

Consumption of water in Kuwait hits record rate

3



Blast kills at least 25, injures dozens in Lahore

6



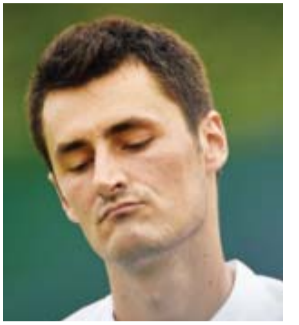
Kushner says met Russians four times, denies collusion

11



'Trapped' Tomic says he has no love for the game

16



IRAN AMBASSADOR TO REMAIN IN KUWAIT AS TIES DOWNGRADED

MP PROPOSES TOUGH PENALTIES FOR HEZBOLLAH SUPPORTERS



Min 31°
Max 49°
High Tide 01:40 & 12:25
Low Tide 07:03 & 19:59



150 FILS

NO: 17288

32 PAGES

By B Izzak and Agencies

QATAR, TURKEY PRAISE KUWAIT MEDIATION

DOHA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Doha yesterday as part of a Gulf tour aimed at defusing a dispute between Turkey's ally Qatar and a bloc of Saudi-led Arab states. Erdogan was greeted by Qatari ruler Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani ahead of their first face-to-face talks on the Gulf crisis, state news agency QNA reported. Sheikh Tamim and Erdogan both backed Kuwait's mediation efforts to resolve the dispute during the talks aimed at discussing regional and international developments, particularly on efforts to resolve the feud through "dialogue and diplomacy", QNA said.

The visit was focused on "developments in Syria and Iraq, the fight against terrorism ... and the importance of protecting countries' sovereign rights", Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said in Doha. Turkey has sided with Qatar in the crisis, the worst to hit the region since the 1981 establishment of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council. On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain suspended diplomatic and economic ties with Qatar over allegations that Doha had too close ties with Iran and supported Islamist extremist groups. Qatar has denied the allegations.

Continued on Page 11



DOHA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan are welcomed by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at Doha International Airport at the start of his official visit to Qatar yesterday. — AFP

TEHRAN/KUWAIT: Iran said yesterday it was disappointed at Kuwait's decision to reduce the number of Iranian diplomats in the country, but said its ambassador would remain. Kuwait announced last week that 15 Iranian diplomats would have to leave within six weeks in response to the conviction of a "terror" cell with alleged links to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. "We did not expect this from Kuwait," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said, according to the IRNA news agency.

"We have always maintained positive relations with Kuwait in the...Gulf region. The action by the country was not nice... but we can still continue conversations and contacts," he added. Ghasemi confirmed that Iran's ambassador would remain in Kuwait, a question which had remained unclear when the move was announced on Thursday. Kuwait also told Iran's cultural and military missions to shut down, following the court case. Iran responded to the expulsions by filing a complaint with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires.

Kuwait's cassation court last week convicted 21 people of belonging to a cell trained and formed by the Revolutionary Guards - an allegation which Iran said was "baseless". Kuwait, which has a sizeable Shiite majority, has had tense relations with Iran, although it has tried to act more as a mediator in regional disputes. Kuwait greatly reduced its diplomatic presence in Tehran last year after its ally Saudi Arabia completely

Continued on Page 11

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KD 4.950

30 SHRIMP, 10 FRIED CALAMARI, FRIES, BREAD, TARTAR & COLA.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sees off Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah bids farewell to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

TURKISH PRESIDENT CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait yesterday, concluding an official visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Also at President Erdogan's farewell were First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as senior military and state officials.— KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem bids farewell to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah bids farewell to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah bids farewell to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

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KUWAIT, TURKISH FMS DISCUSS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on regional and international developments. The meeting, held on sidelines of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit on Sunday, also touched upon ways of boosting bilateral relations in different domains.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Waleed Al-Khubaizi, Assistant Foreign Minister for the minister's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah and Kuwait Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zawawi.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.— KUNA

LIMITING OIL PRODUCTION IMPROVED MARKETS IN 2017: KUWAITI OIL MINISTER

SAINT PETERSBURG: The joint ministerial committee on monitoring world oil market has seen vital achievements in limiting production this year, said head of the committee Essam Al-Marzouq. In his speech at the committee's meeting in Saint Petersburg yesterday, Marzouq; Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water, hailed the commitment of all countries to the oil production cut agreement to keep stable the oil market.

