the third time this season and 89th time in his career in the second-tier series. On Saturday night, he told SiriusXM NASCAR Radio that he plans to retire from the Xfinity Series when he gets to 100 victories. He has 175 career wins over NASCAR's three national series: Cup (38 wins; 2015 champion); Xfinity (89; 2009 champion); and Truck (48). Richard Petty is NASCAR's career leader with 200 wins, all at the Cup level.

"I know a lot of those are the minors, so I'll take them where I can get 'em as of right now," Busch said. "But certainly there's going to be a lot more wins to be had on Sundays, as well. I've got a long road ahead of me, probably."

Busch started from the pole and wasn't challenged much late after an early duel with fellow Cup regular Brad Keselowski. Keselowski led 102 laps but had nothing for Busch down the stretch because of a pit road penalty.

"It is always fun being fast and leading the most laps and all that but we just didn't put the whole race together," Keselowski said. Busch's No. 18 Toyota was one of just six cars that finished on the lead lap. Ryan Preece was second, followed by William Byron, Kyle Larson and Keselowski.

Larson was set to start the Cup race yesterday from the pole until his car failed inspection and forced him to the rear of the field.

Series points leader Elliott Sadler was seventh in a race that included a 58-minute rain delay. He has a 45-point lead over Byron. The 19-year-old Byron had his sixth top-five of the season. He has two victories driving for JR Motorsports and has made a case as a candidate to replace Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the No. 88 at Hendrick Motorsports next season.

Earnhardt, long NASCAR's most popular driver, left the team's top Cup seat available when he announced he would retire from the series at the end of the season. Alex Bowman, who ably

filled in for the injured Earnhardt last season, is perhaps the top contender to drive the 88. But Byron and free agent Matt Kenseth are certainly in the mix - and the odds of landing at Hendrick improve if the organization decides to cut ties with the slumping Kasey Kahne.

GREAT JOB

Team owner Rick Hendrick watched the race from atop Byron's pit box. "He did a great job. Very impressive the way he works traffic and the feedback on the radio. Really good," Hendrick said. "The guys are giving him good cars, but he's got a lot of talent, and he's a quick learner. He's fast. —AP



LOUDON: Kyle Busch, driver of the #18 NOS Energy Drink Toyota, poses with his wife, Samantha, and their son, Brexton, in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR XFINITY Series Overton's 200 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Saturday. — AFP

BOXING

EUBANK PASSES ABRAHAM TEST TO RETAIN IBO TITLE

LONDON: Chris Eubank Junior defended his International Boxing Organisation (IBO) world super-middleweight title with a unanimous points decision win over Arthur Abraham in London on Saturday. Eubank retained the belt he took in February with the three judges awarding him the contest 118-110, 118-110, 120-108 at the end of 12 absorbing rounds at the SSE Wembley Arena.

The Brighton-born boxer, with his father, the former middleweight champion Chris Eubank in his corner, proved too much of a handful for the decade

older Abraham. The Armenian-born German manfully absorbed punch after punch from the fleet-footed home favourite who kept up his relentless pounding until the final bell.

Eubank's reward is an invitation to the inaugural \$50 million (£38.4m) World Boxing Super Series Muhammad Ali Trophy. Eubank, who took his record to 25-1, paid tribute to Abraham. "He's the most durable opponent I've faced. I hit him with every punch in the book. The statement was made.

"I'm happy with the performance. I

got to show my skills, I got to go the 12 rounds and get the experience in." His dad described his son as "the most talented fighter on the planet". Eubank senior added: "I believe he's the best in the world. Over the coming nine months, he will be able to clean the slate and come away with the Mohamed Ali trophy and all the belts."

On the undercard Britain's Lee Selby defended his International Boxing Federation (IBF) world featherweight belt with a unanimous points decision against Argentine challenger Jonathan

Victor Barros four days after the death of his mother.

The 30-year-old Welshman-who has held the title since 2015 — emerged the winner of a gripping bout with the three judges scoring 119-108, 117-110, 117-110 after 12 rounds.

Selby had been hailed as a "brave young man" by his manager Jamie Sanigar for not withdrawing after his mum Frankie passed away on Tuesday. And Selby, who felled Barros with a left hook in the last round, said after the fight: "It doesn't seem real. I told my

team to pretend nothing has happened. I turned my phone off. "If I told people what I was thinking I'd be in a straight jacket. "No (never thought about not fighting), I'm a fighter. "Nothing phases me in the ring. I've got the best cut man in the business." He now has his sights on former WBA World featherweight champion Carl Frampton. The loss of his mother is not the first time tragedy has struck Selby as his older brother Michael drowned nine years ago, leading the boxer to go "on a binge of drugs and drinking" before turning his life round. — AFP



MILWAUKEE: Philadelphia Phillies' Odubel Herrera is safe at second with a double as Milwaukee Brewers' Jonathan Villar applies a late stage during the ninth inning of a baseball game Saturday, in Milwaukee. —AP

BASEBALL

YANKEES OUTLAST RED SOX IN 16 INNINGS

BOSTON: Didi Gregorius lined a go-ahead single in the 16th inning as the New York Yankees outlasted the Boston Red Sox 4-1 Saturday in the longest game between the bitter rivals at Fenway Park since 1966. Matt Holliday hit a tying home run off Craig Kimbrel in the ninth that cleared the Green Monster, and it took 5 hours, 50 minutes and 512 pitches to finish. Boston starter Chris Sale struck out 13 in 7 2/3 scoreless innings of three-hit ball. Luis Severino gave up Mitch Moreland's sacrifice fly in the third. Boston protested over the lack of an interference call on Holliday at first base in the 11th.

BREWERS 3, PHILLIES 2

Travis Shaw broke an eighth-inning tie against Joaquin Benoit (1-4) with his 20th homer as Milwaukee (52-41) moved a season-high 11 games over .500. Jacob Barnes (2-1) escaped an eight-inning jam thanks to a slick double play after he walked two batters. Corey Knebel pitched the ninth for his 16th save. He struck out Tommy Joseph for his 45th consecutive appearance with a strikeout to start the season, a major league record.

DODGERS 7, MARLINS 1

Cody Bellinger became the first Dodgers rookie to hit for the cycle while Alex Wood became the first Dodgers pitcher in more than a century to win his first 11 decisions in a season, helping the NL West leaders extend their winning streak to eight. Bellinger singled in the first, hit a two-run homer in the third, added an RBI double in the fourth and hit his second career triple on the first pitch of the seventh, becoming the ninth player in the Dodgers' 128-year history to hit for the cycle. Wood (11-0)

struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, allowed only four baserunners and lowered his ERA to 1.56 in 16 games this year. An angry Yasiel Puig took several steps toward the mound after he was nearly hit by a pitch from Jose Urena (7-4) in the first inning. Puig hit two home runs in Los Angeles' win Friday.

PADRES 5, GIANTS 3

Madison Bumgarner allowed four hits over seven innings, including home runs by Matt Szczur and Jabari Blash, in his first start since being injured in a dirt bike accident. He left with the score tied at 3-3. Bumgarner was making his first start since April 19 at Kansas City. The next day, he wiped out while riding a dirt bike on a day off in Denver, spraining the AC joint in his left shoulder and suffering bruised ribs. Hector Sanchez hit a two-run homer in the ninth against Cory Gearrin (3-3), sending San Francisco to its six loss in eight games.

CUBS 10, ORIOLES 3

Making his first appearance at Camden Yards since he was traded by Baltimore four years ago, Jake Arrieta (9-7) walked three in the first two innings, then settled down to hold the Orioles to four hits over 6 2/3 innings. Addison Russell homered for the second straight game and Albert Almora and Anthony Rizzo also went deep for Chicago, which hit eight homers in winning the first two games of the series.

NATIONALS 10, REDS 7

Anthony Rendon hit his second career grand slam and added a two-run homer as Washington overcame Scooter Gennett's four-RBI night. Ryan

Raburn homered to lead off the seventh, sparking a seven-run outburst capped by Rendon's 18th homer as the Nationals took a 10-0 lead. Max Scherzer (11-5) finished with 10 strikeouts in six innings, his 12th game of the season and 61st of his career with at least 10. He issued a season-high four walks while allowing three hits.

METS 9, ROCKIES 3

Jay Bruce and pitcher Seth Lugo homered during an early barrage that sent Colorado to its 15th loss in 20 games. Jose Reyes also went deep and Lucas Duda had a two-run double as New York took full advantage of a calf injury that knocked Tyler Chatwood (6-11) from the game after one out, 19 pitches and three walks.

TIGERS 11, BLUE JAYS 1

J.D. Martinez had five RBIs with a two-run single and a three-run homer while Michael Fulmer (10-6) won his fourth straight start, giving up one run and two hits in eight innings. Francisco Liriano (5-5) allowed five runs, three hits and four walks in two-plus innings.

CARDINALS 4, PIRATES 0

Lance Lynn (8-6) allowed eight hits in 6 1/3 innings and hit a run-scoring double. Lynn hasn't allowed a run in his last 13 1/3 innings. Jameson Taillon (5-3) lost for the first time in nearly a month, giving up four runs in five innings and matching his season high by allowing eight hits. Pittsburgh left nine runners on base and went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

BRAVES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 5

Little-used Lane Adams drove in three runs with a go-ahead, pinch-hit, bases-loaded double in the sixth. Adams was hitting only .214 in 28 at-bats before his double to the left-field wall off Randall Delgado (1-2) cleared the bases. Ian Krol (2-2) recorded the final out in the sixth, and Jim Johnson pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

MARINERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager homered as Seattle overcame three errors to win their third straight. Felix Hernandez (5-3) plunked Jose Abreu twice and threw a wild pitch. But Cruz's two-run shot off Anthony Swarzak (4-3) - just the second homer allowed by the reliever this season - made it 4-3 Mariners in the sixth. Steve Cishek, Tony Zych and Nick Vincent each pitched a scoreless inning before Edwin Diaz finished for his 15th save in 18 chances. The right-hander struck out Abreu with runners on first and second for the final out.

TWINS 4, ASTROS 2

Brian Dozier homered and Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking two-run double off Tony Sipp in the sixth after Minnesota loaded the bases against Joe

Musgrove (4-8). Ervin Santana (11-6) allowed two runs and five hits in six inning and Brandon Kintzler pitched a scoreless ninth for his 25th save.

RANGERS 1, ROYALS 0

Shin-Soo Choo flared a lazy fly ball down the left-field line for a single with one out in the ninth, driving in the only run off Danny Duffy (5-6) as Texas won its 12th straight win over Kansas City dating to last July. Duffy and Cole Hamels matched each other through seven innings and Jose Leclerc (2-2) relieved Hamels with two out in the eighth.

ATHLETICS 5, INDIANS 3

Khris Davis hit his 25th homer, a two-run shot in the ninth off Bryan Shaw after Andrew Miller (3-3) walked Yonder Alonso. Rookie third baseman Matt Chapman homered twice and scored three runs while Rajai Davis added an RBI single for the A's.

RAYS 6, ANGELS 3

Alex Cobb (8-6) gave up one run, six hits and three walks in 7 2/3 innings. After surrendering a career-high nine earned runs on June 3 to fall to 4-5 with a 4.52 ERA, Cobb has gone 4-1 with a 2.16 ERA in his last seven starts. Morrison hit a two-run homer in the third to give him 59 RBIs this season. Steven Souza added a solo home run. —AP

BOXING

BERCHELT RETAINS WBC TITLE AGAINST MIURA

LOS ANGELES: Miguel Berchelt retained his WBC world title Saturday with a unanimous decision over former champion Takashi Miura in the first defence of his super featherweight belt. Mexico's Berchelt won almost every round and it showed on the lopsided scorecards but the unflinching Miura fought on pride and looked like he could have knocked the champion out at any moment. "I was prepared because I knew I was facing an ex champion," said Berchelt. "He has the toughest left hand in the division. He was hitting me and hurting me sometimes. "But I was always the better fighter." The judges scored the fight 116-111, 120-109 and 119-108 for the 33-year-old Berchelt who won the title with an 11th round upset victory over Francisco Vargas in January.

Japan's Miura (31-4-2, 24 KOs) was hoping to reclaim the WBC title which he held for more than two years before losing to Vargas in 2015. Berchelt set the tone early in the 12-round clash at the Los Angeles Forum as he dropped Miura late in the first round and rocked him with a hard punch in the fifth round that snapped the challenger's head back. Down on points heading into the sixth round, Miura went looking for the knockout and it didn't seem like a bad strategy for the Japanese dynamo who had 24 career knockouts coming into the bout.

But Berchelt's defence was too strong and his plan to land a mixture of head and body shots allowed him to score ample points with the judges. Miura took the fight to Berchelt (32-1, 28 KOs) in the seventh round as the Mexican appeared to tire, pawing at him instead of landing solid blows like earlier in the bout.

Berchelt also had to deal the non-stop attack of Miura, who wouldn't yield an inch, despite taking a massive amount of punishment to the head and body. Berchelt wobbled Miura in the eighth with a left hook but he couldn't finish him off. Miura showed he has a steel chin and still had an opportunity to win the fight heading into the 11th round but only if he could score a knockout against Berchelt, who was in excellent condition.

Asked if he was interested in a fight with the top fighter in the division, Vasyil Lomachenko, Berchelt said yes. "I beat Vargas, I beat Miura. I am ready to fight the best," he said. On the undercard, champion Jezreel Corrales got the majority decision over Robinson Castellanos after the WBA super featherweight world title fight was stopped 31 seconds into the 10th round because of an accidental head butt. Corrales won by scores of 94-94, 94-93 and 96-92. — AFP



Miguel Berchelt

MLB Results/Standings

Tampa Bay 6, LA Angels 3; Oakland 5, Cleveland 3; San Diego 5, San Francisco 3; Texas 1, Kansas City 0; Atlanta 8, Arizona 5; NY Mets 9, Colorado 3; LA Dodgers 7, Miami 1; Minnesota 4, Houston 2; Milwaukee 3, Philadelphia 2; Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3; Washington 10, Cincinnati 7; Chicago Cubs 10, Baltimore 3; St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 0; Detroit 11, Toronto 1; NY Yankees 4, Boston 1 (16 innings).

American League				National League			
Eastern Division				Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT				
Boston	51	40	.560	Washington	54	36	.600
Tampa Bay	49	43	.533	Atlanta	44	45	.494
NY Yankees	46	42	.523	NY Mets	41	47	.466
Toronto	42	48	.467	Miami	41	48	.461
Baltimore	42	48	.467	Philadelphia	29	60	.326
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	47	42	.528	Milwaukee	52	41	.559
Minnesota	46	44	.511	Chicago Cubs	45	45	.500
Kansas City	44	45	.494	St. Louis	44	46	.489
Detroit	40	49	.449	Pittsburgh	43	48	.473
Chicago White Sox	38	51	.427	Cincinnati	39	51	.433
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	61	30	.670	LA Dodgers	63	29	.685
Texas	45	45	.500	Arizona	53	38	.582
Seattle	45	47	.489	Colorado	52	41	.559
LA Angels	45	49	.479	San Diego	39	51	.433
Oakland	41	50	.451	San Francisco	35	57	.380

SCOTLAND RELISHING EVERY MOMENT OF THEIR WOMEN’S EURO DEBUT

WOUDENBERG: Scotland are relishing every moment of their women’s European Championship debut, bracing for a battle of Britain against England next week, coach Anna Signeul said yesterday. “I am enjoying every second of it, it is carpe diem, it is enjoying the moment, it is every second, every day, just finally being here and having that smile on your face,” said the 56-year-old Swede. “I’m also very proud of what we have achieved coming here, but I’m also

very proud of where we have come as a nation, with the whole girls’ and women’s football.” Scotland, who qualified for their first major tournament in the Netherlands after finishing runners-up to Iceland, face arch-rivals England in their opening Group D match on Wednesday. “I think it’s great to have that game,” said Signeul, who is due to take over the Finnish national team after the tournament, having served 12 years at the

Scottish helm. “It will be a very, very tough game for us but I think it’s good.” So far Scotland have won just a single game against England, drawn twice and lost 21 times, including all six competitive encounters. “I think England will focus on winning every day, it doesn’t matter what opponents are standing against them,” Signeul said of the Lionesses, who finished third at the 2015 World Cup in Canada. “They play with a lot of self-con-

fidence, they have successful players in their team and they have been successful, so it’s a confident team that we play against, we know that.” Several Scottish players, including Manchester City striker Jane Ross and Arsenal midfielder Lisa Evans, will come up against their teammates from the FA Women’s Super League. “We have so many players playing in England, it’s their best friends and their friends, so it’s a little bit special like that as well, but I think that we definite-

ly are up for the challenge,” said Signeul. Defender Frankie Brown, playing for Super League side Bristol City, said there might be “an element of advantage” in the fact that the players know each other well. “But I think that club football is put aside in these situations, the international scene is so different,” said the 29-year-old. “I’d just say it’s another international game and we need to treat it exactly the same as any other game.” —AFP

COWED CHINESE FOOTBALL CLUBS DESIST IN FACE OF 100% LEVY

SHANGHAI: Wayne Rooney led the big names linked with a move to China but in the end the only arrivals were striker Anthony Modeste and a cast mostly of freebies, loanees and has-beens.

Experts and insiders say a 100 percent tax on foreign imports and befuddling last-minute changes to Chinese transfer rules ensured the transfer window in the country fizzled to a close on Friday.

A source close to talks to bring an English Premier League star to China said that confusion over the rules had greatly complicated the move and negotiations eventually broke down. Chinese Super League (CSL) clubs shelled out record-breaking sums in the winter transfer window, heralding the arrival for 60 million euros (\$69 million) of Brazilian Oscar to Shanghai SIPG.

Carlos Tevez joined Shanghai Shenhua on similarly world-leading wages, while Belgian international Axel Witsel, Brazilian forward Alexandre Pato and the Nigerian John Obi Mikel all left European football for China on handsome contracts.

But the Beijing government and Chinese Football Association (CFA), fearing that domestic players were being squeezed out, in May proposed a prohibitive rule that every time a club in debt spent on an import, they would have to pay the same amount again to a fund for developing the local game.

Even as the summer transfer window opened on June 19, the CFA was tweaking its policy, saying that the 100 percent levy would kick in on foreign players costing more than 45 million yuan (\$6.6 million, 5.8 million euros) and Chinese over 20 million yuan. Tianjin Quanjian, strongly linked in the winter with Chelsea striker Diego Costa, seemed determined to snare a forward. They got their man in French marksman Modeste and appeared to get round the transfer rules by signing him on what German daily Bild said was a two-year loan for about six million euros, with an option to buy for 29 million euros.

Rooney left Manchester United but instead of China returned to Everton, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang also rumoured to be off to China-remains at Borussia Dortmund.



CLEVELAND: Nicaragua’s Bryan Garcia (R) tries to clear the ball away from USA’s Joe Corona during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Cleveland, Ohio on Saturday. — AFP

SOCCER

MIAZGA’S LATE GOAL GIVES US FIRST PLACE IN GOLD CUP GROUP

CLEVELAND: Alejandro Bedoya can watch the rest of the CONCACAF Gold Cup after helping the US avoid an embarrassing second-place finish in its group. Bedoya set up goals by Joe Corona and Kelyn Rowe, and Matt Miazga’s close-range header in the 88th minute from Graham Zusi’s free kick gave the United States a 3-0 win over 10-man Nicaragua on Saturday, just enough to leapfrog Panama for the Group B lead.

Bedoya is among six players on the 23-man roster who will be replaced for the knockout phase. His second child is due early next week. “It’s tough, but this is something we have talked about,” Bedoya said. “As much as I would have loved to stay, we’re welcoming a new life.”

Goalkeeper Tim Howard and midfielder Michael Bradley watched from the stands and are among the players US coach Bruce Arena plans to add along with forwards Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore, midfielder Darlington Nagbe and goalkeeper Jesse Gonzalez - whose approval to switch affiliation from Mexico to the US was granted in late June.

“Alejandro is a very good player,” Arena said. “In this three- or four-week period that we’ve been together he continues to demonstrate that. He can play a number of positions and he’s a really versatile player. He does an excellent job.”

Panama’s 3-0 win over Martinique in the first match of the doubleheader meant the U.S. needed a three-goal win to move back

over Los Canaleros into first. But the Americans struggled for long stretches against Nicaragua, a team ranked 105th by FIFA. They squandered opportunities when Dom Dwyer and Corona took poor penalty kicks in the second half that easily were saved by Justo Lorente.

“Give the goalkeeper for Nicaragua some credit - two penalty kick saves in a game isn’t bad but we didn’t do well with our kicks,” Arena said. “It was a game where we wasted some opportunities and made it pretty difficult on ourselves. However, at the end I’m pretty proud of our team that they kept battling and they knew that they needed to get three goals in the game and they managed to do it in the end.”

Nicaragua’s Luis Copete was sent off in the 85th minute for his second yellow card, and Luis Galeano was receiving treatment for an injury, giving the US a two-man advantage when Zusi took his free kick from about 30 yards. Miazga, a 21-year-old Chelsea defender playing his first international match since May 2016, made a diagonal run from the outside and had an open header to score his first goal in three national team appearances.

“It was kind of too good to be true,” Miazga said. “I wasn’t really marked. The player who’d been marking me all game got a red card, so I was kind of free and Graham played a phenomenal ball. He floated it in, and I saw it all the way and guided it into the goal.” —AP

‘KILLED THE MARKET’

Simon Chadwick, professor of sports enterprise at University of Salford in Manchester, said the transfer tax and limits on the number of foreign players to three a match “killed” the market. Chinese clubs were under heavy pressure from the government-which has made improving the national side’s fortunes a priority and at the same time is concerned about capital flight-to stop spending on foreign talent, he said.

“Clubs have erred on the side of caution and desisted from making the kind of high-profile, high-value signings that we have seen over the last few years,” Chadwick said.

“The state has effectively spoken and when the (Chinese) state speaks, people in organisations are expected to listen.” This transfer window has been characterised by people moderating their activities in response to state concerns about spiralling transfer values.”

PAULINHO STAYS

Aside from Modeste, Chinese clubs did limited business during the four-week transfer window, taking players on loan, for free or for relatively meagre fees. Jiangsu Suning, managed by Italian Fabio Capello, snapped up Cameroon forward Benjamin Moukandjo for a reported 5.5 million euros-just avoiding the 100 percent charge.

CSL champions Guangzhou Evergrande re-signed Brazilian journeyman Muriqi on a free transfer but their best business was holding on to midfielder Paulinho with Barcelona sniffing around.

Slovenian international Kevin Kampl’s move from German side Bayer Leverkusen to Beijing Guoan fell through at the last minute after the clubs failed to agree over terms of payment. Chadwick said that after two contrasting transfer windows in the winter and this time, Chinese football faced a major challenge to identify the middle ground. “They’ve veered from excess to austerity in the space of one year,” he said. “So they’ve gone from a situation where everyone was talking about the Super League because of the big-name signings to a situation where now nobody is talking about it because there are no big-name signings.” —AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan cricketer Dimuth Karunaratne (L) dives for the ball as Zimbabwe cricketer Sikandar Raza looks on during the third day of a one-off Test match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the R Premadasa Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

CRICKET

RAZA 97 PUTS ZIMBABWE ON TOP IN S LANKA TEST

COLOMBO: Sikandar Raza hit a gritty 97 not out to help Zimbabwe recover from a top-order collapse and stretch their second innings lead over Sri Lanka to 262 in the one-off Test yesterday. The visitors were 252 for six at stumps on day three, with Raza and Malcolm Waller (57) putting on an unbeaten 107-run stand for the seventh-wicket at Colombo’s R Premadasa Stadium.