The agreement reduced the rate of oil reserve down to 90 million barrels in 2017, Marzouq noted. He added that some countries went below the production rate agreed upon; a step much appreciated by the committee, according to him.

Meanwhile, the minister noted that despite the limiting procedures, the reserve rate in oil consuming countries still exceeded demand by 250 million barrels. Countries need to exert further efforts in executing the terms of the nine-month deal in order to keep prices stable, he said. Marzouq also noted that demand on oil is expected to reach about two million barrels

daily in Q3 and Q4 of 2017.

In the meantime, Russian Minister of Energy Alexander Novak said that committing to the limiting deal led to an increase of investments in oil industries. In November 2016, OPEC members concluded a deal in

Vienna to cut production by around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), or over three percent, to 32.5 million bpd. Non-OPEC producers voluntarily decided to reduce output by 600,000 bpd. Russia alone made a 300,000-bpd-cut.—KUNA



SAINT PETERSBURG: Kuwait's Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq attends the joint ministerial committee on monitoring world oil market meeting in Saint Petersburg.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Sigurd Pacher. — KUNA

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS AUSTRIA'S AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held talks yesterday with Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Sigurd Pacher, on bilateral relations and the latest regional as well as international developments. The Austrian ambassador affirmed

his country's support for the efforts exerted by Kuwait to boost relations within the GCC bloc. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

MUBARAKIYA MARKET KEEPS TRADITION ALIVE AS MODERNITY LOOMS LARGE

KUWAIT: Kuwait's venerable Al-Mubarakiya Market should never lose its aura of heritage despite a slew of development projects that have sprung up in the area, a municipal official said yesterday. Osama Al-Otaibi, a member of Kuwait's Municipal Council, said that names given to roads that meander through what had once been the epicenter of the nation's trade, would

remain intact. He pointed out that the historic market has long beguiled visitors through its nostalgic ambience, even as plans to expand the facility continue to move full steam. Named after Kuwait's seventh ruler and founding father Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, the market is highly reminiscent of old bazars with vintage products and restaurants available. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Abdullah Al-Salem Street in Al-Mubarakiya Market. — KUNA

GERMANY TODAY - PART I

Local Spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

"Maintaining and protecting cultural heritage in Germany and in the world" was the theme of my weeklong tour of Germany. The trip was at the invitation of the German Federal Foreign Office that brought together many participants from around the world. I was invited as part of the visitors program.

I would like to share with Kuwait Times' readers an insight of my experiences in Germany. Before flying to the country, I thought I was familiar with German culture, but I was wrong - what I knew was merely a drop in the ocean. This cultural trip was a vivid lesson on how Germany has today become a great and powerful nation and was able to preserve its heritage despite various crises.

Germany is not only a destination for tourism or medical treatment. In Germany, nearly every city has a story to tell and a history of sacrifices throughout the centuries and during the First and Second World Wars, apart from occupation by various military powers in the past. This is ancient history, yet old monuments, churches and museums speak for themselves, being visible and accessible to everyone.

The Berlin Wall has been toppled, but its effects remain as a story about the struggle of the Germans for many years for freedom and peace. I visited the site and saw lots of tourists and Germans as well. The Berlin Wall was a concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989.

Cultural heritage is an essential part of Germany, and there is a message behind this. The monuments' conservation means protecting, evaluating and interpreting cultural heritage and making it reachable to both residents and visitors. Maintaining the diversity of Berlin's cityscape, for example, is important to spread the sense of appreciation of the past and to understand the present to create a better future.

This is why Berlin is a city that is characterized by spectacular construction sites. This is not an easy mission. Every city has its own experts who made efforts to collectively draw the masterpiece that is Germany today. Clearly, preservation of cultural heritage is a mutual responsibility there. It is a pity that we Arabs remember our history, including battles and old victories of the past, but in reality we often disregard our heritage, as if we are ashamed of it.

My trip included many presentations and visits to various sites. I was delighted to visit the German Archaeological Institute. It was a great opportunity to learn from experts and listen to what they do to preserve the heritage of Germany and help other countries to do so.