Raza lifted Zimbabwe from a precarious 23-4, followed by 59-5, after Sri Lankan left-arm spinner Rangana Herath rattled the visitors’ batting with four early wickets. Herath, who got three wickets before the lunch break, bowled Sean Williams for 22 in the second session as Zimbabwe teetered dangerously close to losing their 10-run advantage.

It was then that Raza put together 86 runs with Peter Moor (40) for the sixth wicket to turn the tables on Sri Lanka. Moor fell to paceman Lahiru Kumara. Raza, who registered his fifth Test fifty, used the sweep shot to great effect against the spinners as he found another partner in Waller to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack.

“The dressing room was very quiet after the lunch break as we were 23-4. Then we said to ourselves, let’s fight back and show that we mean business,” Waller told reporters. “We have created history in the ODI series and we have a great chance here as well. If we can get another 100 runs that will give us a good chance to win this Test,” Waller, whose side eye their first-ever Test win over Sri Lanka, added.

Earlier skipper Graeme Cremer helped Zimbabwe take the lead after claiming his maiden five-wicket haul in a Test, helping bowl Sri Lanka for 346 in the morning session. But it was Herath’s left-arm spin that undid the fine work

SCOREBOARD	
COLOMBO: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the one-off Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Colombo yesterday.	
Zimbabwe 1st innings 356 (C. Ervine 160; R. Herath 5-116)	18-2-60-0; Cremer 39.3-4-125-5 (nb1); Waller 1-0-2-0, Williams 23-3-62-2 (nb2).
Sri Lanka 1st innings (overnight 293-7; A. Gunaratne 24 not out, R. Herath 5 not out)	
D. Karunaratne c Masakadza b Tiripano	25
U. Tharanga run out (Tiripano)	71
K. Mendis c Chakabva b Cremer	11
D. Chandimal c Chakabva b Cremer	55
A. Mathews c Masakadza b Williams	41
N. Dickwella b Cremer	6
D. Perera run out	33
A. Gunaratne b Cremer	45
R. Herath st Chakabva b Williams	22
S. Lakmal c & b Cremer	14
L. Kumara not out	
Extras (b8, lb10, w1, nb3)	22
Total (all out; 102.3 overs)	346
Fall of wickets: 1-84 (Karunaratne), 2-107 (Mendis), 3-116 (Tharanga), 4-212 (Chandimal), 5-226 (Dickwella), 6-238 (Mathews), 7-274 (Perera), 8-322 (Herath), 9-343 (Lakmal), 10-346 (Gunaratne)	
Bowling: Mpofo 11-2-41-0 (w1); Tiripano 10-1-38-1; Raza 4-0-10-0.	
Zimbabwe 2nd innings	
H. Masakadza lbw b Herath	7
R. Chakabva b Herath	6
T. Musakanda c Karunaratne b Herath	0
C. Ervine c Karunaratne b Perera	5
S. Williams b Herath	22
S. Raza not out	97
P. Moor c sub (Gunathialka) b Kumara	40
M. Waller not out	57
Extras (b4, lb7, w6, nb1)	18
Total (6 wickets; 68 overs)	252
Still to bat: G. Cremer, C. Mpofo, D. Tiripano	
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Chakabva), 2-16 (Musakanda), 3-17 (Masakadza), 4-23 (Ervine), 5-59 (Williams), 6-145 (Moor)	
Bowling: Lakmal 9-0-28-0; Herath 23-2-85-4; Perera 21-1-69-1; L. Kumara 11-3-43-1 (nb1, w2); K. Mendis 4-0-10-0.	

from leg-spinner Cremer (5-125).

Herath, who registered his 30th Test five-wicket haul in the first innings, ran riot at the start of Zimbabwe’s second essay to get the wickets of Hamilton Masakadza, Tarisai Musakanda and Regis Chakabva. Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera joined forces to get the prized wicket of first-innings centurion Craig Ervine for five at the stroke of lunch. Sri Lanka’s interim coach Nic Pothas, who took over the job after Graham

Ford prematurely ended his contract last month, was not surprised by the visiting sides’ fighting qualities.

“The fight that Zimbabwe have shown is not surprising at all. They have a quality support staff and they have some fine players,” said Pothas, who represented South Africa in three ODIs. “I have played against Zimbabwe when I was playing for South Africa and they used to always put up good fights.” —AFP

MOURINHO RULES OUT RONALDO MOVE AFTER UNITED ROUT GALAXY

LOS ANGELES: Jose Mourinho ruled out any attempt to bring Cristiano Ronaldo back to Old Trafford after Manchester United opened their US tour here Saturday with a 5-2 rout of the Los Angeles Galaxy. United manager Mourinho is keen to bolster his ranks further after already strengthening his squad with the additions of Victor Lindelof and Romelu Lukaku. But the Portuguese manager poured cold water on the possibility of an attempt to prise United

legend Ronaldo away from Real Madrid. “I’m not going to waste my time thinking about players who are mission impossible,” Mourinho told reporters after the win. Earlier, England striker Marcus Rashford scored twice with Marouane Fellaini, Anthony Martial and Henrikh Mkhitaryan bagging United’s other goals in a one-sided victory in front of 25,667 fans at the StubHub Center. New striker Lukaku was unable to get in on the goals after a 45-



CARSON: Manchester United Romelu Lukaku (C) kicks the ball against Los Angeles Galaxy during the second half of a national friendly soccer game at StubHub Center on Saturday in Carson, California. Manchester United won 5-2. — AFP

minute debut in the second half. Lukaku missed one golden chance four minutes into his United debut, with his shot saved by Galaxy goalkeeper Brian Rowe. However Mourinho was satisfied with Lukaku’s “unselfish” display in leading the line. “Lukaku is a target man, he plays with his back to opponents,” Mourinho said. “A good thing today for me is to see that he’s a team player. He’s not selfish. He’s not obsessed with goals.

“He was not that worried about himself, he was worried about the improvement of the team.” Rashford meanwhile reminded Mourinho of his eye for goal with a confident first-half display. The teenager opened the scoring after only two minutes, punishing an error from Ariel Lassiter near the Galaxy penalty area to dart in on goal and place his finish beyond goalkeeper Jon Kempin. The 19-year-old doubled his tally in the 20th minute, latching onto a clever pass from Juan Mata to make it 2-0.

RASHFORD ‘STILL GROWING’

Mourinho later revealed that Rashford, who looks to have added a physical dimension to his game, was still growing. “It’s just the natural evolution of a kid,” Mourinho said. “He’s already taller than when I arrived 13 months ago. He’s three centimeters taller. He’s put on some muscle but without any kind of specific work because his speed is his most important quality and we don’t want to lose that.” Marouane Fellaini ensured United had a 3-0 lead at half-time tucking a low shot past the hapless Kempin after good work down the left flank by Jesse Lingard. Mourinho changed his entire line-up at half-time, mirroring wholesale changes made by the Galaxy. United got their fourth of the night on 67 minutes when Martial burst forward and threaded a pass to Mkhitaryan who made no mistake with a confident low strike.—AFP

Sports

Hamilton reigns at Silverstone to cut Vettel lead



Berchelt retains WBC title against ex-champion Miura



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MIAZGA'S LATE GOAL GIVES US FIRST PLACE IN GOLD CUP GROUP

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LONDON: Switzerland's Roger Federer (L) and Croatia's Marin Cilic pose with their trophies after Federer won their men's singles final match, during the presentation on the last day of the 2017 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. Roger Federer won 6-3, 6-1, 6-4. — AFP

FEDERER WINS RECORD 8TH WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Roger Federer won a record eighth Wimbledon title and became the tournament's oldest champion yesterday with a straight-sets victory over injury-hit Marin Cilic who dramatically broke down in tears midway through the final.

Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 and at 35 is Wimbledon's oldest men's winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976.

However, the Swiss superstar's 11th Wimbledon final, and 29th at the majors, will also be remembered for the moving sight of the popular Cilic breaking down in tears after slipping 3-0 behind in the second set. The seventh seeded Croatian, the 2014 US Open champion, sobbed inconsolably and buried his head in his towel as his title dream slipped

away. He had his left foot taped at the end of the second set but it was in vain as Federer became the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set in the entire tournament.

"He's a hero," Federer said of his opponent. Twelve months ago, Federer was defeated in five sets in the semi-finals by Milos Raonic and promptly shut down his season to rest a knee injury. "It's disbelief I can achieve such heights. I wasn't sure I would ever be here in another final after last year," said Federer, who turns 36 in three weeks' time and who has now broken the tie for seven Wimbledon titles he shared with Pete Sampras and William Renshaw.

"I had some tough ones in the finals, losing two against Novak (Djokovic). "But I always believed. I kept on believing and dreaming I

could get back. "Here am I today with the eighth. It's fantastic, if you keep believing you can go far in your life."

Federer won his 18th Slam in Australia in January on his return to the tour before adding the Indian Wells and Miami Masters back-to-back and a ninth Halle grasscourt title. He also skipped the entire claycourt season. "I've got to take more time off," joked Federer, playing in just his seventh event of the year. "I'll be gone again for the next six months! I don't know if it will work as well again."

Cilic, who had spent four and a half hours more than Federer getting to the final, said retiring with his injury was never an option. "I never give up in a match. I gave it my best-it's all I can do," said Cilic who was still emotional at the trophy presentation.

"I had an amazing journey here. I played

the best tennis of my life. I really want to thank my team—they gave so much strength to me." Beneath a star-studded Royal Box where Prince William and wife Kate rubbed shoulders with actors Hugh Grant and Bradley Cooper, Cilic had his first break point in the fourth game. It was saved by Federer and it was to be Cilic's only glimmer of hope.

NASTY FALL

Federer broke in the next game when his opponent suffered a nasty fall on the worn surface which was to ultimately undermine his challenge. Federer then served up two love service games before claiming the opener 6-3 off a Cilic double fault, the Croatian's second of the final.

The Swiss superstar swept into a 3-0 lead in the second set and at the changeover, Cilic

slumped in his court-side chair in tears and in obvious pain. The trainer and doctor were summoned before Cilic hid his head in his towel in a desperate attempt to compose himself.

The 28-year-old held serve on the resumption but the lethal barrage continued, Federer stretching his lead over his friend to 4-1. Cilic dropped the set 6-1 and called a medical timeout to have his left foot bandaged and take a painkiller.

His discomfort was reflected in his statistics. By the end of the second set, he had served just two aces compared to the 130 he had fired past bamboozled opponents in his previous six rounds. Federer pounced again with a break for 4-3 and wrapped up the one-sided final with a second serve ace to complete his coronation after just 1hr 41 minutes. Fittingly, he too wept at the end. — AFP

KUBOT-MELO, MAKAROVA-VESNINA WIN DOUBLES TITLES AT WIMBLEDON

LONDON: First there was one of the longest doubles finals in Wimbledon history. And then there was one of the shortest. The men's final was the first match on Centre Court following the women's singles championship Saturday. Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo beat Oliver Marach and Mate Pavic 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 13-11 in a match that lasted 4 hours, 40 minutes - only 21 minutes shorter than the longest men's doubles final in history.

That was followed by the women's doubles final, which Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina won 6-0, 6-0 over Chan Hao-ching and Monica Niculescu. The last 20 minutes of the men's final was played under a closed roof because of darkness.

The entire women's match was played indoors on the Centre Court grass. The roof was closed for the women's final earlier in the day because of rain, but it was open at the start of the men's doubles match. But at 8:40 p.m., the roof was closed again because of darkness. "When we stopped, we know we have to be strong at this moment," Melo said. "I played the final here before. I know I have to manage this if you want to succeed and be a Grand Slam champion."

With the win, Melo will return to the No. 1 ranking in men's doubles. For both Melo and Kubot, it is their second Grand Slam title. Melo won the 2015 French Open with Ivan Dodig. Kubot won the 2014 Australian Open with Robert Lindstedt.

The longest men's doubles final in Wimbledon history was in 1992, when John McEnroe and Michael Stich beat Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg 5-7, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 7-6 (5), 19-17. That match lasted 5:01 and was also the final with the most games played at 83. The women's doubles final began at 9:30 p.m. and lasted 55 minutes.

"We were sitting and waiting. We knew that it's going to be five sets. We knew it was going to be drama at the end. We knew it was going to be something," Vesnina said. "Martina Navratilova told us, 'Do you know you girls have to finish till 11?'"

"After the first set, I looked at the clock. OK, we're still fine." It was Makarova and Vesnina's third Grand Slam title together. The 2016 Olympic doubles champions won the French Open in 2013 and the US Open in 2014.

The result was the first "double bagel" in the women's doubles final since 1953, when Shirley Fry and Doris Hart beat Maureen Connolly and Julia Sampson 6-0, 6-0. —AP



LONDON: Elena Vesnina of Russia, right and her compatriot Ekaterina Makarova, hold up their winners trophies after they defeated Romania's Monica Niculescu, and Taiwan's Hao-Ching Chan to win the Women's Doubles final match on day twelve at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Saturday. —AP

CRICKET

ENGLAND SET 474 TO WIN 2ND TEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

NOTTINGHAM: England were set a record target of 474 to win the second Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge yesterday. South Africa declared their second innings on 343 for nine shortly before the close of the third day.

The most any side have made to win in the fourth innings of a Test is the West Indies' 418 for seven against Australia at St John's, Antigua, in 2003. Hashim Amla top-scored for the Proteas on Sunday with 87, opener Dean Elgar made 80 and returning captain Faf du Plessis 63. Off-spinner Moeen Ali took four for 78.

At tea, the Proteas were 236 for four in their second innings—a lead of 366 runs—after Amla had fallen for 87. Returning captain Faf du Plessis was 42 not out and Temba Bavuma unbeaten on 12. South Africa's current total was already well above the highest ever score made to win in the fourth innings in 118 years of Test cricket at Trent Bridge—England's 284 for six against New Zealand in 2004.

South Africa started the session on 160 for three, with Amla 61 not out and du Plessis four not out. England bowled tightly but with South Africa having established a commanding position in the match, and so much time left in the game, there was no need for their fourth-wicket pair to take undue risks.

Amla and du Plessis, both renowned for their patience at the crease, were instead content to pick off the loose ball, with the captain cutting fast bowler

Mark Wood and off-driving Stuart Broad for four apiece. Meanwhile Amla's trademark wristy flick off James Anderson gave him a boundary and he raised South Africa's 200 with a delicate swept four against off-spinner Moeen Ali.

But closing in on what would have been his 27th Test century and seventh against England, Amla—who made 78 in the first innings—fell 13 short this time around. Trying to whip left-arm spinner Liam Dawson, whom he'd earlier hit for a straight six to complete his fifty, Amla was struck on the pad as he went down the pitch. Umpire Paul Reiffel, the former Australia seamer rejected the lbw appeal but England reviewed his decision and, with replays showing the ball straightening into middle stump, Amla—who made South Africa's Test record 311 not out against England at The Oval in 2012 — was out.

It was the end of a near five-hour innings of 180 balls including 14 fours and that lone six. South Africa, well beaten by 211 runs in the first of a four-match series at Lord's last week—a match du Plessis missed following the birth of his first child—resumed Sunday on 75 for one. They were already 205 runs ahead with three days left in the game. Elgar was 38 not out and Amla 23 not out. James Anderson, who took five for 72 in South Africa's first innings 335 — the seventh Test five-for recorded by England's all-time leading wicket-taker at Trent Bridge—beat Elgar's outside edge.—AFP

GREECE MAY SOON HEAD FOR BOND MARKET TEST



**KD 81.6 million net
profit for KFH
shareholders in H1 2017**
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ANDHRA PRADESH: In this picture taken on July 15, 2017 an Indian farmer (R) sells papayas along a highway road in Guntur District, in the Southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.—AFP

US-CHINA RIFTS WIDEN DESPITE ECONOMIC HEADWAY

AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC PLANS FAIL TO HIDE ISSUES BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS

WASHINGTON: Three months after US President Donald Trump hosted a lavish welcome for his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at his Florida resort, the powers have made headway on an ambitious economic plan even as diplomatic rifts between them have widened. Speaking in Paris on Thursday, the American leader was full of praise for Xi, proclaiming him a “friend” for whom he has “great respect”, a “great leader” and a “very talented man.”

The expressions of admiration have gone both ways-a day earlier Beijing’s foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang had

the US-China commercial relationship,” he said, while adding that more needed to be done to address structural issues such as foreign investment restrictions.

But despite the effusive rhetoric, that progress has not been matched in other areas of the relationship with ever widening rifts on a host of foreign policy issues. The US appears bitterly disappointed over China’s failure to exert pressure on North Korea in the wake of its first ever intercontinental ballistic missile test, while Beijing has been left fuming at American incursions into disputed territory in the South

Dialogue that will be held on July 19 in Washington, hosted by US treasury and commerce secretaries Steven Mnuchin and Wilbur Ross and Chinese vice premier Wang Yang. But in other contentious areas of the relationship-tensions in the Korean peninsula, China’s maritime disputes with its neighbors, Taiwan and human rights-“the two sides are far apart,” says Revere.

The US has scolded Beijing for not putting enough pressure on North Korea, which increased trade with its key diplomatic backer by 10.5 percent in the first half of this year. The July 4 launch of an ICBM by Pyongyang signaled that Trump’s “naive experiment regarding China and North Korea is now coming to an end,” said Revere, vindicating foreign policy experts’ skepticism towards relying on Beijing to rein in its neighbor.

Patience evaporating

As evidence of the shift, Revere cited US sanctions on Chinese entities such as the Bank of Dandong, which is accused of illicit dealings with companies linked to the weapons program, days before the launch. Tensions have also been stoked by the passage of a US warship near a reef claimed by Beijing in May and two B-1 bombers over disputed waters in July, acts denounced by China as grave military and political provocations.

Washington meanwhile approved a \$1.3 billion arms deal to Taiwan, an island which Beijing considers a rebel province awaiting reunification. The developments appeared to have been acknowledged by Geng Shuang as “negative factors” in the relationship brought about by “actions of the US.” On the thorny question of human rights, statements from the US State Department have come pouring in-calling on China to respect Hong Kong’s freedoms, desist its crack-down on lawyers, or condemning Beijing for the death in custody Nobel peace prize winner Liu Xiaobo. As for Trump’s continuing habit of praising the Chinese leader, Revere believes it stems largely from “a desire to keep the door open in case Beijing changes its posture vis-a-vis North Korea, as well as to try to keep the US-China relationship on a steady course.” — AFP



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Canada's Governor General David Johnston (not pictured) at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. — AFP

hailed “positive advances” in China-US economic cooperation based on a spirit of “consensus” between the two leaders. Both sides see moderate progress on a wide-ranging 100-day economic action plan, first unveiled at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in April that covers such areas as financial services, investment, energy and trade-a topic close to the US president’s heart.

Evans Revere, an analyst at Brookings Institution, told AFP: “Both sides seem to share the view that the 100-day plan is largely on track.” Jake Parker, vice president of the US-China Business Council in Beijing, largely agreed: “Overall, the 100-day outcomes are positive first steps addressing lingering issues in

China Sea, arms sales to Taiwan and statements on human rights.

Chinese bogeyman

Trump made China a central part of his presidential campaign, denouncing the country for unfair trading practices that cost Americans jobs and accusing it of manipulating its currency. Since becoming president, however, he has taken an about turn on the currency issue and in May announced a deal to export American beef and gas to China in the hope of reducing a massive trade deficit that totaled \$347 billion in 2016.

These first results from the 100-day plan will likely be feted at the US-China Comprehensive Economic

S AFRICA’S WHITE ENCLAVE
EYES MOVING TO E-CASH

JOHANNESBURG: A whites-only enclave in South Africa has resisted the country’s multi-racial reality for more than two decades, even adopting its own paper money in its bid to promote self-sufficiency. Now Orania, a town of 1,400 established during the dying years of apartheid and protected by the constitution, is looking to take its “ora” currency digital.

Orania was created by Afrikaners on private land in 1991 ahead of the dawn of democracy and its residents are mostly white farmers or traders. The town maintains its unique racial makeup by vetting and interviewing prospective residents. If Orania’s audacious plan goes ahead as expected, the “e-ora” will enter the world of virtual currencies-although it’s still a far cry from the likes of cyber-money giant Bitcoin.

Promoting local spending

Strictly speaking the ora is not a full currency, but serves as a token or voucher. It was introduced in 2004 to promote local spending, with users enjoying discounts when they use the local coupons. Although Orania does not insist on payments in ora, the town profits from every sale of its

currency by holding the deposited rands in an interest-bearing account.

The ora is not officially sanctioned by the South African Reserve Bank, but residents can currently exchange South African rands for physical ora at the town’s self-styled “central bank” at a rate of one-to-one. By going electronic, Orania-where 97 percent of residents are white compared to just one in 10 nationwide-will take its first steps into the booming world of digital cash.

The market for virtual currencies is thought to be worth billions of dollars, but critics argue they help drug and arms dealers and people traffickers. “What we plan to do is to digitise the existing physical ora and replace it with an electronic one,” said Dawie Roodt, chief economist at the Efficient Group, a financial consultancy hoping to help the town reduce the transaction costs of the paper ora. “If you can reduce the cost of the transaction, you can boost economic activity quite substantially.”

The paper vouchers will continue to circulate alongside the cyber cash, but unlike the physical “banknotes”, the e-currency will have no expiry date. “There are significant techno-

logical changes taking place in the financial space-like Bitcoin,” said Roodt. If everything goes to plan, Orania could have the electronic ora in circulation as soon as mid-August.

It is hoped that the virtual cash will reduce the costs of printing the physical notes, as well as expanding the range of goods and services using the ora-helping to grow the local economy. “I’m a young guy, I’m used to mainly doing online banking and the advantages that come with that. So if I can go further and build my own economy with that, I definitely welcome that,” Orania Movement’s James Kemp, 35, told AFP.

It was the Afrikaners who formed the backbone of the National Party that introduced apartheid, and many South Africans regard Orania’s residents as little more than latter-day bittereinders-a term used for Boer War holdouts — who rage against today’s majority rule. But residents maintain the town is not racist, arguing that Orania is the best way of preserving Afrikaner culture and language and offers a safe sanctuary from crime-ridden neighborhoods.—AFP



ORANIA: This file photo taken on April 17, 2013 shows a young South African Afrikaner boy plays by a painted wall reading “Welcome in Orania” in Afrikaans in Orania. A whites-only enclave in South Africa has resisted the country’s multi-racial reality for more than two decades, even adopting its own paper money in its bid to promote self-sufficiency. —AFP

ECONOMIC FAILURES IN LESOTHO CREATE GENERATION OF MIGRANTS

MASERU: In a cottage in rural Lesotho, Tisetso Litheko lays out six full passports packed with immigration stamps showing his constant movement across the border to neighboring South Africa. The 31-year-old former shepherd is one of more than 400,000 Lesotho nationals who live for much of the year in South Africa, forced by decades of a lack of work in the small mountain kingdom to seek a livelihood elsewhere.