The World Heritage Convention of 1972 was a declaration of a global agreement to protect the culture and history of mankind. Today, many countries and sites, especially in Iraq and Syria, are increasingly threatened with destruction, not only by the traditional ravages of time, but due to barbarous acts by terrorist groups that aggravate the situation. Also, are we doing enough to combat trafficking in heritage objects?

(To be continued)

COUNCIL MEMBER CALLS FOR RAZING SHARQ INDUSTRIAL AREA

'FAKE DOCTOR' LAWYER REMANDED IN CUSTODY

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member and chairman of the technical committee Fahd Al-Sane proposed a speedy clearing of Sharq industrial area in order to rectify the situation and remove violations there. His call came one day after a blaze engulfed a garage in the busy commercial district of Kuwait City which is also home for some of the tallest skyscrapers in the state's capital. Sane said that lands in the area are being used for commercial purposes in violation of what they are originally licensed for, explaining that many buildings are used as stores for tires and other highly inflammable material without care for safety conditions. Furthermore, he demanded that the situation must be corrected, as plots are divided into several stores carrying out several activities without a license. He said there are also construction violations there.

detain lawyer Hani Hussein for 21 days and send him to the central prison over false information about the case of a Bangladeshi doctor who he claimed had impersonated a Kuwaiti physician. The 'fake doctor' was a main topic of rumors which spread in the past few days over social media, and attacking the health ministry.

Road opening

The engineering sector at the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is preparing to open the service road towards Kuwait City from crossroad C10 till the crossroad C11 with a length of 1.150 km during the first week of August. Sources at the ministry said the opening is part of a project to construct and maintain roads and crossroads on the western part of Jamal Abdul-Nasser Street, which is being executed at a total cost of KD 34,934 million. The service road opening will serve traffic coming from Doha towards Kuwait, while the traffic light at C10 will be removed, the sources added.

Lawyer remanded

The public prosecution decided to



KUWAIT: A firefighter tackles a blaze in a garage in Sharq on Sunday.

REAL ESTATE GRIDLOCK HIGHLIGHTS FUTURE FEARS, SAYS ANALYSTS

KUWAIT: Housing prices in Kuwait have been on a downward spiral due to various factors including the decline in oil prices and growing fears over further regional political instability. Real estate specialists revealed that prices have hit their lowest in years, prompting many property owners to bide their time before putting up their properties on sale. Recent official data provided by the local real estate industry shows a lull in transactions in that sector, with an 18 percent drop in value in May of this year, as compared to last year.

Kuwait's real estate industry, particularly, the housing sector, has been hit hard

by plummeting oil prices and regional unrest, Secretary General of the Real-Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim said. The real estate mogul pointed out that political and economic upheaval has fueled concerns of homebuyers, which explains their reluctance to purchase properties. Meanwhile, the consensus among analysts is that the real estate industry has yet to recover from the 2008 economic crash, as property owners like Nasser Al-Aidan are still feeling the ill effects. Aidan pointed out that the drop in prices could be a silver lining for homebuyers, but proprietors have no choice but to wait for a much coveted price recovery. — KUNA

KUWAIT DONATES \$500,000 TO JORDANIAN CHARITIES

AMMAN: Kuwait yesterday handed over \$500,000 financial aid to Jordanian charity societies, active in humanitarian and relief work. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij said that the Kuwaiti donors are keen on providing further support to the Jordanian societies and commissions, especially for helping the Syrian refugees in the Kingdom. He added that the embassy follows up how the money is spent through field presence, and reports provided by the relevant bodies.

Today's money includes \$134,000 from the Kuwaiti Society of the Revival of Islamic Heritage to support the programs of the Jordan's Takaful (Solidarity) Association and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO). Also, Kuwait's Society for Social Reform (Al-Rahma International Charity) provided \$333,000 to implement a portion

of the activities of its office in Jordan, as the Zakat House offered \$28,000 for supporting the Jordanian Club for Deaf. Director of the Takaful Association in Al-Ramtha, northwest, Khalid Nawasara, said that today's money is part of Kuwait's aid to support the humanitarian conditions of the Syrian refugees in Jordan.