“Moving to South Africa was something I could not avoid. I had very few options here in Lesotho,” Litheko told AFP. The flood of migrants from Lesotho—a country the size of Belgium that is encircled by South Africa—goes back to the discovery of gold in Johannesburg in the 1880s, when thousands of men from Lesotho were recruited to work in mines. Litheko says his father and grandfa-

ther spent most of their lives as mineworkers in Johannesburg, the first in a long line of male members of the family who were forced to migrate for work. “In Lesotho there are no jobs, there is no money, that is why many people sacrifice the comfort of their home life to work in South Africa,” he said. Litheko left his village, Ha Abia, when he was 22 years old, initially sneaking illegally across the border to toil on farms in nearby Ladybrand as a seasonal worker. “Before I had a passport, I used to go over the mountains before sunrise to avoid being detected, and come back at night.”

Sending money home

Now employed as a mine security guard, Litheko often works 24-hour shifts patrolling the boundaries of a gold mine in Carletonville, a gritty mining district



MASERU: People and vehicles move to cross the Lesotho and South Africa border at the Maseru bridge border post on June 8, 2017 in Maseru. — AFP

south west of Johannesburg. He saves the bulk of his weekly 550 rand (\$41, 36 euros) wage and sends it home at the end of each month to his wife and three children. The sum may appear meagre, but it goes a long way in a country where 56.2 percent of the two-million population lives in extreme poverty.

The World Bank puts Lesotho jobless rate between 24 and 28 percent. The red tape of South Africa’s immigration system, where officials frequently have a reputation for demanding bribes and causing long delays, has exposed desperate Lesotho job seekers to exploitation and cheap labor. “Getting a South African permit is harder than getting a job,” said Litheko. Lesotho is enclosed by South Africa, and thousands of its citizens cross the border daily, not just to work but also to shop or attend school. — AFP

CENTRAL BANKS COMMENTS AND TAPERING EXPECTATIONS STILL DICTATE THE MARKET

The major event last week was Yellen’s semiannual congressional testimony, wherein markets perceived her tone as less optimistic compared to the previous testimony. Yellen acknowledged recent improvements in the economy, highlighting the strength of the job market and claiming the economy is healthy enough to withstand a rate hike and a slow tapering of its balance sheet remain. Meanwhile, in the second day of her testimony, Yellen stated that the Federal Reserve was in no rush to tighten monetary conditions given the depressed path of inflation.

Looking at other Fed officials, Philadelphia President Harker noted “the recent slowing path of US inflation gives him pause over whether the Fed should raise rates for a third time this year.”Moreover, two Fed members concluded that the federal funds rate isn’t too far from the neutral stance. If that is the case, the central bank may be near the limit in terms of rate hikes. Global equities rose and the majority of bond yields around the globe fell after Yellen’s second day of testimony.

The highly anticipated rate hike by Canada’s central bank makes it the first major central bank to follow the footsteps of the Federal Reserve in tightening monetary policy in the wake of the 2007-2009 financial crisis. The BoC increased its overnight lending rate by 25 basis points to 0.75%, boosting the Canadian dollar to the highest since June 2016 versus the US dollar.

Canada’s growth era is experiencing the strongest expansion shoot since the 2008-2009 recession, with the pace of expansion above 3% over the past four quarters. That’s the fastest among Group of Seven countries and double what the central bank considers Canada’s capacity to grow without fueling inflation. The BoC anticipates real GDP growth will moderate in the coming years from 2.8% in 2017 to 2.0% in 2018 and 1.6% in 2019. In regards to future monetary policy prospects, the bank signaled it did not want to commit to a predetermined path of more hikes until guided by incoming data as they inform the Bank’s inflation outlook.

On the currency front, the greenback continued its downward trend last week and eased on Wednesday to a low of 95.464 in the aftermath of Yellen’s testimony in front of Congress, which was perceived by the markets as dovish. The currency then continued it’s decent to a 10-months low of 95.04 as inflation and retail sales data disappointed, raising concerns about the strength of the US economy and lessening the outlook of the Federal Reserve adopting a faster pace of rate hikes. The DXY opened the week at 96.00 and closed on Friday’s session at 95.728.

The single currency began its upward momentum on Tuesday due to the weakness of the dollar. The EUR/USD grasped a 14-month high on Wednesday at 1.1489. After that rise, the pair lost its bullish flow as political concerns in the US increased



NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

the demand for euro zone government bonds pushing yields lower and investors taking their profits on long euro positions. The pair started its weekly session at 1.1400 and closed the week at 1.1467.

The GBP/USD was on the downside last week as BoE’s deputy governor Ben Broadbent stated that he is not in favor of an early rate hike pushing the currency lower from \$1.29 to 1.2846 its lowest level in July. The decline in the currency pair did not last for long, following the release of an employment report that was positive for the most part. The pound found more strength and managed to close the week on a positive note amid hawkish comments from BoE policy member McCafferty. Macafferty stated that the BoE should consider unwinding its GBP435 billion quantitative easing program. The GBP/USD began its weekly session at 1.2887 and ended on Friday at 1.3095.

The safe haven Japanese yen has depreciated nearly 5% over the past month against the USD as the diverging trend among a hawkish Fed and a dovish Bank of Japan widened. The yen recovered some of its losses last week after the greenback weakened. The USD/JPY opened on Monday at 114.00 and remained on a downward path until closing on Friday at 112.50. In the commodities complex, gold found support last week following Yellen’s less optimistic remarks and political uncertainty in the US. The precious metal appreciated from \$1,207 on Tuesday to a five day high of \$1,225.60. The price of gold per ounce on Friday’s close was \$1228.58.

US Job openings eases from record high

The number of available job openings in the US economy descended sharply by 5% in May to 5.7 million as employers retained employees from the labor market reached the highest level since March 2004. Furthermore, the number of

Americans who voluntarily quit their jobs increased by 7.1% to 3.2 million, suggesting strong confidence in the labor market.

Despite the labor market near the wall of full employment and the unemployment rate at 4.4%, wage growth has remained frustratingly sluggish. When unemployment is this low, wages generally rise. However, average hourly earnings have increased just 2.5% over the past 12 months. The last time the unemployment rate was this low, wages were rising by about 4%. A separate survey by an influential lobbying group for American small businesses showed that finding qualified workers is still one of their biggest worries.

Price growth may take longer than anticipated

Both producer inflation and core PPI slightly notched upwards by 0.1% for the month of June. The minimal uptick in monthly headline inflation was enhanced by prices for services gaining 0.2%, which accounts for almost 80 percent of the increase in the PPI. Although, inflation on both fronts are down from the previous year. Wholesale inflation year on year is down from May’s reading of 2.4% to 2% and core data is down from 2.1% to 2%, providing further evidence of cooling inflation.

The cost for goods and services paid by Americans was flat during the month of June, while markets anticipated a rise of 0.1%. Last month, gasoline costs continued to decline downward by 2.6%, after dropping 6.4% in May. On an annual basis, consumer inflation increased 1.6%, slower than the 1.9% reading registered in May and down from five-year high of 2.7% just five months ago. Core inflation edged up by 0.1% in June and was unchanged at 1.7% over the past 12 months. The lack of a rebound in prices for goods and services could trouble Fed officials who have

largely viewed the recent moderation in price pressures as transitory.

Europe & UK Further evidence of robust European economy

Industrial production in Europe’s single economy accelerated at a monthly rate of 1.3% in May. The growth in the industrial sector is mainly due to production of capital goods rising by 2.3%, durable consumer goods by 1.8% and non-durable consumer goods by 1.2%. The countries that attributed the most to the sector were Lithuania, Romania and the Czech Republic. On an annual basis, industrial sector grew 5% in May.

The Eurozone Manufacturing PMI boomed to a 74-month high in June, reflecting the strongest trend for the sector in more than six years. At current levels, the PMI reading suggests for factory output to expand at an annual rate of around 5%. In the wake of upbeat numbers generally for the Eurozone in recent months, it’s likely that May’s hard data on industrial activity will provide further support to Europe’s booming economic activity.

Eurozone price growth remains well below the target

ECB members hoping for hints of a steady rise in inflationary pressures to back their recent hawkishness encountered mixed signals from Europe’s two largest economies. On a yearly measurement, the German consumer inflation edged slightly higher by 0.1% to 1.5%, while France’s fell by 0.1% to 0.8% in June. The German CPI rose 0.2%, while French consumer prices remained flat for the month. Eurozone inflation level remains well below the ECB’s target of 2% and energy prices have been descending for four consecutive months. Subdued inflation may prolong the ECB’s loose monetary policy, in a period of robust economic data out of the single economy.

Real wages turns negative

Britain’s unemployment rate in the three months through May eased further by 0.1% to 4.5%, the lowest rate in 42 years and the employment rate is at a record high of 74.9%. Annual earnings growth in May was up 2% compared with a 1.8% recorded in April. Taking into account for inflation, real wages fell for the third consecutive month and turned negative for the first time in over two years, increasing the probability of a slowdown in consumer spending.

The depreciation in consumers’ confidence is likely to make workers even less willing to find new jobs, therefore decreasing the pressure on employers to offer higher salaries to retain staff. Even after the pick-up in regular pay, living standards are being diminished. Prices are gaining more momentum than wages and that is translating into weaker consumer spending. Perhaps not too far away, this might lead to higher unemployment and lower inflation.

News

in brief



BRUSSELS: EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier (R) and First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones (L) prepare to shake hands during their meeting. — AFP

France sees Brexit as a tool to weaken London

LONDON: France is seeking to use Brexit to weaken the City of London, the British finance sector’s EU pointman warned in a leaked report published yesterday. “They are crystal clear about their underlying objective: the weakening of Britain, the ongoing degradation of the City of London,” Jeremy Browne, a former government minister who is now the City’s Brexit envoy, said in a memo. The leaked report, published by the Mail on Sunday tabloid, was written as a summary to ministers of a trip made by Browne to France in early July. “The meeting with the French Central Bank was the worst I have had anywhere in the EU. They are in favor of the hardest Brexit. They want disruption,” he said.

Merkel challenger calls for public investment

BERLIN: Germany should be legally bound to invest in infrastructure, the centre-left challenger to Chancellor Angela Merkel at September elections said yesterday. Berlin “must use its money to improve public infrastructure according to binding rules,” Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate Martin Schulz said at a campaign event in the German capital. Schulz did not call for the lifting of the “debt brake” built into the German constitution by Merkel’s conservative government in 2009, which sets legal limits on deficits in federal and regional budgets. Berlin has booked budget surpluses in recent years and reduced its debt levels under finance minister Wolfgang Schauble. German public spending is a hot topic at home and abroad.

Egypt ordered closure of Ipsos office in Cairo

CAIRO: Egypt’s manpower ministry ordered the closure of leading market research firm Ipsos’s Cairo office, citing workplace health and safety violations, a ministry decree dated June 20 showed. The decree was made public by local media late on Saturday. The spokesman confirmed its authenticity to Reuters. He said Cairo local authorities had not yet carried out the order. Ipsos, a global market research firm headquartered in France, conducts audience research for Egyptian television networks. Ipsos officials in France and Egypt were not immediately available for comment.

S Africa Cen bank: Anti-graft watchdog is incompetent

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa’s central bank accused the head of anti-graft watchdog of incompetence on Friday, following her proposal to switch the target of its monetary policy from inflation and currency stability to economic growth. Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane set off a political row and sparked a selling frenzy in the rand currency last month when she said the Reserve Bank current mandate focuses on a “few commercial interests”.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

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

Swiss Franc	318.330
Australian Dollar	234.720
US Dollar Buying	302.650

GOLD	
20 Gram	254.190
10 Gram	130.01
5 Gram	65.850

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.110
Thai Bhat	9.925
Turkish Lira	85.715

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.392097	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

KD 81.6 MILLION NET PROFIT FOR KFH SHAREHOLDERS IN H1 2017

PROFITS AFFIRMS SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY OF FOCUSING ON CORE BANKING BUSINESS

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that "KFH has, by the grace of Allah, realized a KD 81.6 million net profit for the first half of 2017 for KFH shareholders compared to KD 70.9 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 15.2%. Net finance income for H1 this year reached KD 210.8 Million i.e. a growth of 2.7% compared to the same period last year. Total operating income for the first half of this year reached KD 343.2 million, i.e. a growth of 9.1% and net operating income reached KD 200.3 million, i.e. a growth of 22.1% compared to the same period last year.

Total operating expenses for the period decreased by KD 7.5 million, i.e. a decrease of 5% over the same period last year. Earnings per share for the first half of 2017 reached 14.37 fils, compared to 12.49 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 15.1%. Total Assets reached KD 17.165 billion i.e. an increase of KD 666.1 million or 4% compared to end of year 2016.

Finance portfolio reached KD 8.914 billion i.e. an increase of KD 738.5 million or 9% compared to end of year 2016. Depositors' accounts reached KD 11.377 billion i.e. an increase of KD 714.9 million or 6.7% compared to end of year 2016. Shareholders' equity reached KD 1.795 billion at the end of the first half of 2017. In addition, KFH's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) reached 17.55%, higher than the required limit of 15%, thus reiterating the strength of KFH financial position.

Sustainable profitability

Al-Marzouq explained that the realized profits are attributed to the efficient execution of the bank's strategy by focusing on the core banking business while achieving stable and sustainable growth across the Group banks in various countries including Turkey, Bahrain, Malaysia, Germany, and others. The profits affirm that KFH is on the right track achieving sustainable profitability, strengthening its capital base, while maintaining its pioneering position as a global leading Islamic financial institution. The international operations are

characterized by the geographic diversity that contributes to improving the asset quality and profitability.

Despite the challenging operating environment in the domestic and international markets, KFH proved resilience in its business model through optimal integration of its units and activities, efficient risk management, and the ability to soundly deal with the economic challenges and comply with the regulatory requirements. KFH constantly endeavors to improve its asset quality while continuing its prudent policy in setting aside provisions in light of the economic uncertainty. This leads to improving the Capital Adequacy Ratio while strengthening the bank's financial position.

Al-Marzouq said that Moody's



Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq

Investors Service (Moody's) has affirmed KFH's A1 long-term deposit ratings, and changed the outlook on these ratings to stable from negative. He added, as per Moody's report, KFH is one of the largest banks in Kuwait with a market share exceeding 20% of the assets of the Kuwait banking sector, indicating KFH's ratings reflect the result of improvements in its financial performance, high levels of liquidity, and the strong capitalization that is improving in comparison to its peers locally and globally.

Al-Marzouq highlighted the importance of financing the country's mega projects, considering this as an economic, development and social goal. He

emphasized KFH's commitment towards corporate finance as per the credit and legislative regulations, indicating the bank's unremitting efforts to offer credit facilities for SMEs where it has the largest share of SMEs segment.

He reiterated KFH-Group's significant role in strengthening Sukuk product as a prime financing instrument for governments and corporates across the global markets, especially in light of the increasing acceptability of this sharia-complaint product, that offers financing for corporates, development and infrastructure projects, and for urban development to achieve further growth and expansion. KFH is a pioneer in issuing sovereign Sukuk across the world. Recently, KFH Capital, a fully owned subsidiary of (KFH-Group) successfully participated in Hong Kong USD1bn Sovereign Sukuk as a co-manager and acting as a joint lead manager and a book runner for the USD 1 billion benchmark Sukuk issue for Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB).

Awards

Al-Marzouq continued: KFH won several awards in recognition of its excellence and leadership role on different levels. KFH won "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017- Kuwait", "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017- Middle East" and "Islamic Bank of the Year 2017- Global" awards from "The Banker" magazine. The bank won "Top Listed Institution in Kuwait 2017" award from "Forbes Middle East" magazine in recognition of instrumental role in boosting economic growth. Also, KFH won two prestigious awards from the Kuwait Public Relations Association. The awards are: Institutional Excellence in Public Relations award, and Excellence in Social Awareness award.

KFH plays a key role in significant economic events. The bank sponsored the Kuwait Financial Forum held under the patronage of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KFH organized the 9th forum for Listed Companies and Financial Analysts aiming at discussing the latest developments in the domestic markets along with the economic situation, its repercussions on the performance of compa-

nies in the future. Also, KFH inked with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs two agreements; collaboration and partnership agreement, and an agreement to support the activities of celebrating Kuwait as "Capital of Arab Youth". This solidifies the bank's role in supporting the youth and reflects the keenness to take part in the strategic initiatives that represent Kuwait and shed light on its culture.

Al-Marzouq stressed the importance of moving forward in focusing on the core banking business through improv-

services such as the XTM; the novel approach that allows customers to perform their transactions in a very modern and secure manner. KFH, in association with Visa, is the first bank in Kuwait to launch Visa Checkout (VCO), a service, which enables quick, safe and secure online payment. Moreover, the bank launched 4 innovative e-services in the fields of bank accounts and call center. The services are "Call Back Assist", "ANI" Service, "Favorite Menu" service and "Link Accounts" service. The bank introduced a multi-currency ATM machine at

modus operandi of the Group banks, yet qualifies them to tap opportunities and utilize any positive development. KFH has a global integrated operations leading the Islamic finance industry globally, and offering a suite of financial Islamic services and products. KFH's group banking network spans across seven regions worldwide, with over 480 branches, over 990 ATMs and approximately 15,400 employees.

Further, he noted that KFH solidified its role in the corporate social responsibility through participating in a plethora



ing the operational revenues while rolling out advanced banking products and services, indicating that the performance and results of KFH products and services exceeded projections. The bank reinforced its technological channels and implemented different customer-centric initiatives that revolved around customer satisfaction as per accuracy, security and quality standards.

Latest technologies

As part of its innovation efforts and the keenness to adopt the latest banking technology, KFH launched several e-

the airport branch with four foreign currencies; USD, Euro, SAR, and AED. Al-Marzouq said that as part of the bank's policy to expand its branches network, KFH inaugurated its 66th branch in Al-Nuzha. KFH is keen on delivering superior services to its customers.

He explained that KFH Group is successfully achieving its goals based on the markets in which it operates. Every Group bank in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Germany is working in a way consistent with the nature of those markets, in line with the strategy of KFH. This adds more resilience to the

of social, humanitarian and awareness initiatives. KFH implemented different social initiatives that accentuate its pioneering role and commitment towards society. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to all shareholders and customers for their support and confidence. He extended his thanks to the regulatory authorities. He hailed the efforts of KFH's executive management and employees for their outstanding performance that yielded positive results that reflect the prestigious status of KFH; the world leading Islamic financial institution.

CHRONIC OVERSUPPLY AS LIBYA OUTPUT REACHES 4-YEAR HIGH

KAMCO OIL MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Crude prices reached the lowest in 7-months during the last week of June-17 on persistent oversupply concerns and a bulging inventory. Data on rising oil output from Libya and Nigeria showed the oil glut worsening as the OPEC members expanded output post coming out of disruptions that curbed output over the past several years. Libya reportedly raised its oil output to a 4-year high level of 1.005 mb/d after the country's largest oil field resumed production. Meanwhile, although Nigeria has ramped up output recently on its way to 2 mb/d mark, the shutdown of a prominent pipeline has affected the shipment of Bonny light crude since Thursday by almost 160 tb/d, disrupting output recovery in the country.

level of prices. In addition, the IEA in its monthly report said that although supply was rising, demand is climbing faster than initially estimated.

In its first outlook for 2018, OPEC has hinted at a slower than expected ramp-up in oil demand and growth is estimated to be slightly less than 2017 but in line with the five-year average growth. On the supply side, OPEC expects 2018 supply to grow by 1.14 mb/d, a 43% increase as compared to the growth in 2017, with US being the primary factor for this increase, although its output is expected to be marginally affected by cost inflation and a decline in well productivity. The net effect is expected to result in a delayed rebalancing in the oil market.

Average oil prices declined for the

end by OPEC + non-OPEC, including expected cuts imposed on exempted members in OPEC.

Oil Prices

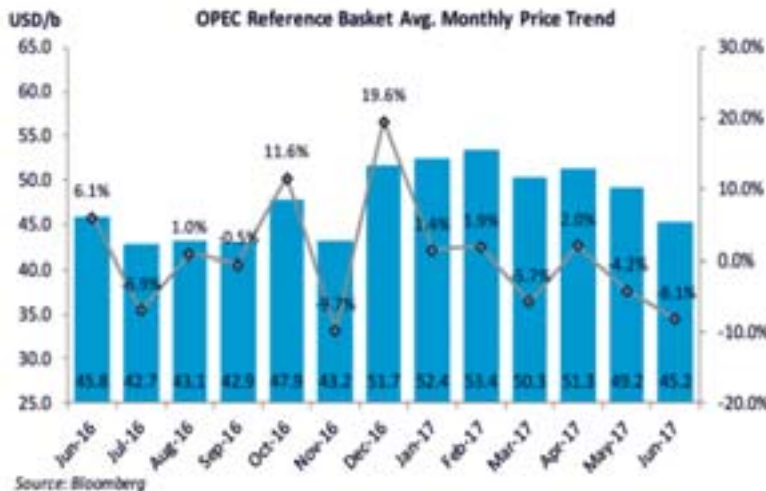
Oil traded mostly below USD 45/b during June-17 only to trend up from the last week of the month on the back of reports of inventory drawdowns in the US. Crude prices reached the lowest level since November-16 after reports of oil glut worsening on the back of higher output from Libya and Nigeria. Average OPEC crude prices also dropped for the second consecutive month to reach USD 45.2/b declining by 8.1% to reach the lowest in seven months.

The rally in oil prices seen during the last week of June-17 was on the back of higher-than-expected drawdown of refined products in the US and lower-than-expected increase in crude inventories. Data for the first week of July-17 also pointed to similar drawdowns. According to the weekly inventory data from EIA, US crude inventories dropped the most in 10 months by 7.6 million barrels last week as against much lower expectations. API pointed to a similar decline of 8.1 million barrel. Nevertheless, lackluster growth in demand for US gasoline dented the impact of lower inventories. That said, the expected pick up in the price elastic gasoline demand in the upcoming summer driving season are expected to support prices gasoline and crude. Furthermore, the latest rig count data from Baker Hughes showed an increase of seven oil rigs during the last week of June-17 to reach 763 active rigs after dropping for the first time in almost six months in the week before.

Meanwhile, IEA upgraded its oil demand growth forecast for 2017 by 0.1 mb/d which is now expected to reach 98 mb/d followed by an increase of 1.4 mb/d in 2018 to reach 99.4 mb/d. OECD stocks continued to decline with the gap from five-year average declining to 266 million barrel as compared to 300 million barrel a month before. The report also said that quarterly global demand growth for oil strengthened during Q2-17 emerging from a weak Q1-17 to reach 1.5 mb/d on the back of stronger year-on-year growth in the OECD countries and in developing countries.

second consecutive month witnessing the biggest decline in seven months. OPEC crude dropped 8.1%, while Brent and Kuwait crude declined by 8.0% and 8.8%, respectively. In terms of monthly average oil production, Bloomberg data as well as OPEC secondary sources point to higher OPEC output in June-17 primarily on the back of higher output in Saudi Arabia and Libya.