It will go to the medial center the association runs, for the benefit of 6,000 refugees. For his part, head of the Society for Social Reform office in Jordan, Basil Shahada voiced gratitude to the Kuwaiti government and people for their regular backing to their activities in the Jordan. Secretary of the deaf club Sherin Hussein, commended the decision approving to include the facility as a beneficiary of the Kuwaiti aid. This will help promote the club's many activities and programs, she said. —KUNA



AMMAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij delivers donations to Jordanian charity societies. — KUNA

REPORT: KUWAIT SHOULD DO MORE TO ACCOMMODATE ENTREPRENEURISM

KUWAIT: Kuwait needs to do more to accommodate fresh businesses and entrepreneurship, and provide a lucrative environment for smart specializations and fresh businesses with a global impact, a report said on Sunday. The report, conducted by Berkeley Research Group amid a consultancy endeavor commissioned by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, was aimed at identifying commercial and strategic considerations entrepreneurs are faced with ahead of launching their businesses.

Entrepreneurs do not lack adequate funding, but rather, lack the practical know-how and the assistance required to create a

business and target an appropriate customer. They also lack guidance and training which leads to naive mistakes, the report added. About the Kuwaiti market, the report highlighted that Kuwait has a rich consumer society, with a high purchasing power, giving it a strong competitive advantage. This advantage, said the report, provides entrepreneurs with huge opportunities to test their new services and validate their commercial concepts, ahead of introducing these businesses to the outside world. The report highlighted red tape and delays spent over paperwork and approvals as other fundamental difficulties facing entrepreneurs in Kuwait. —KUNA

NEW AHMADI HOSPITAL SERVES KOC'S LONG-TERM STRATEGY

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) CEO Jamal Abdelaziz Jaafar said in an address to employees that the new Ahmadi Hospital comes as part of the company's long-term strategy for 2030, saying that it is the first public hospital to open in Kuwait since the 1980s. The hospital, which cost KD 94 million to build, is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment in the field of health care, he said, adding that the hospital has a 300-bed capacity which can be expanded to 400 beds, an emergency shelter and residential buildings that have 256 apartments. Jaafar said that the medical group at KOC began executing the first stage of the transition plan to the new hospital on July 9, by opening the pediatrics outpatient clinics, in addition to the pharmacy and pathology laboratories. He added that the old Ahmadi Hospital was built in 1960 to provide health care to KOC workers and their families, and then services became possible for all workers in the oil sector.

WATER CONSUMPTION IN KUWAIT REACHES RECORD RATE

KUWAIT: Consumption of water in Kuwait hit a record on July 14, with 475 million imperial gallons, a rise of five million gallons more than the same period in 2016, said the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The ministry's Undersecretary for the Operation and Maintenance Sector Khalifa Al-Furij made the statement on the sidelines a fair of the experimental project for rationalization of water in houses, being implemented by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) in cooperation with the ministry.

Furij noted that the strategic stocks of water are "assuring", with about 3.9 billion imperial gallons, 97 percent of the total storage capacity. The rationalization project, for which the KFAS has allocated KD 1.45 million (\$4.7 million), includes fixing water filters in 5,000 houses in six residential areas identified by a ministry's technical committee, he noted. Similar fairs will be organized in the cooperative societies in these areas, for people to apply for water filters. Furij stressed the ministry's keenness on implementing such vital development projects to rationalize the consumption of water, and power in general. — KUNA



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

In Brief

SACGC HONORS KUWAITI DOCTOR

KUWAIT: Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), an affiliate of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has honored a Kuwaiti doctor for acquiring a new patent from the United States of America. Dr Fatima Al-Thallab has recently gotten the patent for an invention that can help in feeding children with cleft lip. —KUNA



UNDERSECRETARY RETURNS HOME

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of Interior Ministry Lieutenant General Mahmoud Al-Dosari returned home on Sunday after an official visit to France where he was briefed on the delivery of four choppers from Airbus Company. During his visit, Dosari met with several high ranking officials from the French Interior Ministry, part of the framework to boost security cooperation between the two countries, the ministry said in a statement. —KUNA



US DOLLAR RATE STABLE AT KD 0.302

KUWAIT: The US Dollar's exchange rate was stable at KD 0.302, so did the Euro at KD 0.352, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. On the other hand, the Sterling Pound was up to KD 0.393, the Swiss Franc stayed at KD 0.319 and the Japanese Yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A flock of grey heron birds spotted at a beach in Kuwait Bay. —KUNA