The month also saw Equatorial Guinea being added as the 14th member of the OPEC with a production rate of 150 tb/d in June-15. As expected in our May-17 monthly report, there are growing indications that Libya and Nigeria would be asked to cap their productions in the next OPEC meeting in order to restrict the group's total output. KAMCO Research estimates output cuts of close to 2 mb/d by year



Nevertheless, there were also bullish factors in the market recently. Kuwait's OPEC Governor has said that oil inventories are seen falling at a faster pace during 2H-17 as demand increases and OPEC members increase their compliance to production cuts. Moreover, a recent report showed that initial signs of oil market rebalancing has been spotted in the US where Mid-Atlantic gasoline supplies are now more than 5 million barrel less than a year ago, reportedly due to lower volumes from Europe that are now being used to meet domestic demand instead of exports.

Also, in its Short Term Energy Outlook, the US EIA reported that low oil prices have affected production in the US as against previous expectations that the US can manage to pump greater quantities of oil at the current

Praise be to Allah			
Financial Results for the First Half of 2017			
	30/06/2017	30/06/2016	%
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"	81.65	70.88	15.2
Earnings per Share "Fils"	14.37	12.49	15.1
Net Financing Income "KD Million"	210.8	205.2	2.7
Total Operating Income "KD Million"	343.2	314.5	9.1
Total Operating Expenses "KD Million"	142.9	150.4	<5>
Net Operating Income "KD Million"	200.3	164.1	22.1
	30/06/2017	31/12/2016	%
Total Assets "KD Billion"	17.165	16.499	4
Financing Receivables "KD Billion"	8.914	8.176	9
Depositors' Accounts "KD Billion"	11.377	10.662	6.7
kfh.com 180 3333			

GREECE MAY HEAD FOR BOND MARKET TEST

ATHENS: Greece is expected to return to the bond markets in 2018, but having secured its third bailout program Athens may test the waters by issuing a new bond as early as today. Greek newspapers have been speculating that a bond market test could come in "a matter of days". "Monday is probably the day even though nothing can be taken for granted", Avgi, the ruling Syriza party newspaper said on Saturday.

The conservative Kathimerini newspaper reported that Athens appears willing to "take advantage of the current positive conjecture in the markets". It said that markets are in a mood for taking risks right now and there are high levels of liquidity. It seems to be a toss-up whether Athens will take the plunge or not.

Low rate loans

"It is being discussed.. Preparations are made for both scenarios and whatever happens we will be ready", a source with knowledge of the government's plans told AFP on Friday. Greece has no immediate need to draw money from the bond markets. The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) will keep feeding the debt-ridden country with low rate loans until the end of the bailout program in July 2018.

This funding gives Athens the chance to test without major risks its credibility in the capital markets after a tumultuous period of Grexit scares, hard decisions and painful reforms. And last week eurozone finance ministers approved the latest 8.5 billion-euro disbursement, just in time for Athens to meet major debt repayments and avert a default. The Greek

economy nearly collapsed in 2010 under a mountain of debt and it had to be bailed out by its eurozone partners three times to prevent it bringing down the single currency bloc.

According to European Commission figures the tide is turning for Greece. It ran a budget deficit of 15.1 percent in 2009, which had been turned into a surplus of 0.7 percent last year, and it is expected to post further progress this year as more savings are found. The European Union, in a further boost for Athens, recommended Wednesday that Greece has made enough progress in balancing its budget to be removed from the EU "deficit blacklist", the special oversight of government spending. Also, the Eurogroup's statement last month paves the way for Greece to return to the markets by stressing that

"future disbursements should cater not only for the need to clear arrears but also to further build up cash buffers to support investors' confidence and facilitate market access".

'Rather early'

Some creditors also seem to be supportive of an imminent market test for Greece. The ESM managing director Klaus Regling said on Monday that it was "a good moment" for Greece to consider how to return to capital markets, pointing out that Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus had done so "before the end of their (bailout) programs". "Greece's return to the markets is the step that everyone is waiting for" European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Pierre Moscovici said on Wednesday. But other voices

are cautioning Athens not to jump into the capital waters too soon. Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stourmaras said on Tuesday that it was "rather early" for a return to the bond markets. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal he said "it would be even better, for instance, if Greece proceeds with two or three emblematic privatisations in the period to come. That would be more helpful to tap markets later." Also market sentiment may become volatile from September given possible changes in ECB monetary policy or in Germany's election results, the Katherine daily noted. Last time Greece issued bonds was in 2014 under the coalition government of Antonis Samaras with a yield of 4.95 percent. The goal of current Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is a lesser yield, according to the conservative paper. —AFP



THESSALONIKI: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker (L) meet ahead of a ceremony to award Juncker with an honorary doctorate by the Aristotle University of Thessalonik. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Global

جولبل

Sunday 16 July 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	▲ 20.40	6,808.88	6,788.48
Weighted Index	▲ 0.88	405.50	404.82
KSX 15	▲ 2.30	924.59	922.29

Volume	50,741,533
Value (KWD)	8,154,875
Number of Trades	2,083

Security	High	Low	Trades					
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	
BP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	—	0.0
NAPESCO	1,500	1,405	382	538	3	1,500	▼	-45.0
ENERGYH	29.9	29.0	351	14	4	29.4	—	0.0
GPI	29.9	29.0	790,920	31,085	27	29.9	—	0.0
ABAF	90	87	43,373	3,815	12	89	▼	-1.8
Oil & Gas			835,026	35,482	46	1024.34	▼	-12.40
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	—	0.0
BPOC	565	560	29,000	16,328	5	565	▲	6.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	890	—	0.0
ALQURAN	337	338	210,891	104,399	17	338	▼	-3.0
Basic Materials			338,881	120,727	22	1234.89	▼	-1.20

KCEM	445	445	50	22	1	445	▼	-15.0
CABLE	433	433	1	0	1	433	—	0.0
SHIP	201	201	31,500	6,332	5	201	▼	-4.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0.0
MRC	109	92	151,450	14,254	14	108	▲	15.0
ACHO	255	253	13,399	3,410	3	253	▼	-4.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	—	0.0
KIMAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	—	0.0
NICIM	180	177	7,257	1,306	2	177	▼	-3.0
EQUIPMENT	51	47.3	16,498	800	5	49.9	▲	0.1
NOCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	119	—	0.0
GYPBIM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—	0.0
SALBOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	—	0.0
AGITY	795	796	998,180	782,938	142	796	▲	5.0
EDU	350	340	402,281	167,743	20	348	▼	-2.0
CLEANING	48.0	43.5	271,367	11,996	16	44.8	▼	-1.2
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
KCPK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	155	—	0.0
HUMANISOFT	4,390	4,340	51,433	223,731	27	4,390	▲	80.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	—	0.0
GFC	95	95	4,000	260	1	95	—	0.0
MAYADEEN	28.0	27.4	15,050	414	4	28.0	—	0.0
COC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	617	—	0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—	0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	851	—	0.0
ALAFCO	360	331	506,549	177,497	52	360	▲	26.0
MUBARRAQ	72	72	9,000	948	1	72	—	0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	—	0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	—	0.0
OCIM	75	75	54,674	4,101	5	75	▲	0.2
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	—	0.0
FCM	83	78	44,450	3,480	3	83	—	0.0
RKWC	90	90	1,400	126	1	90	▲	5.0
SPEC	87	87	10	1	1	87	▲	1.0
Industrials			2,634,242	1,378,089	334	1918.06	▲	9.70

PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
CATTI	218	218	500	115	1	218	—	0.0
DANAH	78	72	273,133	27,452	20	73	▼	-2.7
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,418	—	0.0
Consumer Goods			273,633	27,462	21	1080.91	▼	-8.40
BHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	498	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	—	0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	181	—	0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00	—	0.00

KCN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,350	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	—	0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	—	0
CABLETV	29.5	28.5	339,290	9,500	30	28.9	▼	-1
EYAS	850	850	152	87	3	850	▼	-48
IFAHF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	—	0
OLUAFUEL	120	119	34,563	4,113	18	119	—	0
MUNTANAHAT	80	80	1,000	80	1	80	▲	5
JAZFERA	495	490	41,108	19,555	8	480	—	0
SOOR	124	120	58,867	7,105	22	124	▲	3
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	105	—	0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120	—	0
ZMAH	53	51	17,250	880	3	53	▼	0
Mezzan	950	945	81,907	58,750	14	950	▲	5

Consumer Services			554,952	190,576	99	1034.89	▼	-7.70
ZAIN	435	428	782,850	341,063	104	428	▼	0
QOREDOO	1,190	1,113	8,227	8,821	6	1,190	▲	32
HITTELEF	41.0	40.3	204,964	8,371	14	40.9	▲	0
VIVA	820	810	38,708	31,403	36	812	▼	-10
Telecommunications			1,041,549	388,758	160	595.26	▼	-2.00

NOK	687	685	595,435	381,380	39	687	▲	2
GBK	244	244	58,435	13,770	4	244	▲	2
GBK	324	315	181,456	51,403	21	324	▲	18
ABK	322	322	75,809	34,410	1	322	▼	-5
ALMUTAHED	405	394	51,000	20,149	6	405	▲	10
KIB	248	248	8,000	1,984	1	248	▲	1
BURG	338	338	222,993	74,729	10	338	▲	3
KFIN	499	493	838,403	416,720	79	498	▲	2
BOUZYAN	408	407	210,772	85,914	29	407	▼	-1
AUB	207	205	14,338,290	2,947,151	125	206	▼	-1
ITMBR	44.7	43.5	1,843,280	72,451	87	43.8	▼	-1
WARBANK	265	263	408,950	107,360	102	263	—	0
Banks			18,869,813	4,197,420	484	921.48	▲	1.10

KNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	—	0
QINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	901	—	0.0
AWNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	—	0.0
WINS	90	78	21,338	1,604	7	90	▲	12.8
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	—	0.0
FTI	90	48.0	93,236	4,477	5	90	▼	-2.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35	—	0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	358	—	0.0
Insurance			114,578	6,131	12	1020.94	▲	10.80

Security	High	Low	Trades					
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	
BOKOLK	48.0	46.6	452,000	21,443	17	46.6	▼	-0.9
KRE	56	56	515,850	29,890	21	56	—	0.0
URIC	88	81	15,044	1,236	3	88	▲	0.2
NRE	120	118	1,112,186	132,108	44	120	—	0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	—	0.0
AREEC	140	140	300	42	1	140	—	0.0
MASSALEH	41.7	41.7	348	10	1	41.7	▼	-2.2
AFABREG	33.1	32.5	433,827	14,265	15	33.1	—	0.0
ERESCO	29.9	29.5	175,000	6,957	6	29.9	▲	0.4
MARANEE	760	755	608,705	459,862	42	756	▼	-3.0
INJAZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
INVESTORS	23.6	23.4	672,332	15,805	12	23.4	▲	0.1
IRC	31.3	30.6	187,161	5,725	5	31.6	—	0.6
ALTUMRIA	74	73	271,112	27,184	12	74	▲	0.4
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
AYANRE	84	82	60,000	4,950	4	82	▼	-2.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	—	0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	—	0.0
MAZAYA	117	114	1,990,696	228,864	48	117	▲	3.8
THEMAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	—	0.0
TUARA	62	58	499,783	29,926	14	62	▲	1.0
TAMFER	38.0	38.6	87,030	2,517	7	37.7	▲	0.5
AIKAN	84	84	100,000	8,400	1	84	▼	-1.5
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	—	0.0
ABYAR	24.7	24.2	1,300,235	31,838	56	24.5	—	0.0
MUNSHAT	85	84	80,110	2,234	5	85	▲	1.1
FIRSTOUBAI	49.6	48.0	111,000	5,436	11	49.6	—	0.0
KBT	48.0	47.2	327,700	15,548	14	48.0	▲	0.6
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	299	—	0.0
MENA	23.5	23.0	7,000	181	2	23.5	▲	0.7
ALMUDON	38.6	38.2	186,100	7,655	12	38.2	▲	0.2
MARAKELZ	43.5	40.0	107,320	4,434	18	42.5	—	0.0
REMAI	78	78	32,002	2,440	11	78	▲	4.1
AIWJ	77	77	1	0	1	77	▲	1.5
Real Estate			8,401,681	1,089,726	367	947.52	▲	2.50

KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	96	—	0.0
FACIL	171	170	297,200	50,541	6	171	—	0.0
IFA	35.0	33.2	313,845	10,633	21	34.5	▼	-0.3
NINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
KPIQJ	244	242	531,829	181,004	24	244	▼	-3.0
COAST	40.7	39.8	173,343	6,946	13	39.8	▼	-0.2
SEICH	42.1	41.8	387,300	16,687	20	41.8	▼	-0.8
ARZAN	24.0	24.0	1,326	45	2	24.0	—	0.0
MARAKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	109	—	0.0
KMEFIC	30.0	30.0	427	13	1	30.0	▲	1.8
ALAMAN	43.1	43.0	128,430	5,530	3	43.1	▲	0.6
ALOLA	45.4	45.3	85,000	2,945	6	45.4	▼	-0.1
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	15.0	—	0.0
GHI	37.0	35.1	615,745	21,770	20	36.5	▼	-0.3
AAVAN	42.6	41.3						

KIB OFFERS CUSTOMERS BANKING SECURITY TIPS DURING TRAVEL

KUWAIT: As part of its commitment to offer the highest standards of banking safety, security, and protection for all its cardholders, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has developed a comprehensive set of security tips, designed to help customers protect their bank information from fraudulent financial and banking activities while traveling, particularly during the holiday season.

In this context, Basil Al-Suwaidan, Head of Information Security at KIB, said: "KIB considers banking security awareness for its customers on the top of its priorities. For that reason, we have provided our customers with security travel tips, precautionary measures, and guidelines to follow in order to not become victims of fraud and deception, especially during this season. These fraudulent activities usually increase during this



Basil Al-Suwaidan

Al-Suwaidan also stressed that customers should check the validity of their credit cards, including expiration dates, to ensure that cards are active and with sufficient credit limits and account balance when traveling. Additionally, he urged customers to never write down their bank card pin numbers anywhere, and to not keep all their bank cards in one place, in order to protect them from possible loss

period of the year, as people are shopping, booking, accessing their online banking accounts or withdrawing money from ATMs outside of Kuwait."

or theft; instead, customers should have the KIB phone number easily accessible in case of any issues. He further added that customers are advised to activate the SMS notification, Mobile banking and online banking account services to easily follow up on their transactions on a constant basis.

Al-Suwaidan listed further recommendations to customers, such as using ATMs in visible, public areas, in case the Bank's ATMs are not available. He also recommended that customers ensure that no unfamiliar devices or foreign objects are connected to ATMs, and that no individuals are observing them while withdrawing funds. To ensure further safety, Al-Suwaidan advised customers not to seek assistance from any stranger when withdrawing money.

Moreover, Al-Suwaidan advised cus-

tomers to avoid using unsecured Wi-Fi or shared networks found in public areas, such as airports, cafes, and hotels, to access personal bank accounts. He also recommended that customers should regularly review transactions made on their bank accounts, change bank account passwords and pin numbers on a regular basis, and make payments using the local currency, to avoid additional exchange rate commissions.

In addition to offering customers an array of valuable tips to ensure the safety and security of their banking information during travel, Al-Suwaidan mentioned that KIB customers should not hesitate to call the around-the-clock Al-Dawli Weyak service.

The call center will assist customers facing any issues or difficulties with their bank cards, financial transactions, or in

the case of losing their bank card; KIB will then take the necessary precautionary measures and cancel the bank card. He concluded by stressing the importance of banking security, particularly with the increasing prevalence and continuous advancement of financial fraud and electronic financial crimes, as credit card thieves and bank accounts fraudsters continue to develop more ways of bypassing security.

It is worth noting that KIB continuously strives to safeguard sensitive customer banking data by implementing the highest security standards and international best practices in information security. Accordingly, the Bank is able to provide its customers with high-quality, secured banking services to all its customers, available during all times and at all places.

3 LINCOLN MODELS EARN TOP SAFETY PICK AWARD

KUWAIT: The 2017 Lincoln Continental has earned the highest award from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, securing the coveted Top Safety Pick+ for the flagship sedan of the Lincoln Motor Company. Complementing Continental's success, is Lincoln MKZ and Lincoln MKX, which both earned top safety marks in their segments.

The Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection available on Lincoln vehicles earned a superior rating. The system, which is designed to reduce the severity of, and in some cases even eliminate, frontal collisions - including those involving pedestrians - uses radar and camera technology to provide a collision warning to the driver. If the driver does not respond in time, it can automatically apply the vehicle's brakes.

The Lincoln Continental, MKZ, and MKX, equipped with Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection, avoided collisions in track tests at 20 km/h and 40 km/h. The system's forward collision warning component also meets National Highway Traffic Safety Administration criteria. Lincoln's available adaptive LED headlamps also earned a good rating, providing ample lighting on a straightaway and on most curves. The headlamps use high-beam assist, a feature that automatically switches between high beams and low beams, depending on the presence of other vehicles.

The vehicles are available with a suite of intuitive, driver-assist technologies. Their Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection uses camera and radar technolo-

gy to monitor the vehicle's proximity to other vehicles and pedestrians. If a potential collision is detected, the system can alert the driver with visible and audible warnings and, if needed, pre-charge the brakes and increase brake sensitivity to help provide full responsiveness.

The lane-keeping system uses a forward-facing camera to detect lane markings. It can apply steering torque and alert the driver with a steering wheel vibration should sensors detect drifting. All three of the winning Lincoln vehicles are equipped with BLIS (Blind Spot Information System) with cross-traffic alert, which uses radar sensors to alert drivers with lights in their sideview mirrors if another vehicle is detected in blind spots. When drivers are backing up, the system can detect a vehicle approaching from either side, notifying drivers with a warning light and an audible tone.

An auto hold feature keeps the car at a complete stop without the driver having to press and hold the brake pedal - making stop-and-go driving more relaxed for Lincoln owners. Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection is an available technology that can avoid some frontal crashes, or lessen the severity of such events. Vehicles qualify for a Top Safety Pick+ if they have good ratings in five crashworthiness tests - small overlap front; moderate overlap front; side; roof strength; and head restraints - plus an available front crash protection system that earns a superior or advanced rating, and good or acceptable headlights.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NAMES OF WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT DRAW

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

1. Anfal Saud Al Ajmi
2. Bodour Mohammad Al Qattan
3. Mona Mohammad Al Ghazzawi
4. Hamad Abdullah Al Ateeqi
5. Muhammad Ijaz Ahmad

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

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



LEXUS ADDS FLAIR AND IMAGINATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO LUC BESSON'S UPCOMING SCI-FI EPIC VALERIAN

To celebrate its creative partnership with Luc Besson's upcoming sci-fi epic, Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets, luxury automotive brand Lexus has recently unveiled a behind-the-scenes sneak peek of the SKYJET collaboration, as well as the brand's design and technology philosophy that inspired elements of the final SKYJET, in a way that has never been seen before. The ambition is to immerse automotive and film fans alike further into the development of the SKYJET and to offer a unique insight and experience into how Lexus collaborated with Luc Besson and his design team to bring the single-seat pursuit craft of the future to life on the big screen in spectacular fashion.

The design and technology series, which is available on Lexus International's website, chronicles the SKYJET journey from original concept, from the visionary mind of Luc Besson, to its visualization by Concept Designer Ben Mauro, through to Lexus' collaboration, which matched Besson's ambition for a vehicle befitting of the Valerian world, set 700 years in the future.

Taking the experience to another level, a short 90-second 'Making of the SKYJET' video launched recently as part of the content series, providing an exclusive look at the SKYJET behind the scenes on-set with director Luc Besson and lead actor Dane DeHaan, in his role as titular character Valerian. The video also features expert commentary from Producer, Virginie Besson-Silla, Valerian Concept Designer, Ben Mauro, and Lexus Chief Engineer, Takeaki Kato.

Takeaki Kato comments, "Technology will constantly advance, and many things far in the distant future are impossible to be certain of now; however, at Lexus, we continuously challenge ourselves to imagine them. The cars of the future might be flying in the air, but as a luxury brand we consider essential that they remain emotional." "As a luxury lifestyle brand, Lexus is always looking to bring to life new innovations that provide our customers and audiences with amazing experiences that inspire and excite



them," said Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative of Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation.

"Our collaboration on the SKYJET project is a reflection of our commitment to be at the center of innovations that shape our future, and affirms our passion to extend Lexus' design philosophy, technology and innovations to projects beyond the realm of automobile manufacturing. We would like to thank our customers for placing their trust in us, which is what inspires us to think bigger and keep innovating for a better world," added Yoshitsugu.

When designing the interior of the concept model, the Valerian creative team was inspired by Lexus' future vision in AI and advanced HMI technologies. These showcase the brand's ambition for the vehicles to become at one with the

driver, enabling control of the vehicle with simple hand gestures, such as with the LF-FC concept's hologram technology, or even with the human mind.

The SKYJET's final design incorporates an adapted interpretation of Lexus' signature 'spindle' grille, and a similar headlight design to that of the 2017 Lexus LC coupe, defined by an athletic and aerodynamic shape. What's more, the narrative is also set to incorporate an imagined energy capsule of the future, inspired by Lexus' work on innovative hydrogen fuel cell technology. Fans will get another exclusive glimpse of the SKYJET as it whizzes through the Valerian world in the new Lexus SKYJET ad which launched recently, ahead of the hotly anticipated global launch of Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets in theaters on 21st July.



CBK ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN DAILY DRAW OF 'AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT'

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" on Sunday July 16th 2017 at the Bank's Head Office to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Ashouk Koumar Mahaber
2. Abdullah Ghader Darwesh Khalaf
3. Eman Mohamed Sami Mohamed Hassouna
4. Ayham Mohamed Khazma
5. Ahmad Seedhom Khaleel Mahmoud

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly

draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce & Industry's significant role & its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly & transparently organized.

ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 60TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 60th "Double Your Salary" weekly draw on 20th June, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners were:

- Faisal Ali Hussain Jaragh, Mansouriya Branch
- Proca Oxana, Jahra 2 Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

INTERNET OUTAGE IN VIOLENCE-PLAGUED SOMALIA IS HEADACHE FOR BUSINESSES

MOGADISHU: A severed marine cable has left Somalia without internet for weeks, triggering losses for businesses, residents said, and adding a layer of chaos in a country where Islamist insurgents are carrying out a campaign of bombings and killings. Abdi Anshuur, Somalia's minister for posts and telecommunications, told state radio that internet to the Horn of Africa state went down a month ago after a ship cut an undersea cable connecting it to global data networks.

Businesses have had to close or improvise to remain open and university students told Reuters their educational courses had been disrupted. Anshuur said the outage was costing Somalia the equivalent of about \$10 million in economic output. "The night internet went off marked the end of my daily bread," Mohamed Nur, 22, said in the capital Mogadishu.

Nur said he now begged "tea and cig-

rettes from friends" after the internet cutoff also severed his monthly income of \$500 that he took in from ads he developed and placed on the video website, YouTube. Somalia's economy is still picking up slowly after a combined force of the army and an African Union peacekeeping force helped drive the Islamist group, al Shabaab, out of Mogadishu and other strongholds.

Al Shabaab wants to topple the western backed government and rule according to its strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law. The group remains formidable and lethal, with its campaign of frequent bombings and killings a key source of significant security risk for most businesses and regular life. Now the internet outage potentially compounds the hardships for most firms. Most young people who say they are unable to work because of the outage spend hours idling in front of tea shops.

Mohamed Ahmed Hared, commercial man-

ager of Somali Optical Networks(SOON), a large internet service provider in the country, told Reuters his business was losing over a million dollars a day. Hared's clients, he said, had reported a range of crippled services including passport and e-tickets printing and money remittances. Some students and staff at the University of Somalia in Mogadishu told Reuters their learning had been disrupted because google, which they heavily rely on for research, was now inaccessible.

The absence of especially popular internet sites like Facebook and YouTube and Google was, however, cause for celebration for some in the conservative, Muslim nation. "My wife used to be (on) YouTube or Facebook every minute," Mohamud Osman, 45, said, adding the online activity would sometimes distract her from feeding her baby and that the habit had once forced him to try to get a divorce. "Now I am happy ... internet is without doubt a necessary tool of evil." —Reuters



WASHINGTON: Airline passengers walk past a robot providing tips for getting through security faster during a pilot project as they head toward a security checkpoint at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, in SeaTac, Washington. —AP

ROBOT HELPS PASSENGERS AT SEATTLE AIRPORT

SEATTLE: A robot named Tracey greeted passengers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, providing tips to get them smoothly through security checkpoints. The red and white human-sized robot carries a large electronic sign and can speak to passengers in six different languages. Airport officials say the robot isn't designed to replace human workers, but to allow them to spend more time on critical security work.

Tracey was created by Advanced Robot Solutions. CEO Paul McManus says it is a demonstration model, but future versions could recognize when a traveler is wearing sunglasses or a hat and ask them to take it off before the security checkpoint. The robot was on duty temporarily at the Seattle airport Thursday as it hosts a meeting of airport executives from around the country.—AP

ESTONIA TO OPEN WORLD'S FIRST VIRTUAL DATA EMBASSY

SERVER ROOM TO CONTAIN ESTONIAN E-GOVERNMENT DATA

TALLINN: Cyber-savvy Estonia has taken yet another step forward in global technology, as the small Baltic state is set to open the world's first data embassy in Luxembourg early next year. The heavily protected server room will contain important Estonian e-government data, so that the NATO

called daily digital hygiene in increasingly digitizing societies."Ratas released the statement after signing an agreement with his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel on housing Estonian data there. "This is the first data embassy in the world," said Ratas, whose small country of just 1.3 million people has been dubbed

the Baltic state has made most public services accessible at a special state portal and even pioneered e-voting in 2005. Its capital Tallinn is home to the NATO cyber-defense centre, where data experts from across Europe and the United States work to protect the information networks of the

ers-though the Kremlin denied any involvement. The attack lasted two weeks and took scores of websites offline, including those of the parliament, banks, ministries, newspapers and broadcasters. One year later, the Tallinn-based NATO cyber-defense centre was up and running.

Work on using international cloud services to back up Estonia's e-government data began in 2014, when the country joined forces with Microsoft to try storing a state gazette on the cloud. The data embassy in Luxembourg will notably back up information regarding taxes, land, businesses, identity documents, pensions, legislation and the census. "The virtual data embassy's main goal is to guarantee the country's digital continuity: the capacity to start the systems when necessary and retrieve data from externally stored versions," said Emilie Toomela, spokeswoman for the ministry of economics and communication.

"For this, Estonia needs additional server resources that should be completely controlled by Estonia-this means that they should be subject to the same clauses as Estonia's physical embassies (e.g. immunity) — but should be situated outside Estonia," she said. Though there is a consulate in Luxembourg, Estonia's ambassador to Luxembourg and Belgium lives in Brussels.

Toomela said the data embassy will have no direct link to the embassy in Brussels, nor will it have any people working there. "Luxembourg was chosen for the state-owned high-security, Tier 4 certified data centers the likes of which Estonia does not have and also because Luxembourg is ready to guarantee diplomatic privileges to Estonian data and infosystems," she added. —AFP



BRUSSELS: A woman enters a video projection dome in the shape of an igloo, installed by Estonia within an Eurogroup meeting at the European Union headquarters in Brussels. —AFP

and eurozone member can access it even when systems are down at home. "Data security and cyber security are generally crucial from the perspective of both people's confidence and the functioning of services," Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas said last month.

"It is also an important part of so-

E-stonia for being a trailblazer in technology.

After five decades of Soviet rule ended in 1991, Estonia opted to go hi-tech as fast as possible, and still outstrips other members of the European Union, which it joined in 2004. One of the most connected countries in the world,

alliance's 29 member states.

Digital continuity

Estonia has bitter experience in the field: a politically charged dispute with its Soviet-era master Moscow in 2007 was marked by a blistering cyber-attack blamed on Russian hack-

TELEGRAM BLOCKS TERROR CONTENT AFTER INDONESIA THREATENS BAN

JAKARTA: The encrypted messaging app Telegram is forming a team of moderators who are familiar with Indonesian culture and language so it can remove "terrorist-related content" faster, its co-founder said yesterday, after Indonesia limited access to the app and threatened a total ban. Pavel Durov, who with his brother Nikolai founded the app in 2013, said in a message to his 40,000 followers on Telegram that he'd been unaware of a failure to quickly respond to an Indonesian government request to block a number of offending channels - chat groups on the app - but was now rectifying the situation.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said Friday that it was preparing for the total closure of Telegram in Indonesia, where it has several million users, if it didn't develop procedures to block unlawful content. As a partial measure, it asked internet companies in the world's most populous Muslim nation to block access to 11 addresses offering the web version of Telegram. Samuel Pangerapan, the director general of informatics applications at the ministry, said the app is used to recruit Indonesians into militant groups and to spread hate and methods for carrying out attacks including bomb making.

Suspected militants arrested by Indonesian police recently have told authorities that they communicated with each other via Telegram and received orders and directions to carry out attacks through the app, including from Bahrin Naim, an Indonesian with the Islamic

State group in Syria accused of orchestrating several attacks in the past 18 months. Durov said Telegram has now blocked the channels that were reported to it by the Indonesian government.

Measures against Telegram

"We are forming a dedicated team of moder-



BANGKOK: The messaging app Telegram is displayed on a smartphone, in Bangkok, Thailand. —AP

ators with knowledge of Indonesian culture and language to be able to process reports of terrorist-related content more quickly and accurately," he said. Communications and Information Technology Minister Rudiantara, who goes by one name, said he had received an apology from Durov, who was apparently not aware of several requests from the ministry since 2016. "I

appreciate the response from Pavel Durov and the ministry will follow it up as soon as possible in terms of technical details so that standard operating procedures can be implemented immediately," Rudiantara said.

Indonesia's measures against Telegram come as Southeast Asian nations step up efforts to combat Islamic radicalism following the capture of the southern Philippine city of Marawi by Islamic State group-linked militants. Nearly two months after the initial assault, Philippine forces are still battling to regain complete control of the city. Experts fear the southern Philippines could become a new base for the IS, including Indonesian and Malaysian militants returning from the Middle East, as an international coalition retakes territory held by the IS in Syria and Iraq.

But the government move sparked a public outcry in Indonesia, with Twitter and Facebook exploding with negative comments and some people reporting they were unable to access the web.telegram.org domain. Indonesians are among the world's biggest users of social media. The free messaging service can be used as a smartphone app and on computers through a web interface or desktop messenger. Its strong encryption has contributed to its popularity with those concerned about privacy and secure communications in the digital era but also attracted militant groups and other criminal elements. Durov said Telegram blocks thousands of IS-related channels a month and is "always open to ideas on how to get better at this." —AP

SOUTH KOREANS WOWED BY GRANDMA'S DIARY OF ONLINE MAKEUP TIPS, LIFE SKILLS

YONGIN, South Korea: She gives tutorials on applying makeup so as to resemble Amy Winehouse, among others, and posts videos of attempts to try new activities such as kayaking, all spiced with a touch of humor. Meet South Korea's Park Mak-rye, a sprightly 70-year-old whose Youtube channel "Grandma's Diary", has made her a social media sensation, drawing more than 277,000 subscribers. Park made her Youtube debut in January, when her grand-daughter's video travelogue of their trip to Cairns in northeast Australia went viral.

It showed Park touching a kangaroo, diving on the Great Barrier Reef in a helmet that let her walk underwater, and splashing through the Cairns Esplanade Lagoon in a Santa Claus cap. "One day my granddaughter filmed me in a few videos, and she must have uploaded them," Park told Reuters at her home in Yongin, on the outskirts of the capital, Seoul. "About 20 days later, she tells me 'Granny, we hit the jackpot!'"

Park's granddaughter, who asked not to be identified, said she uploaded the video to help teach her a new skill and communicate online. Its surging

popularity helped convince Park to upload more of her personal stories. Park's most popular video, titled "Going to the dentist and market makeup look", in which she dons black eyeliner and red lipstick, has drawn more than 1.8 million views.

She now has 43 videos on her Youtube channel, with more than 108,000 followers on Instagram. Fans have crossed the country to visit Park at the restaurant she has run for more than four decades, and she has reconnected with old friends.

Internet penetration in South Korea is 89 percent, a 2017 report by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism shows. But just under a quarter of those in their 70s know how to use the internet, a 2016 poll by a government agency showed. Park's story offers evidence of her fresh lease on life. Hundreds of fans flocked to her first live makeup show in Seoul on Sunday, cheering her as she waved smilingly back. "I thought I would end up living in the shadow for my entire life without ever seeing light, but it is finally full of sunshine," she said. —Reuters



SYDNEY: This photo shows a retail and residential development site in Sydney. —AFP

AUSTRALIAN MALLS TURN TO VILLAGE LIFE AS RETAILERS FEEL PINCH

SYDNEY: As Australia's local merchants struggle with an influx of global names, leading malls are considering returning to their village centre roots to woo new tenants by moving away from shops and offering medical facilities, more restaurants and even amusement parks. Several top retailers have recently succumbed to pressure from foreign giants such as Japan's Uniqlo and Sephora of France and with Amazon plotting its debut in the country, the future looks tough. The response from developers has been to redefine the mall away from a "shopping" focus to become a more community-driven service and entertainment space. While cafes and restaurants have long helped attract shoppers to malls, they are now filling shopping centres, providing some buzz even as an eerie quiet fills some nearby clothing stores. With the big global names pouring huge sums of cash into the country, once popular clothing chains such as David Lawrence, Pumpkin Patch, Herringbone, and Rhodes & Beckett have bitten the dust, while others scramble to reduce costs.

This has included cutting back on bricks and mortar stores, and steering centre owners towards food, entertainment, healthcare and childcare providers. Major landlords such as Vicinity and Westfield spin-off Scetre, which this year have seen their share prices slip to one or two-year lows, are already redeveloping their arcades. Vicinity's Chadstone Shopping Centre in Melbourne,

Australia's largest mall, is now the site of the southern hemisphere's first massive amusement park Legoland. The company is also tapping into newer technologies such as facial recognition to identify consumers through their age and gender and analyze their shopping habits. "What we are seeing is the malls starting to pivot away from commodity-type products... towards retailers that offer a service which isn't physical," real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield's retail investments head Nick Potter said. "Shopping centers are the modern village, it's where everyone comes together. These centers are typically located in the centre of towns, they've got strong infrastructure... and that offers up the ability to move with the times."

Utopian vision

The move is a return to the vision of Victor Gruen, an Austrian-born American who in the 1950s developed the concept of the arcade as a public space akin to the market place of centuries past, where civic life played a central role. Adding to the shift is the growth of online shopping, which offers shoppers the same options but with the added bonus of not being subject to general sales tax (GST) for anything below Aus\$1,000 (US\$760). Canberra has sought to end the loophole by imposing a 10 percent levy from next July but the lower margins for online store such as eBay and ASOS still makes them attractive. —AFP



TUSKEGEE, Alabama: In this photo an unidentified man walks past the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center in Tuskegee.—AP

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OPPOSING BID FOR SYPHILIS STUDY MUSEUM

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama: The Trump administration opposes a bid to use unclaimed money from a legal settlement over the government's infamous Tuskegee syphilis study to fund a museum honoring victims of the research project. The Justice Department argued in court documents recently that providing the money to the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center would violate an agreement reached in 1975 to settle a class-action lawsuit. For the study, hundreds of black men suffering from the sexually transmitted disease were allowed to go untreated for decades so doctors could analyze the progression of the illness.

The government said that it "does not intend in any way to justify, condone, or defend the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," but allowing remaining money from a \$9 million settlement to be used for the museum would violate the settlement's original provision that any left over money go back to the government. Fred Gray, a civil rights attorney who represented men in the study and made the funding request in 2016, declined comment on the government's position.

US District Judge Myron Thompson held a telephone conference on the request on

May 30, records show, but hasn't ruled yet. Starting in 1932 and continuing for four decades, government medical workers operating in rural, segregated Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward.

Revealed by The Associated Press in 1972, the study ended and the men sued, resulting in the settlement negotiated by Gray on behalf of the victims, all of whom have died. The men wanted to be remembered in a memorial that told their story, Gray said in court documents, and a county-owned history museum that already includes exhibits about the study could use the "relatively small" amount of unclaimed money. The men's names are emblazoned in a circle on the floor of the museum, which only opens during the summer because of funding shortages.

The Justice Department said sending the money to the museum would "fundamentally alter the terms of the agreement." Days after the government made its argument in legal documents, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memo barring third-party organizations from receiving money from settlements involving the government. — AFP



BALTIMORE: This file photo provided by The Maryland Zoo shows a baby giraffe, Julius, and his mother, Kesi, at the zoo in Baltimore.—AP

MARYLAND ZOO: BABY GIRAFFE HAS DIED

BALTIMORE: The Maryland Zoo says a young giraffe that has been struggling since birth has died. Zoo CEO Don Hutchinson said Saturday that veterinary staff and an animal care team put their lives on hold and explored every avenue to try to nurse Julius back to health.

Julius was born to first-time mother Kesi on June 15, but he was not able to learn to nurse effectively and had insufficient anti-

bodies to protect him from disease. To boost his immune system, he was given two transfusions of giraffe plasma, one from the Columbus Zoo in Ohio and another from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado. Dr Samantha Sander, an associate veterinarian at the zoo, says his condition took a sharp turn downward overnight, prompting a decision to euthanize the calf.—AP

THE INDIAN WOMAN DEFYING BODY STEREOTYPES THROUGH YOGA

MUMBAI: A plus-sized Indian woman is challenging body stereotypes and defying internet trolls with a series of yoga videos that are proving a hit on social media. Dolly Singh, 34, has gained something of a fan following online for promoting body positivity by showing that size is no barrier to mastering complex yoga moves. "To say 'You can't do this because you have so much weight,' I don't believe that," Singh tells AFP after completing her morning stretch in a Mumbai park.

Four years ago a doctor advised her to lose weight following an ankle sprain. Singh, who is 4 feet 11 inches (150 cm), weighed almost 90 kilograms (198 pounds) at the time. She got a trainer and embraced the "whole frenzy of losing weight" but grew bored of running so she signed up for something she'd never done before-yoga. "The first class I was thinking 'Can I really do this because I have a big body?' After two or three class I realized people were looking at me and thinking 'Oh my god she can do this'. My body had a certain kind of stamina, of flexibility."

Singh, who works for a TV channel in India's financial capital, soon realized there were limitations to group classes and sought the instruction she needed from videos online. "We all have different bodies and if my teacher doesn't have a belly, how will they know what the problems are of having a big belly," she explains, laughing. "I'm a big busted person and if the teacher isn't how are they going to understand that when I'm doing a Halasana (plough pose) I'm almost choking to death!" Singh started filming herself to monitor her progress and then began posting clips of her yoga poses on Instagram.

'Online trolls'

Soon she was inundated with messages, mainly from foreigners at first but then from



MUMBAI, Maharashtra: This photo show Dolly Singh, 34, doing yoga at a park in Mumbai. —AFP

Indian women saying that Singh was an inspiration to them. "I've been overwhelmed by some people saying they would feel alienated in a room full of perfect yoga bodies, how they would feel that everyone is watching them. "There's an idea of not showing your body if you're big bodied. You're supposed to hide everything because its not appealing or it's not something people like to see but that's just something that's been sold to us," she insists. The response hasn't all been positive however. Singh says she has been the victim of body shaming online.

"Indian men have not been encouraging at

all. There are a lot of people who write very nasty comments. They would say something like 'You're just a fat blob, you look just like an elephant or bear, or you're unfit or it's because you're eating so much food. "I completely ignore these things. You can't fight internet trolls. I don't know these people so why should it bother me?" Singh, who currently weighs 73 kg, says she will continue trying to sell "a more positive body image" and "challenge notions of fitness and beauty". "I'm not aiming to have this thin figure but I am aiming to have a beautiful flow and make my body strong through yoga," she says, smiling.—AFP

PANEL CALLS ON FDA TO REVIEW SAFETY OF OPIOID PAINKILLERS

MONTPELIER, Vermont: The US Food and Drug Administration should review the safety and effectiveness of all opioids, and consider the real-world impacts the powerful painkillers have, not only on patients, but also on families, crime and the demand for heroin. That's the conclusion of a sweeping report Thursday from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. It urges the FDA to bolster a public health approach that already has resulted in one painkiller being pulled from the market. Last week, the maker of opioid painkiller Opana ER withdrew its drug at the FDA's request following a 2015 outbreak of HIV and hepatitis C in southern Indiana linked to sharing needles to inject the pills.

"Our recommendation is for a much more systematic approach, integrating public health decision-making into all aspects of opioid review and approval," said Dr Aaron Kesselheim of Harvard Medical School, a member of the report committee. "It would be an ambitious undertaking." The report details how two intertwining epidemics - prescription painkillers and heroin - led to the worst addiction crisis in US history and provides a plan for turning back the tide of overdose deaths. Prescribed, legal drugs are a gateway to illicit drugs for some, the report says. Other



MONTPELIER, Vermont: This file photo shows hydrocodone-acetaminophen pills, also known as Vicodin, arranged for a photo at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vermont.—AP

users start with pills diverted to the black market. Crush-resistant pills and other restrictions can have unintended consequences, shifting use to heroin and illicit fentanyl.

The epidemic's broad reach into rural and suburban America "has blurred the formerly distinct social boundary between use of prescribed opioids and use of heroin and other illegally manufactured ones," the report says. The authors say it's possible to stem the crisis without denying opioids to patients whose doctors prescribe them responsibly. But long-term use of opioids by people with chronic pain should be discouraged because it increases dangers of overdose and addiction. Requested by the FDA last year under the Obama adminis-

tration, the report was greeted by FDA Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb, a Trump appointee. Gottlieb said in a statement that the opioid epidemic is his "highest immediate priority" and he "was encouraged to see that many of (the) recommendations for the FDA are in areas where we've already made new commitments."

Still, no immediate review of opioids as a class of drugs is planned by the FDA, other than the agency's routine safety surveillance. Gottlieb said the FDA re-evaluates the safety of approved drugs with post-market information required from drugmakers and other sources. "We will continue to consider what additional information is needed to ensure we have

the right data to make important, science-based decisions," he said.

Beyond the FDA, the report recommends:

1- Better access to treatment for opioid addiction, including use of medications such as buprenorphine, in settings including hospitals, prisons and treatment programs. (The revised Senate Republican health care bill released Thursday includes \$45 billion for states to use for addiction treatment and other responses to the opioid crisis, a boost over the \$2 billion in the initial bill.)

2- Year-round programs that allow people to return unused opioids to any pharmacy at any time, rather than only at occasional events. Some pharmacies, including Walgreens, have installed kiosks where people can get rid of pills.

3- Insurers pay for pain control that goes beyond opioids to include non-drug treatment. The report doesn't specify which treatments insurers should cover, but does outline what early evidence exists for acupuncture, physical therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy and mindfulness meditation, calling them "powerful tools."

4- More research on the nature of pain and dependency on opioids and development of new non-addictive treatments.—AP

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GREETING FLOWERS FOR EACH EMPLOYEE IN THE PALMS BEACH HOTEL & SPA KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Even with the brutal hot weather, the smiles never left the faces of the employees of The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa Kuwait. Reflecting the humble and celebratory nature of the owner and the board of management, the hotel launched the 'Greeting Flowers' campaign. The idea behind the campaign was to show appreciation of the employee efforts to please our guests. Thus, flowers were distributed to each individual employee in all departments of the hotel when they arrived in the morning. Flowers were not only distributed to employees but to the guests and the visitors of the hotel as well.

Gazpacho with sauteed scallops offers a tasty slice of Spain

Mother Nature has a sixth sense for when we're reaching our temperature breaking point. At the very same moment your hot oven becomes unwelcome, a tomato is being plucked from the vine and a cucumber is being nestled into its stall at the farm stand. It feels rather serendipitous that the stars of the mid-summer bounty, like tomatoes, cucumbers, and bright peppers, shine when they are cold and raw. For some of us, a sliced tomato sprinkled with sea salt is the primary motivation to survive winter. And even if you aren't quite that passionate, you can surely still appreciate any recipe whose method is as easy as "Slice, sprinkle, eat."

In the US, our access to local hot-weather produce is limited to a short few months. But elsewhere in the world, like along the Mediterranean coastline, fresh fruits and vegetables are a year-round luxury. And while countries like Italy, France and Spain have lent us some rather advanced techniques and recipes, there is nothing more Mediterranean than a simple dish that showcases its ingredients.

This is especially evident in a recipe like Gazpacho with Sauteed Scallops. A quick scan of the ingredients reveals a simple dish, with little added to enhance the natural flavors of the summer vegetables. It is only with the most flavorful tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers that this soup can shine - just as it would on a

hot day along the coast of Spain. Gazpacho is a traditional Spanish soup, and while there are a number of variations, this one is served cold and is perfect for a hot summer dinner al fresco. Most commonly, chilled gazpacho is a blended combination of tomatoes, cucumbers, and garlic, but it's not uncommon to see peppers, onions, and even day-old bread added to the mix. We like serving gazpacho with hot sauteed scallops for a fun temperature contrast, but you can serve yours alongside simple cold sandwiches, grilled meat or fish, or even on its own for a bite with cocktails.

Oh, and we forgot to mention the best thing about this recipe: You can make it the day ahead and then, obviously, you don't even have to reheat it. That means you can make this on Saturday in basically zero minutes, and then on Sunday, you can sit in your backyard, stream some Flamenco music, and sip Spanish wine while you pretend the wind from your neighbor's leaf blower is actually a cool Mediterranean breeze. La dolce vida!