SHEIKH JABER CAUSEWAY TO BE LAUNCHED END OF 2018



KUWAIT: Sheikh Jaber Causeway project in Kuwait is a cable-stayed bridge that is considered among the most prominent projects of 2035 vision, and is one of the longest cross-sea bridges worldwide. Such project comes upon the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial center. The project is 80 percent complete and connects Al-Sabiya city with Madinat Al-Hareer (Silk City) to be, cutting down time, effort and distance into 15 minutes instead of a whole hour. Sheikh Jaber Bridge will be launched by the end of 2018, with 36 kilometers long, at the value of KD 738 million. —KUNA

Crime

Report



NEW TENANT DIES INSIDE ELEVATOR

KUWAIT: A Filipina suffocated and died inside an elevator after it crashed while she was moving her furniture inside a Salmiya building. All attempts to get her out of the elevator failed. The building's haris (janitor) called police and told them a new tenant was stuck in the elevator, but they found her dead when they arrived. The body was recovered by the coroner. Preliminary investigations indicated that the elevator malfunctioned due to the excess weight as the woman was using it to move heavy furniture. Further investigations are ongoing.

Woman ran over by harasser

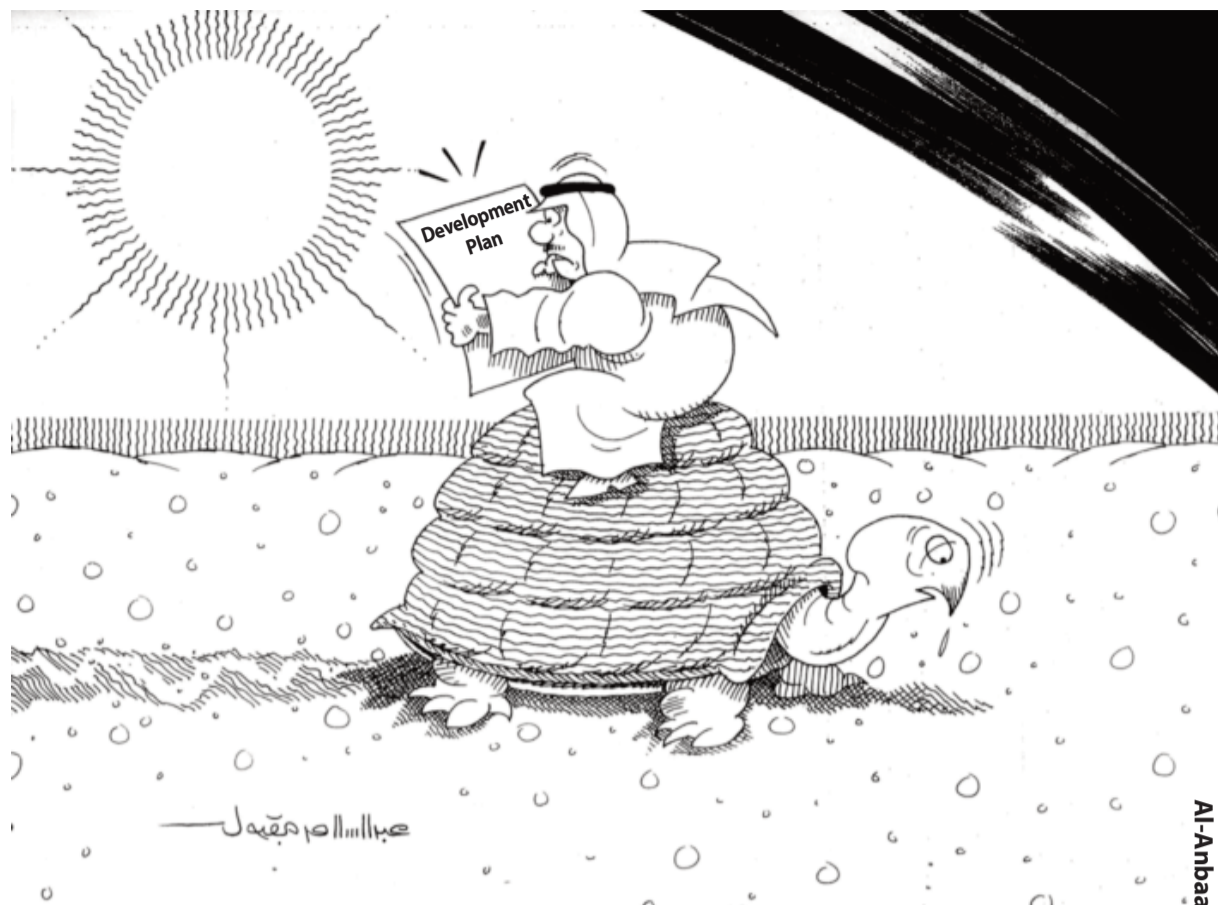
A Kuwaiti woman sustained injuries after she was run over by a man she had rejected. The man kept chasing and harassing the girl while she was driving, but she ignored him. Eventually, the woman pulled her car over, and the man approached her and started a fight with her because of her rejections. After that, the man ran the woman over after she stepped outside of her vehicle, then escaped leaving her in pain. Police took the girl to hospital and were able to arrest the harasser who faces legal action.