GAZPACHO WITH SAUTEED SCALLOPS
INGREDIENTS
Servings: 10
Start to finish: 8 hours 20 minutes
(Active time: 20 minutes)
4 pounds plum tomatoes, roughly chopped

3 medium green bell peppers, cored and roughly chopped
1 medium cucumber, peeled and roughly chopped
4 garlic cloves, crushed
1/2 cup red wine vinegar
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or as needed
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, or as needed

GARNISH
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
10 sea scallops, pat dry with a paper towel
5 plum tomatoes, seeded, small dice
1 green bell pepper, cored, small dice
1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, small dice
1 ear corn, boiled, kernels removed (optional)
1 jalapeño, sliced (optional)

Preparation
In a large non-reactive bowl, combine the tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, garlic, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Toss to combine. Cover and refrigerate overnight to marinate. Transfer the vegetables and juices to a blender, working in batches if necessary. Blend until very smooth. Strain through a fine mesh sieve (see note), using a silicone spatula to press the liquid through the strainer until the pulp is very dry. Discard the pulp. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper, as needed. Keep the soup refrigerated until serving.

Heat the vegetable oil in a medium non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the scallops, working in batches if needed to avoid overcrowding the pan, and cook until golden brown on both sides, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate as finished and set aside. Serve the soup garnished with the diced tomatoes, pepper, and cucumber. Top with corn and jalapeños, if using, and the hot scallops.

Chef's Note: If you prefer a thicker, chunky gazpacho, skip the straining step. In this case, you might choose to peel and seed your tomatoes before marinating. To peel tomatoes, cut an X into the bottom of each tomato and drop into boiling water until the skin starts to loosen around the edges, about 20 seconds. Transfer to an ice water bath to cool before peeling. —AP



Try crab curry from Sri Lanka that's exploding with flavors

As any fan of celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain knows, food is more than raw ingredients. To understand a bowl of noodles or a perfectly formed dumpling, a foodie must understand the people who make it, the place where it is made, and the deeply rooted history of both.

Halfway across the world, in the small-yet-mighty city-state of Singapore, students are embarking on the journey of a lifetime at The Culinary Institute of America's first international location. Bachelor's degree candidates studying toward an Asian Cuisines concentration spend a semester at the CIA's Singapore location learning from world-renowned chefs, a vibrant culinary scene, and travels through neighboring countries like Malaysia and Indonesia.

On a recent visit to Sri Lanka, students explored the local flavors of traditional curries. The country has a wealth of ingredients that were historically inaccessible in other parts of the world, resulting in flavorful combinations of spices, produce, and proteins that are uniquely Sri Lankan. Inspired by the journey, the class prepared this recipe for Sri Lankan Crab Curry, a spiced (and a little spicy) mixture that is exploding with flavors and ingredients that you may not use every day. Alongside the familiar coconut milk, garlic, and lime juice, you'll find sour tamarind paste, earthy pandan leaves, and nutty fenugreek seeds.

While you may not find some of these ingredients in your everyday grocery store, they should be easily found at a well-stocked Asian market or through online retailers. If not, ask around the market for suggestions to replace the hard-to-find ingredients. The beauty of a curry is that, while every ingredient plays a role, there is enough flavor to go around so minor omissions or substitutions won't ruin the recipe.

We're including a recipe for curry powder, and while you can purchase a pre-made blend, making your own gives you the freedom to adjust the mixture to your preferences. If you just can't stand the flavor of fennel, then use a little bit less, because it's your curry. Use any leftovers to coat roasted vegetables, to punch up a chicken soup, or to stir into hummus for a flavorful sandwich spread. However you use these ingredients, and no matter where you purchase them, allow this recipe to transport you somewhere new, and maybe you'll be inspired to go off and taste the world yourself.

SRI LANKAN CRAB CURRY
INGREDIENTS
Servings: 8 servings
Start to finish: 1 hour (Active time: 15 minutes)
3 tablespoons Curry Powder
Two 2-pound crabs, top shell, gills, and guts removed
1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
3 tablespoons Indian chili powder
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
1/2 cup coconut oil
1 cup sliced shallots
1/4 cup sliced garlic
2 sprigs curry leaves (about 15 fresh leaves)
1 long green chili, sliced
2 cups coconut milk
1/2 cup tamarind paste, soaked then strained
4 fresh pandan leaves
1 cup coconut cream
2 tablespoons lime juice, plus more as needed

CURRY POWDER
6 cardamom pods
1 cinnamon stick
2 teaspoons coriander seed
1 tablespoon cumin seed
1 tablespoon fennel seed
6 whole cloves
1 teaspoon fenugreek seed
1 teaspoon Indian chili powder
6 dried curry leaves

PREPARATION
To prepare the curry powder, heat a small skillet over medium heat. Add the cardamom pods and toast, stirring occasionally, until the pods have darkened slightly and are fragrant, about 1 minute. Transfer to a bowl. Add the cinnamon stick and toast until it is also slightly darkened and fragrant. Transfer to a bowl, and then repeat with the coriander, cumin, fennel, cloves, and fenugreek until all are toasted. Add the chili powder and curry leaves to the mixture and grind in a mortar and pestle or electric spice grinder. Set aside.

Cut each crab into quarters. Crack the claws, but leave them attached. In a shallow dish, combine the crab, curry powder, turmeric, chili powder, and salt, and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Heat the coconut oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Add the shallots, garlic, and curry leaves and cook until softened, about 1 minute. Add the green chili and crab and cook until aromatic, about 3 minutes.

Add the coconut milk, tamarind paste, and pandan leaves and stir to combine. Reduce to a simmer and cook until the crab is fully cooked, about 12 minutes. If the mixture seems too dry, add additional coconut milk or water 1/4 cup at a time. Remove from the heat and add coconut cream and lime juice, and season with salt, to taste, before serving. —AP





00:45 Wildest Latin America
01:40 Wildest Latin America
02:35 Wildest Latin America
03:25 Wildest Latin America
04:15 Wildest Latin America
05:02 Wildest Latin America
05:49 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
06:36 Meet The Orangutans
07:00 Meet The Orangutans
07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:15 Wildest Africa
09:10 Wildest Latin America
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
12:50 Wildest Africa
13:45 Big Fish Man
14:40 Wildest Latin America
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Big Fish Man
17:25 Animal Cops Houston
18:20 Lone Star Law
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
21:05 Animal Cops Houston
22:00 Lone Star Law
22:50 Wildest Middle East
23:50 Big Fish Man



00:00 Cursed
01:00 Paranormal State
01:30 Paranormal State
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
03:00 Killers
04:00 Cursed
05:00 Paranormal State
05:30 Paranormal State
06:00 The First 48
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 Private Crimes
10:30 Private Crimes
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
16:00 Evil Up Close
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Homicide Hunter
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos



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 Kids vs Film
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 How It's Made
09:00 How It's Made
09:20 Unchained Reaction
10:30 Mythbusters

Elena Salinas
22:50 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
23:40 Murder Comes To Town



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

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



00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Mega Trains
01:50 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon
02:35 Ocean Warriors
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 How Do They Do It?
04:27 Gold Rush
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?
10:10 Fast N' Loud
10:55 How It's Made: Dream Cars
11:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Storage Hunters
13:10 Gold Rush
13:55 Deadliest Job Interview
14:40 Gold Divers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Wheeler Dealers
17:00 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 Gold Divers
21:50 Deadliest Catch
22:40 Outback Truckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Supa Strikas
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Future-Worm!
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Walk The Prank
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Gravity Falls
10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
10:20 K.C. Undercover
10:45 Right Now Kapow
11:10 Lab Rats
11:35 Mech-X4
12:00 Return Of Jafar, The
13:20 Access All Areas: Spider-Man: Homecoming
13:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



6 WAYS TO SUNDOWN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

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



00:00 The Great Food Truck Race
01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers

10:00 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
10:55 Pick Me!
11:50 Royal Recipes
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
14:15 Pick Me!
15:10 Royal Recipes
16:00 Broadchurch
16:55 Victoria
17:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
20:10 Royal Recipes
21:00 Broadchurch
21:55 Victoria
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



01:05 The Dead Room
02:25 Age Of Ice
04:10 6 Ways To Sundown
06:00 Die Hard
08:10 The Gallows
09:35 The Call Up
11:10 Tracers
12:50 Grosse Pointe Blank
14:40 Die Hard
16:50 Drop Zone
18:35 Savage Dog
20:15 Fantastic Four
22:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds



00:20 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
02:00 Houbal On The Trail Of Marsupilami
03:50 James And The Giant Peach
05:15 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
06:55 Molly Moon And The Incredible Book Of Hypnotism
08:40 Houbal On The Trail Of Marsupilami
10:30 The Emperor's New Groove
12:00 James And The Giant Peach
13:30 Atlantis: Milo's Return
15:00 Kronk's New Groove
16:15 The Game Plan
18:05 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
19:40 House Arrest
21:30 Atlantis: Milo's Return
22:55 Kronk's New Groove



00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Pawn Stars
02:00 Storage Wars Miami
02:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Fifth Gear
16:00 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
18:30 Storage Wars Miami
18:55 Storage Wars Miami
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald



00:15 Poh & Co
00:45 Maximum Foodie
01:10 Glamour Puds
01:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:35 Route Awakening
03:00 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:25 Street Food Around The World
04:50 Glamour Puds
05:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
06:15 Island Hunter
07:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:05 Route Awakening
08:30 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
09:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:55 Street Food Around The World
10:20 Glamour Puds
10:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
11:45 Island Hunter
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:00 Cruise Ship Diaries
14:30 Great Escapes
15:25 Street Food Around The World
15:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
16:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
17:15 Island Hunter
18:10 Bad Trip
19:05 Street Food Around The World
19:30 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
21:00 Island Hunter
22:00 Bad Trip
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita



00:10 Medicine Man
01:55 Goosebumps
03:40 Enemy Of The State
05:55 War Horse
08:20 The Guardian
10:40 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
11:40 Enemy Of The State
13:50 Blown Away
15:50 Invictus
18:05 Con Air
20:00 Forces Of Nature
21:50 Cocktail
23:35 Entourage



01:20 Burying The Ex
02:55 The Butcher's Wife
04:45 Mr. Deeds
06:35 Fun Size
08:10 Big Ass Spider!
09:40 Mr. Deeds
11:30 Fun Size
13:05 The Golden Child
15:10 Lovesick
16:35 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
18:30 Love, Rosie
20:20 There's Always Woodstock
22:00 Cedar Rapids



00:05 Correspondence
02:05 Goal!
04:10 Still Alice
06:00 The Sting
08:15 Fort McCoy
10:05 No God No Master
11:50 Ed Wood
14:05 The End Of The Tour
15:55 A Perfect Day
17:45 Get On Up
20:05 99 Homes
22:00 Wild Bill
23:40 Child Of God



00:20 Paws
01:55 Oops Noah Is Gone
03:25 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
04:35 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
06:00 Vickie And The Treasure Of Gods
07:40 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
09:05 Yugo & Lala 2
10:25 The Wish Fish
11:45 Paws
13:15 Oops Noah Is Gone
14:45 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
16:00 Yugo & Lala 2
17:20 Egon And Donci
18:45 Mune
20:15 Mickey's Twice Upon A Christmas
21:25 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
22:50 The Wish Fish



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 Better Late Than Never
01:55 Family Guy
02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Two And A Half Men
05:40 Trial & Error
06:05 Superstore
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
06:55 Men At Work
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Two And A Half Men
10:40 The Bernie Mac Show
11:05 Men At Work
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Seinfeld
12:45 Seinfeld
13:10 The Middle

13:35 The Middle
14:00 George Lopez
14:25 Two And A Half Men
14:50 Morn
15:15 Trial & Error
15:40 Superstore
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle
19:00 Speechless
20:00 The Good Place



00:30 Extreme Engineering
01:20 Extreme Engineering
02:10 Mythbusters: The Search
03:00 Mythbusters
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 Mythbusters
05:24 Mythbusters
06:12 Mythbusters
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Weird Or What?
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Extreme Engineering
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Mythbusters: The Search
11:26 Weird Or What?
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Extreme Engineering
14:38 Weird Or What?
15:26 Mythbusters
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Extreme Engineering
17:50 Weird Or What?
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Weird Or What?
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Extreme Engineering
22:00 Weird Or What?
22:50 Weird Or What?
23:40 Mythbusters



00:03 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:46 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Team Umizoomi
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:07 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Dora And Friends
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:28 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:54 Nella The Princess Knight
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:43 Zack & Quack
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:17 Shimmer And Shine
12:02 Max & Ruby
12:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:46 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:41 Zack & Quack
14:03 Team Umizoomi
14:25 Olive The Ostrich
14:35 Paw Patrol
14:58 Little Charmers
15:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:44 Max & Ruby
16:08 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:54 Dora And Friends
17:16 Zack & Quack
17:28 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines



WAR HORSE ON OSN MOVIES HD



11:10 Do You Know?
11:25 Do You Know?
14:30 Doki
14:55 Kids vs Film
15:20 Bad Dog
16:10 The Big Brain Theory
17:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
18:40 Breaking Magic
19:05 Don't Blink
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:30 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:20 Alaska Haunting
02:10 Steven Avery: Innocent Or Guilty?
03:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
03:48 Grave Secrets
04:36 Murder Comes To Town
05:24 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
06:12 Blood Relatives
07:00 Southern Fried Homicide
07:50 Southern Fried Homicide
10:20 Lone Star Mystery: A Disappeared Special
11:10 Nightmare Next Door
12:00 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
15:20 Gone In Georgia: A Disappeared Special
16:10 Blood Relatives
17:00 Killer Confessions
17:50 Killer Confessions
18:40 Killer Confessions
19:30 Killer Confessions
20:20 The Locator
21:10 Betrayed
22:00 The Real Story With Maria

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 PJ Masks
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:35 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
09:40 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:25 Goldie & Bear
11:50 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:15 Sofia The First
12:40 The Lion Guard
13:10 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tiggy & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalievable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers

13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Future-Worm!
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Walk The Prank
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Milo Murphy's Law
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Supa Strikas
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb



00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Famously Single
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Mariah's World
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched By Nature
06:55 El News
07:25 Botched By Nature
08:20 Botched By Nature
09:15 Botched By Nature
10:10 El News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 WAGs Miami
12:05 WAGs Miami
13:05 WAGs Miami
14:00 Botched
15:00 El News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Botched
17:00 Botched

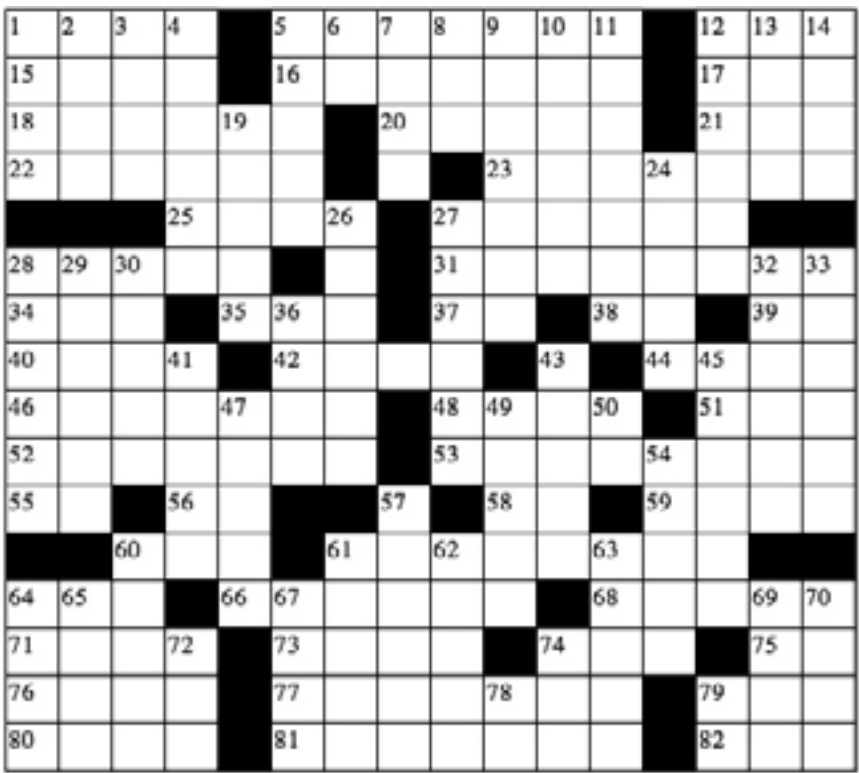


00:30 Royal Stories
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Royal Recipes
03:25 Inside Windsor Castle
04:20 Royal Stories
04:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
05:15 Blue Go Mad In Ibiza
06:10 Pick Me!
07:05 Royal Recipes
08:00 Inside Windsor Castle
09:00 Royal Stories
09:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs



A PERFECT DAY ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CROSSWORD 1661



ACROSS

- 1. A one-piece cloak worn by men in ancient Rome.
- 5. An ancient jar with two handles and a narrow neck.
- 12. Slender bristlelike appendage found on the bracts of grasses.
- 15. (Roman mythology) God of love.
- 16. Raised muffin cooked on a griddle.
- 17. The starting place for each hole on a golf course.
- 18. A salesman who travels to call on customers.
- 20. A shelter with perches for fowl or other birds.
- 21. The bill in a restaurant.
- 22. Draw in by breathing.
- 23. A mute for a violin.
- 25. An informal term for a father.
- 28. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
- 31. (biology) A taxonomic category below a class and above an order.
- 34. The cry made by sheep.
- 35. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
- 37. Before noon.
- 38. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
- 39. (chemistry) P(otential of) H(ydrogen).
- 40. A transparent optical device used to converge or diverge transmitted light and to form images.
- 42. Surrealist Spanish painter (1904-1989).
- 44. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
- 46. Relating to or demonstrating acapnia.
- 48. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
- 51. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
- 52. (Judaism) A shawl with a ritually knotted fringe at each corner.
- 53. Seizure of a vehicle in transit either to rob it or divert it to an alternate destination.
- 55. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- 56. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- 58. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- 59. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
- 64. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 66. Large genus of Old World mints.
- 68. Yellow-fever mosquitos.
- 71. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- 73. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- 75. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- 76. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
- 77. Type genus of the Cariamidae comprising only the crested cariam.
- 80. Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
- 81. A festival featuring African-American culture.
- 82. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.

DOWN

- 1. A sock with a separation for the big toe.

- 2. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- 3. Dutch postimpressionist painter noted for his use of color (1853-1890).
- 4. A large fleet.
- 5. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
- 6. A form of address for a man.
- 7. Free of extraneous elements of any kind.
- 8. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
- 9. Small furry Australian arboreal marsupials having long usually prehensile tails.
- 10. Undergo resorption.
- 11. Direct toward itself or oneself.
- 12. King of the Huns.
- 13. Deprive (infants) of mother's milk.
- 14. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- 19. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
- 24. A low triangular area where a river divides before entering a larger body of water.
- 26. Cause to be attached.
- 27. (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
- 29. Of or like a cecum.
- 30. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
- 32. A formal spoken communication delivered to an audience.
- 33. Any of numerous Old World birds having a strong hooked bill that feed on smaller animals.
- 36. A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine.
- 41. A single splash.
- 43. A fully differentiated structural and functional unit in an animal that is specialized for some particular function.
- 45. Free from disturbance.
- 47. The time after sunset and before sunrise while it is dark outside.
- 49. The temporal end.
- 50. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- 54. A small outbuilding with a bench having holes through which a user can defecate.
- 57. A winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple.
- 60. Greek mythology.
- 61. A rule made by a local authority to regulate its own affairs.
- 62. A chisel of tempered steel with a sharp point.
- 63. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 65. Denuded of leaves.
- 67. One who works hard at boring tasks.
- 69. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- 70. A branch of the Tai languages.
- 72. The sign language used in the United States.
- 74. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- 78. The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
- 79. A public promotion of some product or service.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find yourself having fun with some of your co-worker friends today. Interactions at a park or a friendly ball game may create just what is needed to get to know your working teammates better. A barbeque after the games may put a pleasant ending to a pleasant day. It is easy to sit and talk with a few of your co-worker friends, and everyone feels relaxed and comfortable in expressing opinions. You always come up with new ideas to organize things better, make things work: practical thoughts. You may be quite pleased at the result of the gathering. People are kind and stay away from the gossip arena. Animals are the topic of conversation in your family tonight; someone saw an animal that person had never seen before.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be very much in demand as a counselor this day. Solving problems in a volunteer position becomes second nature and around your home the problems could be about which plants to grow or where the patio may be located. Perhaps you are a volunteer fireman on certain weekends . . . Whatever the case, people love your company and you enjoy adding to your relationships. This is a good day to get things done. There is good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort that will make most any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about this evening. Bicycling with young people, visiting friends or dinner out with a loved one is in order. Positive communications can be enjoyed, right up until bedtime.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You appreciate a caring attitude and this creates that service-oriented mind-set that others often enjoy from you. You just naturally look for ways to be helpful. The people that are your friends will enjoy a little time to laugh and share your time away from your work. Those that refresh others will be refreshed. This afternoon budget subjects come to the surface. If you have teenagers, this is a good time to include them in ways to make their money count. You might want to ask how they would change and improve their money habits. They may have understood budgeting better than you thought. Now however, it is time to dive deeper. Tonight your energies seem to be just right for ordering clothes over the internet-check out the new styles.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to work with others in any sort of group situation. There is a chance to be chosen or to choose a team and compete with whatever project is urgent and on the agenda for today. This day should move along very well. Your intuitive side kicks in this afternoon and you find an interest in some subject that is psychological. You may find yourself, not necessarily an advisor, but a gatherer of people's experiences. You will be listening, as usual, to all sorts of information regarding relationships, progress and positive outcomes. Since you are artistic, you might consider the study of different artists. You may become interested in writing a bit of poetry and reflecting on your day as you write. Be careful of quick responses later tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. There is a goal to expand your knowledge and experiences and your focus is on your special goals. You are connected to farseeing visions, worldviews and group work of all kinds. You may tend to be a bit independent when it comes to working with standard policies. Travel may soon be called for in your workplace, and you could be one of the first representatives for your company. Your sense of discrimination when it comes to practical issues is excellent-be quick to compliment the clearheaded thinking of others. Everything takes on an added value. Do not overspend today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this may take place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Communicating well is important to you. You make every effort to be patient and make sure you are understood. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and enthusiastic. You would do well in a career in music, poetry, psychology, social work, philosophy-and other realms of the imagination. You can help or teach others by sharing your understanding. Spiritual problems and questions are easy because you always seem to understand.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things are happening, and your career depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong at this time. You are able to take some time this morning for the family and then you might think of some ideas for the workplace. Your suggestions for next week could be written down and presented at an appropriate time later. You could make some monetary rewards for the company in which you work. Give this presentation some careful thought. Your own concentration with this project may appear to separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. Science projects seem to hold your attention later and you enjoy teaching or experimenting on some projects this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you meet with this day. You have chores to run and projects ongoing-keep moving forward. Soon, you will see the energies calm and a new understanding. You have a fundamental approach to group involvement. Progressive, with insights into uniting humanity, you understand the true meaning of democracy. Things will work out in your favor if you maintain low tones for now. You are always working for the benefit of all. You are very independent when it comes to your own security and family. That could mean an unconventional-style home or furnishings, or a different approach to sentiment, nostalgia and history. You may decide to invest in an art piece today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information with neighbors is fun this day as you may find some common interest. Some performance skill that you are familiar with may become the biggest topic of conversation. A few of your friends may want to get together and create some fun entertainment for each other. One familiar treat would be to take turns in performing skits. Some form of competition is enjoyed and a bit of wit is part of the fun. This time every year is usually reserved for deep consideration regarding vacation time. Perhaps a stay at home time this year will afford you the opportunity to catch up on upkeep of your property or a chance to enhance your home in some way. One item of interest is in preserving rain water.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are determined to see above this day, despite rain, a mind-numbing phone call, work issues, a new family member, neighbor problems, a marriage connection or your first home. This is life and you feel invigorated and ready to take on whatever is before you. Your attitude is upbeat and positive and anyone around you will probably take on the same attitude. It seems you are scheduled for a raise or some other boost in your workplace and this has you feeling very full of self-esteem. You, however, have worked hard to get into a new place and a new status. This evening after all the celebration, you don't stop . . . You still move into the thinking of what it takes to move forward and continue to grow. You like the upward movement.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your presence and importance in any group, while perhaps not verbalized, is always acknowledged. You can cause others to act, change or react just by being in their presence-nothing need be said. Yours is the mastery of the physical and the practical. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, tangible outer world. You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to get people and things moving. The circumstances of your life suggest extroversion. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think your pattern seems to throw you in contact with people and the outer world. If you need to put the romance back into your marriage, now is the perfect time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is an ease with your personal project at this time that you may have never known before. Everything is running so smoothly that you may decide to take on another project or adventure. Being a Monday, you might also want to just walk at a slow pace. The events of the morning have the makings for a bright and witty day. Your communication skills are at a high energy level. This afternoon you are very out-front and candid with family. You should be able to share your thoughts and ideas with each other and make great headway in deepening your relationships. You enjoy doing research and may involve the whole family in learning about your ancestors. You enjoy discovering your background. Your passionate approach to life is obvious to all.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Livewire Puzzles

Find these words. They are some of the puzzles made by Livewire Puzzles since 1979. The remaining letters spell a Dutch proverb.

ESQUARINGOFFTOPKORTSAA
VNHTSABNNNDHMFWDKINTUPS
AUUWORRAIEAOETNLOTFIA
WTMTREPMAILARVOQFERTLIR
KHOGEMANEEDCVHEIUIDECCB
COTNETEDTEGSRRAPANAIEA
OUHIDIALLLHGEELHLTGEID
HSBKEUEPCNICTHEPEOIDHA
SEASPCILILRNPHATLAAZTC
STLLIRWLGAALGRELANRREA
ORLETISACNATTFEGDEITRR
TOSINCBKSYANSZICAPWHWB
GUWGETEUEMETTYUSWPHEOA
RBEHCRRDRROENFRISHMOROP
ALRTEOBUIRRUFERCEYTADI
NECOGHUEVPHSSEPANABCBEN
DCSFDSGNOISIVELBUODKNE
PLKHEZEPARTSETTHGILFOT
RERAWNTOUCHWOODRSFLERP
IFONGHIRDNALLABOAFBREE
XACDCHINESERINGSIPNSNE

ABRACADABRA
ARROW
ASTROKNOT
BALL AND RING
BEDBUG
BRIDGE THE GAP
CENTIPEDE
CHINESE RINGS
COXKSCREW
CRYSTAL CLEAR
DEAD END
DOUBLE VISION

EQUALIZER
EUREKA
FIRECRACKER
FLIGHT TEST
GRAND PRIX
HANDCUFFS
HAVE A HEART
KING TUT
MELEDA
MOTHBALLS
MOUSETRAP
NUT HOUSE

PENTANGLE
PENTREE
PRETZEL LOGIC
SHOCKWAVE
SILENT PARTNER
SLEIGHT OF HAND
SLINGSHOT
SOMETHING FISHY
SPUTNIK
SQUARING OFF

THE RACK
TOUCH WOOD
TRAPEZE
TRIPLE CROWN
TRIPLE PLAY
TRIPWIRE
TROUBLE CLEF
VIRUS
WEATHERVAIN
WEDGE
WOODEN OPEN

Yesterday's Solution

Les Misérables

LMARIUSREPEEKNNESMP
LEIRYMPORHSIBFRENCH
ISENJOLRASEYRUCICAP
NBVICTORHUGORABANT
AALCONVICTEESIACSR
EVMOUSREWESVINYSE
JRECONCILTATINNOG
LORFTLETHALSHREGOL
ACCOEENRHRIRNRRE
VHYYSADADENEGBE
NEOEYERERESUMER
AONEYERERESUMER
EEONEYERERESUMER
JONEYERERESUMER
NEONEYERERESUMER
EOLALALALALALAL
IVELALALALALALAL
ITTALALALALALAL

ARGOT
AZELMA
BARRICADES
BISHOP MYRIEL
BREAD
CONVENT
CONVICT
COSETTE
DOLL
ENJOULRAS
EPONINE

FACTORY
FANTINE
FRANCE
FRANCS
FRENCH
GAYROCHE
GORBEAU HOUSE
INNKEEPER
INSPECTOR SAVERT
JEAN VALJEAN
JUNE REBELLION

MARIUS
MAYOR
MERCY
MONTFERMEIL
NOVEL
PARIS
PATRON-MINETTE
PRISON
RECONCILIATION
REDEMPTION

REVOLUTION
RUE PLUMET
SEWERS
SOLDIERS
STUDENTS
SUICIDE
THE SEINE
THENARDIER
VICTOR HUGO
WEDDING

The hidden message is:
LES MISÉRABLES IS ONE OF THE LONGEST NOVELS EVER WRITTEN

Daily SuDoku

3		7	8		
9		7			
		2		6	8
				5	
7		4			6
	9		4		
4		9	5		3
				2	1
			3	1	9

Yesterday's Solution

8	9	3	1	4	6	7	5	2
7	4	6	2	3	5	8	9	1
2	1	5	8	9	7	4	3	6
3	2	4	6	8	1	5	7	9
5	8	7	9	2	4	6	1	3
9	6	1	5	7	3	2	4	8
6	5	2	4	1	9	3	8	7
4	3	9	7	6	8	1	2	5
1	7	8	3	5	2	9	6	4

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017



Kuwait Times

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Kuwait CINEMA					
KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (13/07/2017 TO 19/07/2017)					
SHARQIA-1 CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3 TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:40 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:45 PM	THE HUNTER'S PRAYER	1:00 AM
	1:55 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:45 PM		
	4:10 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:30 AM		
	6:30 PM				
	8:45 PM	FANAR-3			
SHARQIA-2 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING DESPICABLE ME 3 DESPICABLE ME 3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:45 AM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	12:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	11:30 AM
	2:30 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:30 PM	CARS 3 -3D-4DX	2:15 PM
	4:30 PM	THE HUNTER'S PRAYER	1:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	4:30 PM
	6:25 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM	CARS 3 -3D-4DX	7:15 PM
	9:15 PM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	6:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	9:30 PM
SHARQIA-3 DESPICABLE ME 3 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:30 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	9:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	12:15 AM
	1:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:05 AM		
	4:15 PM	FANAR-4			
	7:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	11:30 AM	AVENUES-3	12:30 PM
	9:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	1:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:30 PM
MUHALAB-1 DESPICABLE ME 3 TISBAH ALA KHAIR CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3 TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR	11:30 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	4:20 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:45 PM
	1:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	7:05 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	6:45 PM
	3:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	8:45 PM
	5:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:45 AM	THE MUMMY	10:45 PM
	8:00 PM	FANAR-5			
MUHALAB-2 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES DESPICABLE ME 3 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:30 AM	CARS 3	12:30 PM	360°-1	12:35 PM
	1:30 PM	CARS 3	2:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D	3:25 PM
	3:30 PM	CARS 3	5:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:20 PM
	5:45 PM	CARS 3	7:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:05 PM
	8:00 PM	CARS 3	9:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:55 PM
MUHALAB-3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING DESPICABLE ME 3 DESPICABLE ME 3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:15 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:25 AM	360°-2	
	12:15 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	11:55 AM
		TISBAH ALA KHAIR		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	200 PM
		TISBAH ALA KHAIR		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	400 PM
		TISBAH ALA KHAIR		TISBAH ALA KHAIR	605 PM
FANAR-1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales TISBAH ALA KHAIR DESPICABLE ME 3 THE HUNTER'S PRAYER TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR THE HUNTER'S PRAYER	1:00 PM	MARINA-1	1:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	805 PM
	1:45 PM	CARS 3	3:30 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:05 PM
	3:45 PM	CARS 3	5:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM
	6:30 PM	CARS 3	8:00 PM		
	9:15 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:15 PM		
FANAR-2 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES DESPICABLE ME 3 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:05 AM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	12:15 AM	360°-3	
				JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	11:45 AM
				TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	11:45 AM
				TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	300 PM
				JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	5:45 PM
FANAR-3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING DESPICABLE ME 3 DESPICABLE ME 3 SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:15 PM	MARINA-2	1:00 PM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	5:45 PM
	3:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:45 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	8:55 PM
	5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM	JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	8:55 PM
	7:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:15 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	12:15 AM
	9:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:05 AM		
FANAR-4 TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:30 AM	MARINA-3	12:15 PM	AL-KOUT.1	12:30 PM
		SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:15 PM
		DESPICABLE ME 3	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
FANAR-5 CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3 CARS 3	12:50 AM	AVENUES-1	1:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:45 AM
		TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	1:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
		JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	3:45 PM	CARS 3	11:30 AM
		TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	3:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	1:45 PM
		JAGGA JASOOS -Hindi	7:00 PM	CARS 3	3:45 PM
FANAR-6 TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM	THU	7:00 PM	CARS 3	6:00 PM
		TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	7:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:15 PM
			10:15 PM	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Men Tell No Tales	10:30 PM
					12:30 AM

Job Opportunity

A leading Manufacturing & General Trading Company of Building Materials& Doors

is looking for Qualified Candidates for the following Positions:

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2. Production Manager

3. Accounts Manager

4. HR Manager

5. Accountant

6. Quantity Surveyor

7. Production Supervisor

8. Sales Rep.

9. Storekeeper

10. Mandoub for Manpower & Passports

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Please mention your Position in the subject field

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55829223, email: aconline@gmail.com (C 5328) 16-7-2017

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Fajr:	03:26
Shorook:	04:59
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:49
Isha:	20:18

EMERGENCY

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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)											
DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION											
Flight Schedule											
Arrival Flights on Monday 17/7/2017											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15	JZR	556	Alexandria	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	059	Dubai	14:20	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	618	Kochi	14:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	512	Doha	14:20	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	JZR	903	Mashhad	14:25	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:55	SVA	500	GKD	14:25	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	304	Jeddah	14:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KNE	529	Mumbai	14:55	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	KAC	677	Dubai	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:25	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:35	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	THY	769	Istanbul	03:30
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	118	New York	16:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	THY	6610	Istanbul	17:10	KAC	861	Istanbul	04:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1091	Doha	05:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	THY	1282	TXZ	17:50	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	FEQ	954	Asyut	05:55
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEQ	933	Sohag	05:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	WAN	986	TBS	19:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	173	Munich	06:55
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	238	Amman	07:00
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	174	Munich	19:25	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	557	Alexandria	06:55	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	620	Doha	20:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:35
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	JZR	902	GKD	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	161	Geneva	09:10
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	20:20	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	ETD	910	Abu Dhabi	20:40	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	166	Rome	20:55	KAC	165	Rome	09:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:05	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ETD	307	Colombo	21:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Amsterdam	21:15	KAC	101	London	09:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	445	Dubai	21:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	561	Amman	09:55
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	KAC	162	Geneva	22:25	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	BBC	143	Dhaka	22:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
JZR	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR	241	Amman	22:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
FEQ	953	Asyut	12:55	RBG	551	Alexandria	23:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
THY	766	Istanbul	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:25	VIZ	203	TQD	12:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:05
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35				
Departure Flights on Monday 17/7/2017											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	WAN	805	Sarajevo	12:55	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
KAC	413	Bangkok	13:05	KAC	413	Bangkok	13:05	KAC	413	Bangkok	13:05
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
FEG	938	Sohag	13:55	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
THY	767	Istanbul	13:55	THY	767	Istanbul	13:55	THY	767	Istanbul	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KNE	382	Taif	15:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	060	Dubai	15:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	563	Amman	15:40	KAC	563	Amman	15:40	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
KAC	619	Doha	16:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	743	Dammam	16:00	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
SAW	706	Damascus	16:50	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
JZR	266	Beirut	17:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	240	Amman	17:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	357	Kochi	17:40	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	381	Delhi	17:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
THY	6611	Istanbul	18:45	THY	6611	Istanbul	18:45	THY	6611	Istanbul	18:45
THY	1283	TXZ	19:05	THY	1283	TXZ	19:05	THY	1283	TXZ	19:05
QTR	1081	Doha	19:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50	FDB	064	Dubai	



Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor (center) performs on stage during 18th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Festival at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Saturday.



Bollywood actor Salman Khan (center) performs on stage.

Bollywood superstars dazzle at IIFA awards

India's biggest Bollywood stars led a triumphant celebration of dance, music and fashion at the International Indian Film Academy awards Saturday, cheered by thousands of ecstatic fans just outside New York. The five-hour show at an American football stadium in New Jersey, where the glittering Manhattan skyline was visible from the parking lot, was a riot of color, glitz and stunning dance routines. Best picture went to "Neerja," a thriller based on the true story of a pursuer who helped save the lives of more than 350 passengers when Libyan-backed hijackers stormed Pan Am Flight 73 in Karachi in 1986.

The hijackers killed the pursuer and she posthumously became the youngest person to receive India's highest civilian award for bravery. "Udta Punjab," a gritty crime drama spotlighting the huge problem of drug abuse among young people in Punjab, scooped Shahid Kapoor best actor and Alia Bhatt best actress in a leading role. The movie angered politicians in the state and the filmmakers took India's censor board to court over a number of cuts it tried to make. The trio of serious-minded films winning major awards was rounded out by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury taking home the award for best director for "Pink," about sexual violence against women. The culmination of a three-day celebration of Indian cinema, the 18th edition of the awards ceremony was held just outside New York at the American football MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

'Seduce more hearts'

The awards, which some have likened to the Oscars of Bollywood, is India's biggest media event and one of the world's most-watched annual entertainment shows, with an audience of nearly 800 million people. Held in a different city overseas each year to showcase what is the most prolific film industry in the world and the soft power of India, the 2017 event comes with Indian film on the up in North America. From a Donald Trump impersonator named Ronald Grump, to a closing song and dance routine from Bollywood bad boy Salman Khan, which had love-struck women screaming in delight, and signature Bollywood formation numbers with eye-pop-



Bollywood actor Salman Khan (center) performs on stage.

ping costumes galore, it was a festive night.

Thousands of delighted fans, dressed to the nines in evening gowns, cocktail dresses, saris and jewel-encrusted shalwar kameez, shrieked with delight, declared love for stars and laughed at the jokes of funny men hosts, actor Saif Ali Khan and producer-director Karan Johar. There was glamor from winner Alia Bhatt in a crystal-studded strapless ballgown and Katrina Kaif who shimmered in a lime-green bra top, spray-on black pants and silver tassels through an upbeat dance. Actress Shilpa Shetty, who won fame for being subjected to alleged racist taunts and winning Britain's "Celebrity Big Brother" in 2007, looked statuesque in shimmering one-shoulder peach lashed to the thigh.

The ceremony honored double-Oscar winner movie composer A.R. Rahman and treated

the audience to a snippet of Hollywood production "The Black Prince" about Queen Victoria and the Last King of Punjab, Maharajah Duleep Singh, which goes on release in the US next week. Indian film is growing in North America, thanks to a thriving Indian economy, an increasing and affluent South Asian diaspora, and growing popularity among Afghans, Arabs, Russians and Caribbean immigrants.

'Watch this film'

But if there were few non-South Asians in sight Saturday, Bollywood heroes walking the green carpet welcomed the ceremony as a chance to further the industry internationally. "Many others get exposed to this, that way we will seduce more hearts for Indian films," said Bollywood actor Gulshan Grover. Sonu Sood,

who stars in action-adventure flick "Kung Fu Yoga" with Jackie Chan, said "all the actors are coming to Bollywood to do Indian movies and all the Indian Bollywood actors are going international."

"So I think it's a huge change and hopefully one day we'll have one single industry," Sood added. IIFA selected gender equality as its cause of the year, despite a film industry often criticized for depicting women as meek and subjecting characters to aggressive methods of wooing by dominant male leads. "Pink" not only won the best director award but also saw actress Taapsee Pannu, win the IIFA woman of the year award. "The entire world should watch this film," said director Chowdhury. India's treatment of women shot to the international spotlight in late 2012 when the fatal gang rape of a young student in the capital New Delhi sparked outrage over sexual abuse and gender inequality. — AFP



Winner of Best Performance in a Leading Role - Male, Shahid Kapoor for "Udta Punjab" accepts his award.



Winner of Performance in a Supporting Role - Male, Bollywood actor Anupam Kher for "MS Dhoni" accepts the award on stage.



Best Picture Neerja's director Ram Madhvani and staff address the audience on stage.



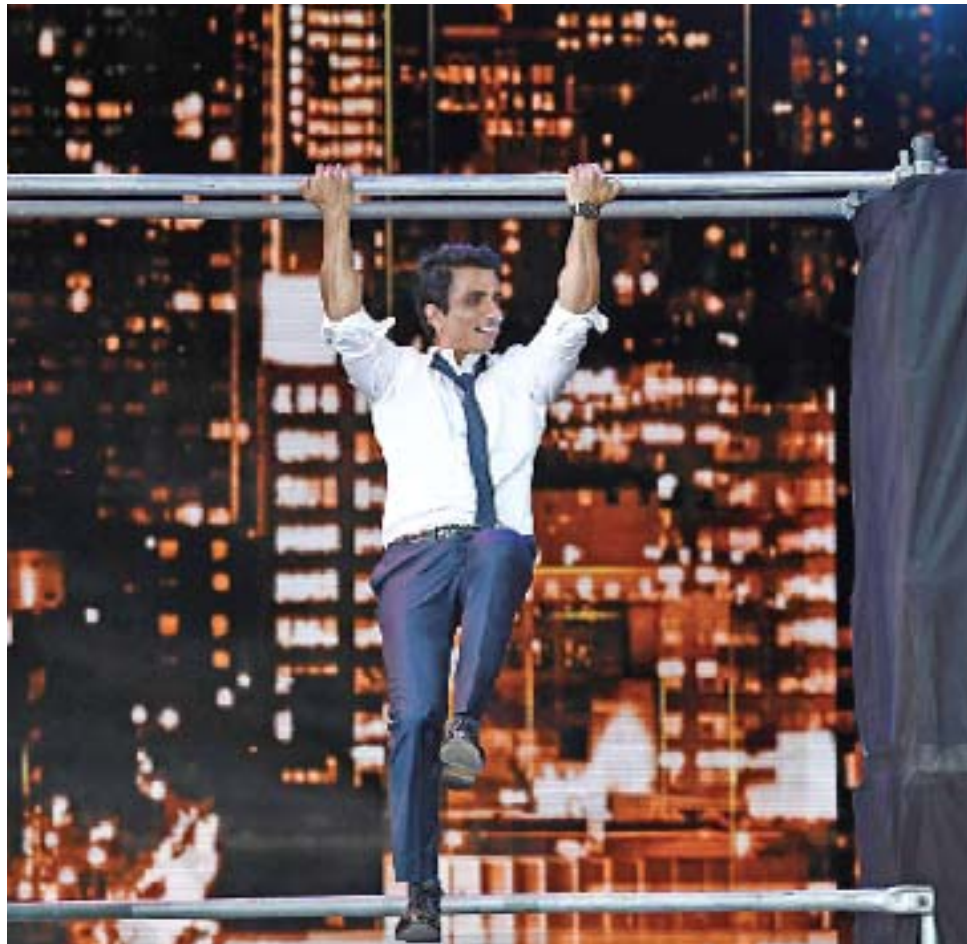
Bollywood Actress Katrina Kaif holds a trophy on stage.



Winner of Performance in a Supporting Role - Female, Shabana Azmi for "Neerja" accepts the award on stage.



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha speaks on stage.



Bollywood actor Sonu Sood performs on stage.



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan performs on stage.



Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon performs on stage.



Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor performs on stage.



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan performs on stage.



Bollywood music composer/singer AR Rahman (center) accepts an award.



Winner of Performance in a Negative Role, Jim Sarbh for "Neerja" accepts the award on stage.



Winner of Performance in a Comic Role, Varun Dhawan (left) for "Dishoom" accepts the award as actress Shilpa Shetty looks on.



Bollywood actress Kalki Koechlin arrives for the IIFA Awards.



Bollywood Actress Neha Dhupia arrives for the IIFA Awards.



Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput (right) and actress Kriti Sanon perform on stage.



Bollywood actress Dia Mirza arrives for the IIFA Awards.



Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu accepts Women of the Year award.



Winner of Best Playback Singer - Male, Amit Mishra for "Bulleya" from movie "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" accepts the award.



Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan (right) and director/producer Karan Johar host the IIFA Awards.



Bollywood actor/singer Diljit Dosanjh performs on stage.



Winners of Best Playback Singer - Female, Kanika Kapoor (right) for "Da Da Dasse" from movie "Udta Punja" and Tulsi Kumar (left) for "Soch Na Sake" from movie "Airlift" receive their awards.



Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt performs on stage.

Marvel stuns fans with giant Avengers gathering

Marvel brought thousands of fans to their feet on Saturday as it assembled a stellar panel of superheroes to preview "Avengers: Infinity War" at Disney's D23 convention. The movie, which comes out next year, unites the characters from all 16 films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe-and most of the actors who play them took the stage at the star-studded fan event in Anaheim, southern California. The packed 7,000-capacity convention hall cheered as Josh Brolin, Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Don Cheadle and Benedict Cumberbatch were introduced one by one.

Tom Holland, Benicio del Toro, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul Bettany, Anthony Mackie, Karen Gillan, Dave Bautista, Pom Klementieff and Chadwick Boseman and co-director Joe Russo were also part of the star-studded panel. "I've got to admit, these guys have not been together on stage for a long time, and even I find myself geeking out," said Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige before introducing world-first "Infinity Wars" teaser footage. The movie opens in May 2018 — the 10th anniversary of the US release of the original Marvel Cinematic Universe movie, "Iron Man."

"It's funny to think Kevin and I figured all of this out at Randy's Donuts shooting 'Iron Man 2,'" quipped Downey, who plays the titular superhero. The panel was part of a presentation of the next two years of live-action

movies from Disney, which owns Marvel and Lucasfilm.