Revenge

A citizen torched her ex-husband's house in revenge and damaged his car before disappearing, according to the man's statements to police. The husband called police for help, but she had already left when they arrived. He lodged a complaint against her and police are investigating.

Kidnap and assault

A Syrian was kidnapped, beaten then forced to sign blank promissory notes by three of his compatriots. The three blindfolded him and took turns to beat him in an isolated area, then took him to an apartment in Salmiya and released him after he signed the notes. The victim told Nagra police that he does not know the attackers, but suspected several other people who may sent the three. Detectives are investigating. —Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

PARLIAMENT DISSOLUTION

By Thaar Al-Rashidi

Everyone has noticed that all political factions have leaned towards calming down. It may be because of the influence of the parliamentary summer holiday, or maybe there is no longer anything that can be brought up, as both government and opposition have consumed all clashing cards among them during the first round of the current legislative term. Personally, I feel that it may be the second option, because there are no longer any cards of differences to play with between the government and parliament, rather even between the government and opposition outside the parliament, so there is no longer anything that can feed any dispute of any type.

Everyone stopped talking while using the escalation or accusation language, although the fight of political figures over influence is still on, and the war of those figures had not stopped. Political polarizations between tussling factions continue, but this war needs a spark, an incident or an issue, or needs to create one to reactivate the confrontation between the government and members of parliament. The truth is that there are no longer any political cards that can be a launching pad for a new clash, escalation, grilling or something else.

So I think the coming struggle will be within the parliament itself, and the next parliamentary session will start with a struggle between MPs. That could be the start of a new struggle between the figures and the opposition and the government together, which may lead to creating a new case of struggle that may end with an inevitable clash and several grilling motions which may lead to filing a no cooperation motion, followed by a parliament dissolution.

In the latest session of the last term, during budget discussions, there were signs of parliamentary-parliamentary clash, even if some of this was outside the National Assembly or during breaks between sessions. I think that this struggle will rage with the start of the next term, and it will appear very strongly. It will take us back to square one, that is the start of the first term which was launched with preparations for a grilling which led to the exit of former information minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah from the government; a grilling that everyone knows was personally targeting Sheikh Salman and did not aim at ending the sports suspension or correcting the situation at the information ministry. Although six months have elapsed after the grilling, which was described as a victory for the opposition, it became clear that it was actually not more than a personal grilling covered by the grilling.

Anyway, the next parliamentary term will start with a parliamentary-parliamentary struggle as I see it, then there will be targeting of several ministers which will take us back to the empty circle of struggle that will end in a limited government reshuffle which is the least of results, or dissolving the parliament, which is the highest of results that may come out of this struggle, and this is what many politicians hope for.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Qabas

Al-Qabas

AVIATION SAFETY

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

Kuwait Airways (KAC) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are facing highly important professional reservations for months by pilots who are trainers, about the decision to merge the new G650 aircraft and the old G650. This is a dangerous act due to the lack of technical study approved by trainer pilots according to the international security and safety rules. The complaint signed by three trainer pilots about the merging dates back to March 28, 2017, and it is now one of the hot issues for the new KAC board and DGCA, from whom the technical details, as well as the truth and reasons behind the merging decision were kept away.