'Unexpected elements'

Lucasfilm's "Star Wars" panel has become one of the most talked-about panels at the biennial D23. But here were no new announcements or footage this time around. The 2018 Han Solo spin-off movie, which fired directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller in favor of Oscar-winning Ron Howard last month, was largely glossed over, with no cast appearances or footage. But Rian Johnson, who directed the forthcoming eighth installment of the main series, "The Last Jedi," delighted fans by introducing much of the cast, including Mark Hamill, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Gwendoline Christie.

Johnson introduced a behind-the-scenes featurette and interviewed the cast on their experiences filming in Pinewood Studios, near London, and on Ireland's west coast. "When I read the script there were so many unexpected elements, which is great in a 'Star Wars' film," said Hamill, who came on last to a rapt standing ovation. "It's getting harder and harder to bring new things to the table and this is a real game changer." Another highlight was a section offering news and footage from the studio's upcoming animation to live-action slate, including remakes of "The Lion King," Mulan, "Aladdin" and "Dumbo." The crowd was



(From left) Actors Dave Bautista, Karen Gillan, Pom Klementieff, Benedict Cumberbatch, Josh Brolin, Chris Hemsworth, and Robert Downey Jr, producer Kevin Feige, and actors Mark Ruffalo, Tom Holland, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul Bettany, and Don Cheadle of Avengers: Infinity War took part in the Walt Disney Studios live action presentation at Disney's D23 EXPO 2017 in Anaheim, Calif. — AFP

on its feet again after seeing a stunning first clip from "The Lion King," climaxing in the iconic moment when Rafiki introduces newborn Simba to the animals of the savannah.

"This is a story that belongs to everyone who grew up with the original film," said Jon Favreau, who directed the movie, due to hit theaters in July 2019. "I wanted to demon-

strate that we could be respectful of the source material while bringing it to life using new techniques and technologies." Disney announced newcomer Mena Massoud in the titular role for Guy Ritchie's "Aladdin," which reboots the 1992 animated classic, and Will Smith as the genie. Disney also revealed that production is underway for the live-action reimagining of its 1941 animated classic "Dumbo," slated for release in March 2019.

The movie is being directed by Tim Burton ("Alice in Wonderland," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") and stars Colin Farrell, Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, Eva Green. Burton, who is starting production in England, addressed the D23 crowd via a video clip in which he described "Dumbo" as "one of my favorite of the Disney movies." Disney also showcased "Nutcracker and the Four Realms," starring Misty Copeland, and "A Wrinkle in Time," an epic adventure directed by Ava DuVernay and starring Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Mindy Kaling, Chris Pine and debutante Storm Reid, all of whom appeared onstage.

British actress Emily Blunt talked about playing the practically-perfect nanny in "Mary Poppins Returns," a sequel to the iconic 1964 original that hits theaters on December 25 next year. "I needed to try to pay homage to Julie Andrews but carve out a new space for myself. And we were very loyal to the books," said Blunt. — AFP



Valerian and Laureline, the 'thinking kid's' superheroes

It may as yet be obscure in the English-speaking world, but the comic book series on which the new mega-budget film "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" is based has long been the thinking kid's favorite elsewhere. The sci-fi heroes on which "Fifth Element" director Luc Besson is betting his reputation-and a colossal \$180-million (158-million euro) budget-have fascinated generations of European children.

The French film-maker was swept away by the time-travelling "spatio-temporal agents" Valerian and Laureline as a 10-year-old reader of the legendary comic Pilote, edited by "Asterix" creator Rene Goscinny, in which the strip first appeared. These were not the usual macho superheroes straight from Marvel central casting, but thinking liberal humanists with a green conscience-the most cerebral of shoot-'em-up heroes. Long before Hollywood discovered female empowerment, Laureline was not only outsmarting her enemies, she was also always one step ahead of Valerian, her brave, kind, but definitely dimmer sidekick. Their creators, artist Jean-Claude Mezieres and writer Pierre Christin, told AFP that that they were delighted Besson's live-action feature respects their characters' "humanist and anti-racist" spirit.

'Spectacular pyrotechnics'

Among only a handful of people to have already seen the film, which is due for release in the US on July 21, the pair described the movie as "spectacular with lots of battles and pyrotechnics." "I was a little worried that it would end up looking like an American sci-fi film, the usual battle between good and evil with good winning in the end," said Christin. "We always wanted the books to be adapted for the screen, but a good comic strip doesn't always make a good film."

"I see now I needn't have worried," said the 78-year-old author. Although the film is not a direct adaptation, "there isn't a gap between the film and our books which would lead us to say, 'We would never do anything like that,'" said Mezieres, who is also 78.

Cheeky humor

Besson got the idea from the get-go, he said. "He was one of our readers when he was 10 so we never needed to explain to him who Valerian was. He understood." Neither of the creators were directly involved in the movie, the most expensive independent production ever. "I don't think it would have been a good idea for us to do the script," Christin insisted.

"I never like working again on things that I have already done." The friends began the 23-book series in 1967 with pretty conventional storylines. But "Valerian and Laureline" quickly found its warp mode when the plots began to deal with big universal questions, often with cheeky humor.

Christin and Mezieres' aesthetic and the world they created, with its emphasis on tolerance, optimism and perseverance, would later be credited with having a major influence on "Star Wars" and Besson's own "The Fifth Element". Having already sold five million copies of their books worldwide, they hope a Hollywood blockbuster might bring more Asian and English-speaking fans into the fold in time for their 24th book, which will be published in French later this year. Mezieres said the sets for "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" rely heavily on artwork from their books, but he was pleased at how they managed to "move them on".

His only major quibble was with the casting of the blonde British model Cara Delevingne as the red-headed Laureline. "I was a bit reticent about that," he admitted. "There are not exactly tons of models who go on to become good actresses."

However, she has proved him wrong, he said. "Cara Delevingne wanted to become an actress and she becomes one in this film," he said. —AFP

'Infinity War' upstages 'Star Wars' at star-studded fan expo



Members of the media get their first look at a 50-foot, detailed model of "Star Wars" land during a media preview for Disney's D23 Expo.

A hair-raising teaser trailer for "Avengers: Infinity War" stole the show at the star-studded presentation of the Walt Disney Studios upcoming live-action films at the studios' fan convention D23, upstaging even "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," Oprah Winfrey and Mary Poppins. "Star Wars" fans did get a little morsel of footage in a behind-the-scenes featurette from the upcoming space saga and a lively panel with the film's writer-director Rian Johnson and a few of the film's stars. But audiences have yet to see a full trailer for the film.

Instead, it was the ultimate Marvel Cinematic Universe team-up "Avengers: Infinity War" that got fans really excited. Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige was on hand with a stage full of stars that included Robert Downey Jr as Iron Man, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Tom Holland as Spider-Man, Sebastian Stan as The Winter Soldier, Elizabeth Olsen as The Scarlet Witch, and Josh Brolin as the ultimate bad guy Thanos.

He's coming for us

The trailer, which has not yet been released online, was packed to the brim with tantalizing scenes, including Thor, floating and near dead in deep space being rescued by the Guardians of the Galaxy; Spider-Man's hair standing up on his arm; Tony Stark ominously warning that, "He's coming for us," likely talking about Thanos; and Thanos himself gripping a weakened Thor's skull and looking ready to crack it with ease. "Avengers: Infinity War" comes out May 4, 2018.

Almost on par with the "Infinity War" enthusiasm was the response to the footage for the Mary Poppins sequel "Mary Poppins Returns," a colorful and topsy-turvy new installment in the world of P.L. Travers



A crowd of people wait to enter the D23 Expo as crews do interviews outside the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif. — AP photos

from director Rob Marshall. Emily Blunt, who takes on the role of Mary Poppins, said she wanted to "pay homage" to what Julie Andrews had done in the 1964 classic but also "find my own space." "I had to do my own version of her," Blunt said. "I think she is a little more acerbic and odd and vain and weird in the books. We went that direction a little more."

"Hamilton's" Lin-Manuel Miranda co-stars as a lamplighter Jack in a cast that also features Dick Van Dyke, Angela Lansbury, Meryl Streep and Colin Firth. "Mary Poppins Returns" bows on Christmas day, 2018. The studio also announced the casting for its live-action "Aladdin" remake, from director Guy Ritchie. Relative newcomer Mena Massoud will be playing the scrappy street urchin Aladdin, while "Power Rangers" Naomi Scott will take on the role of Jasmine. Will Smith was previously cast in



Mouseketeers Alana Villemetz, left, Kelsey Schwarz, center, and Ian Ruz share a laugh during the D23 Expo.

and gets to work with Reese and Mindy as a part of the Mrs Team" was something she couldn't say no to. Audiences were excited to get a glimpse, too, of the behind-the-scenes footage of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." A sequel to "The Force Awakens," "The Last Jedi" picks up with that film's near-literal cliffhanger when Daisy Ridley's Rey and Mark Hamill's Luke Skywalker meet.

Johnson laughed that this wasn't his first job for Disney - he worked for the company's Disney Channel before he made his first film. "Pre 'High School Musical' Disney Channel," Johnson added. He was joined on stage by Ridley, Hamill, John Boyega, Laura Dern, Gwendoline Christie, Kelly Marie Tran and Benicio Del Toro to hype the film and their shared love of Star Wars. Curious newcomer Tran, Johnson said, treated the whole production like "an episode of MrRogers," as she explored every corner of production, while Dern, also new to the series, couldn't help but mouth the word "pew" when shooting her blaster during filming.

Johnson also assured the audience, who have only seen Boyega's Finn in a seeming comatose state in the teaser trailer, that his character would get to "see some action" in the film. "Finn is about to have a formidable opponent," Boyega added, as he sauntered over to Christie to size her up. "It's going to be very cool." "The Last Jedi" blasts into theaters Dec 15, or, as Disney Chairman Alan Horn said, 153 days from now. Mum's the word on the other "Star Wars" film in the works - the Han Solo spinoff film that recently got a galactic shake-up when deep into production co-directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller were replaced with Ron Howard. Horn merely said that he'll have more to share soon.D23, named after the year Walt Disney founded his company. — AP

Detroit's '67 riots halted music, helped recalibrate sound

It wasn't sweet music that brought Martha Reeves to the microphone at the Fox Theatre that day in July 1967; it was brutal reality. Detroit was burning. Headlining a string of shows for a hometown crowd, the singer of "Heatwave," "Dancing in the Street" and other hits announced that rioting had spread through the city. Leave calmly, she said, and return safely to your homes. Fifty years later, the leader of Martha and the Vandellas still can't quite believe it happened. "Imagine going out there lighthearted and ready to work," she said. "My heart was beating so fast after returning to the dressing room."

In the days that followed, Motown's "Sound of Young America" - on the stage and in the studio - was silenced by the sights and sounds of sirens, gunshots, fires and military tanks along Detroit's streets. For about a week, as the city was convulsed in violence that began when police arrested black patrons at an after-hours bar, the studio went dark. Motown was near the epicenter but largely spared during unrest that enveloped 25 city blocks and claimed 43 lives.

Raised consciousness

What happened in the streets was a wake-up call for many at the label that churned out hits by the Vandellas, as well as Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Temptations, Four Tops and others.

The rioting, the deadliest of dozens that raged that summer in US cities, raised consciousness and even recalibrated the music alongside the Vietnam War and assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and Robert Kennedy. At the time of the riots, Motown truly was "Hitsville USA." According to author and Motown expert Adam White, the labels that comprised the company had eight singles in the Billboard Hot 100 that week, including two songs in the top 20 and a couple more that were covered by others.

Although Motown tunes continued to play on the radio during those deadly days of unrest, it was the first time in years that the studio at 2648 W Grand Boulevard, famous for manufacturing music around-the-clock, had gone quiet for such a long period. Motown's



In this Nov 3, 1964 file photo, American pop trio Martha Reeves and the Vandellas dance for photographers at an airport in London, arriving for TV appearances and recording work in the British capital. — AP

recording session logs, now kept in a New York City vault maintained by the Universal Music Group, show work halted on July 22 and didn't resume until July 31, according to company officials.

As chaos descended, loyal Motown staffers thought it would be business as usual. "All day Sunday ... TV was totally involved in covering as much as they could - in spite of that there were some of us who got up Monday morning and made our way to work," said Pat Cosby, who worked in the studio's tape library. "We did hear gunfire as we're on the Lodge (free-way) and even then we're thinking, 'I got to get to work.' We did not realize the overall destruction that was going on."

Cosby recalled that she and her colleagues were met and "basically turned around at the door" by Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr The man who founded the label in 1959 with an \$800 family loan told his employees that, much to his dismay, the sonic assembly line had stopped. "Berry says, 'You're putting your lives in danger. What are you doing here?'" Cosby recalled. — AP



View of Puruha-style hand-embroidered outfits by Ecuadorean fashion designer Lucia Guillin (not in frame) at her workshop.



Customers look at Puruha-style hand-embroidered blouses at a store. — AFP photos

Ecuador designers reinvent indigenous style for modern age

‘We must put a stop to the idea that Indians are closed off’

After years of taking a backseat to Western style, indigenous fashion is re-emerging in Ecuador, thanks to a new generation of designers who are re-imagining traditional clothes. “Make the turn snappy!” says Juana Chicaiza, who founded the modeling agency “Awkis y Nustas”-“Princes and Queens” in the Quechua language. She is teaching her young charges how to best show off the “anaco,” a traditional Andean skirt, on the catwalks. A former beauty queen with long dark hair, Chicaiza-a member of the Puruha indigenous group-was mocked at a pageant because of her traditional garb.

The experience inspired the 32-year-old to open her agency in 2013 and “strengthen the identity” of the Puruha on the runways, where models now sashay in outfits that mix “the Western and the ancestral.” Latin American agencies generally seek models with hour-glass figures and fine features, the designer told AFP. “We’re not looking for that,” Chicaiza said. “We’re looking for women with character.” In Ecuador, indigenous peoples make up 30 percent of the population of 16.5 million,



View of perfume fragrances whose names highlight the Puruha culture.

according to organizations representing them. But many inhabitants do not recognize themselves as such: official census records say the country’s indigenous population is just seven percent of the total. Like Chicaiza, fashion designers are also working to help people renew their pride in their heritage.

A hint of edge

Lucia Guillin and Franklin Janeta, who are also members of the Puruha ethnic group,



An employee arranges Puruha-style hand-embroidered blouses at a store in Riobamba.

have launched their own indigenous fashion labels-respectively, Churandy and Vispu. “Our Puruha clothes have disappeared and young people have started dressing in the Western style,” says Guillin, donning one of her own shoulder-baring creations. Pieces from their lines, including tops and skirts embellished with hand-embroidered flowers, range in price from \$150-800. The most expensive items, often embellished with stones and embroidery, are aimed at brides and beauty queens. The designers use traditional ornaments and symbols, like flowers or the sun, but are making updates more in line with contemporary styles, such as with more daring cuts.

“There were no low-cut necklines, no short sleeves,” Janeta said. “I asked myself, ‘What if we changed it?’ Because young girls like things a little more modern.” Guillin, for her part, has succeeded in convincing women to wear the anaco skirt proudly once more by giving the garment a hint of edge, playing with styles including mermaid cuts, trains, flaring and side-



Ecuadorean Lucia Guillin, a Puruha-style fashion designer, shows one of her hand-embroidered creations.

slits, she said. “We must put a stop to the idea that Indians are closed off,” she said. “If we continue with this, we also risk losing our culture.”

According to Janeta, who said he makes some \$12,000 a month in sales, customers are beginning to understand the value of the handmade attire. “We taught people how to distinguish different qualities,” he said. “Before it was difficult to sell a blouse for more than 60 dollars-not anymore. They’ll pay up to 400 dollars for a corset.” This new generation of indigenous entrepreneurs also includes Esther Miranda, Jose Mullo and Jacqueline Tuquinga-who launched the perfume brand Yuyary (Memory, in Quechua) — designers who also see Westerners as potential target consumers. “As it’s a brand in Quechua, people think it’s just for our communities,” Miranda said. “But we want to go beyond that.” — AFP



View of Puruha-style hand-embroidered blouses at a store in Riobamba, Ecuador.



Ecuadorean Lucia Guillin, a Puruha-style fashion designer, shows a Puruha typical necklace at her workshop in Riobamba.



Franklin Janeta (center), the owner of indigenous-style clothing store, helps a customer to try an outfit, at his store.



Ecuadorean Lucia Guillin, a Puruha-style fashion designer, speaks during an interview with AFP at her workshop in Riobamba.



View of Puruha-style hand-embroidered blouses at a store.



Veronica Roche rehearses catwalk movements at the indigenous modeling agency ‘Awkis y nustas’ (princes and queens in Quechua) in Riobamba.



A customer tries a Puruha-style hand-embroidered outfit at a store in Riobamba.

Lifestyle

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Ecuador designers
reinvent
indigenous style
for modern age

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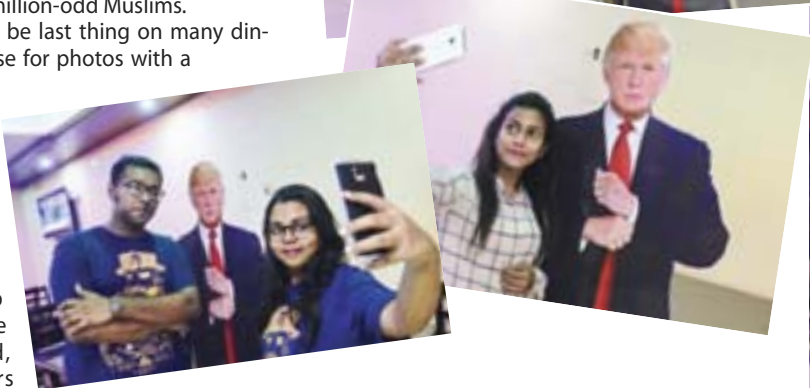
Fireworks explode over the coastal town of Jounieh, Lebanon, Saturday, during the city's international festival. The two-month annual festival includes concerts by local and international singers as well as plays and activities. — AP

Trump cafe lures Bangladeshis keen for pics, not politics

A cafe in Dhaka named after Donald Trump has been luring Bangladeshis undeterred by his controversial politics and more interested in snapping selfies with a life-size cutout of the US president. The cafe was opened in January by a self-professed Trump fan who rejects the notion that the US president is 'anti Islam', saying diners at his cafe in the heart of Muslim-majority Bangladesh agreed. "If he were anti-Muslim, he would not have visited Saudi Arabia and had a good time there," cafe owner Shafiqul Islam told AFP, adding none of Trump's decisions had affected Bangladesh's 144 million-odd Muslims.

Politics appears to be last thing on many diners' minds as they pose for photos with a cardboard cutout of the US president, placed strategically at the entrance by 29-year-old businessman Islam. "Girls are his bigger fans. They come to take selfies with the Trump picture. Children love him too," he said, adding more visitors snapped photos than ordered food. The cafe serves Thai, Chinese and Indian dishes, with specials given names like the "Trump burger".

CNN is broadcast to give an extra American flavor, while the wi-fi password is "Ivanka Trump". But it's the pull power of the man himself bringing in



curious customers. Nuzhat Sultana, said the cafe—which Islam says will soon include wallpapered images of the Oval Office and Trump's family—was "very fascinating". "The best part is the sudden illusion when you enter the cafe and see the US president welcoming you at the door!" she said. — AFP



Bangladeshi customers take selfie with a cutout US President Donald Trump at the Trump Cafe in Dhaka. — AFP photos

Museum: John Waters film fest hails part of collector's gift

The New Orleans Museum of Art is about to begin a John Waters film festival to celebrate a gift of photographs and a sculpture by the movie maker. Waters' pieces include "Pig Latin," a 61/2-foot-long (2-meter) strip of photos showing eight movie scenes with a pig Latinized line from seven of them, starting with Marlon Brando in "On the Waterfront" and "I-way oulda-cay een-bay a-way ontender-cay." Then there's "Toilet Training," a 51/2-foot (1.7-meter) strip of photographs showing toilet scenes from nine movies including John Travolta in "Pulp Fiction" and Nicole Kidman in "Eyes Wide Shut."

Waters' pieces, which also include an 18-inch (46-centimeter) sculpture of a spilled drug "popper," are among more than 80 paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures donated by Arthur Roger, whom the museum describes as a pioneer in bringing contemporary art to New Orleans. He began collecting art after opening the Arthur Roger Gallery 39 years ago. "If three people said, 'I couldn't live with that; I started to care for it and took it home,' he said in a Facetime interview from England, where he was vacationing.

Iconic images

It turned out well: "The things people sort of were afraid of or were rejecting tend to be, a lot of times, the best

work," he said. Roger said he loves living with art, and keeps it everywhere. "Pig Latin" was in his TV room. In the bathroom, he hung "Arthur as Sampson," a portrait by Louisiana artist Douglas Bourgeois. The portrait shows Roger, well-muscled and in bodybuilder's briefs, as columns crumble behind him. "It's me when I was competing in the Gay Games a long time ago," Roger said. He joked that Bourgeois' paintings are in such demand that "the only way I'd have one is something no one else wanted."

Two other Bourgeois pieces are in the show. Other work includes New Orleans artists John T. Scott, Ida Kohlmeier and Robert Gordy; and early works by artists who later became nationally known, including photographer Catherine Opie, glass sculptor Dale Chihuly, and Robert Mapplethorpe. Opie's "Self-Portrait/Cutting," is "one of her most iconic images now. And Arthur was one of the first galleries to exhibit it before people knew about her work," said Allison Young, a curatorial fellow who worked on the exhibition. Roger said New Orleans turned out to be an artistic draw. In most cities, he said, suggesting a gallery show would bring questions like "How well do you think it would do? Do you have a market?" But, he said, "In New Orleans, they say, 'Yeah! Let's do a show!'"

He said he met Mapplethorpe when the artist was being mentored by another client, painter and photogra-

pher George Dureau, who is represented in the exhibit with six photographs. Roger said Waters' movies had been important in his own development, and not just because he's gay. "Being young and trying to see where you fit in and realizing there was something very different about you, it was very exciting to see someone who celebrated people's differences," he said.

'Pink Flamingos'

So when he heard that Waters was having his first art exhibit in New York, Roger queried about a show in New Orleans. "He immediately responded. We became friends and started working with his art work from the beginning of his art career," Roger said. Waters interviewed Roger for the show; the interview, plus illustrations - including one of them together outside a club called One-Eyed Jack's - takes 17 pages of the show's 143-page catalog. The exhibit of Roger's donations, titled "Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans," opened last month and runs through Sept 3.

The five-movie film festival begins July 21 with "Pink Flamingos" and continues with "Polyester," "Hairspray" - which brought Waters into the mainstream - followed by "Cry-Baby" and "Pecker." So many people want to see "Pink Flamingos," Waters' 1972 breakout film, that the museum



This undated image provided by the New Orleans Museum of Art shows Ida Kohlmeier's mixed media on canvas, titled "Synthesis BB," 1983. — AP

scheduled two showings, said Erin Greenwald, the museum's curator of programs. Greenwald said "For the screening of Pink Flamingos, we're going to have a drag impersonator as Divine," who starred in four of Waters' films before his death in 1988. For Cry-Baby, there will be a 1950s tribute band, and a local DJ will play 1960s rhythm and blues and rock and roll for "Hairspray." — AP