The merging decision was preceded by another violation that dates back to Dec 12, 2016, when a committee was formed to select new pilots, which is something that contradicts with the decision of sending more than 30 Kuwaiti pilots into retirement and led to the strike on Jan 19, 2017. The committee for pilots' selection included experienced pilots, but the candidates came through an employment agency and not through direct advertisement inside and outside Kuwait, without knowing the administration and financial justification besides information published by Al-Rai on Aug 7, 2016, related to the "Asian Assistant CEO and his financial and administrative authority."

The selection committee began its work according to a working mechanism to make sure applicants had suitable experience and do not have a history of violating the safety and security rules, but it seems that the clash with an administrative decision by the opera-

tions executive official. The selection committee was surprised that the same official went to Turkey to interview and select other pilots without the knowledge of the committee or its opinion, and while the committee was still working, this led to the resignation of the committee on Feb 23, 2017, and it was re-formed behind the resignation of the first committee members.

Then non-Kuwaiti pilots were hired by a solo decision following the Turkey trip and without professional participation of the concerned committee. The strange thing is that the operations' leader had previous violations, and yet he was sent for investigations and

received an administrative punishment of deducting a quarter of his salary for several months according to administrative decision number 1/2009. However, he later was promoted to an operations executive post.

As for the Kuwaiti pilots who were sent into retirement, despite the fact that KAC had spent so much money on them during training, they

were not given an opportunity to rejoin KAC, because the company's strategy focused on non-Kuwaiti pilots who benefited from the opportunity to work with KAC and left it after an extreme generosity, while the Kuwaiti pilots who were forced into retirement are forced to accept the bitter reality. We face corruption in all state facets, but is it realistic for matters to reach overlooking risks that threaten the safety of aviation as a whole? In case any supervisory authority wants to investigate the above mentioned information, I have all the documents, waiting for those who want to make sure about the violations. —Translated by Kuwait Times

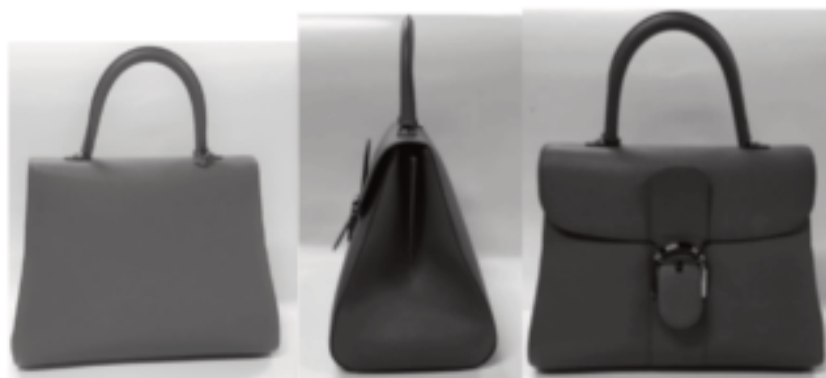
Is it realistic for matters to reach overlooking risks that threaten the safety of aviation as a whole?

TIGHT SECURITY MUST HAVE PREVENTED CONVICTS' ESCAPE

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KUWAIT: Security authorities protecting the air, land and maritime borders possess extensive capabilities to detect any person who attempts to enter or leave the country, informed security sources said. The convicts wanted in the so-called 'Abdali Cell' case have not escaped from the country, they added, and also expressed confidence that ongoing supervision, checkpoints and inspections campaigns around the country will eventually lead to their arrest. The marine radar system at the possession of Kuwait Coast Guards is capable of detecting any infiltrators or people who attempt to escape out of the country, the sources noted, adding that reports speculating that the suspects managed to flee the country via sea are false "because Coast Guard boats spread across the seashores monitor any movement, and it is very difficult to defeat this system." The sources said that the fugitives must be hiding in places inside Kuwait that are being searched for by authorities. —Al-Anbaa

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KUWAIT

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Date: 04th August 2017
Time: Between 2 pm to 8 pm
Attire: Formal business attire

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GOING PLACES TOGETHER



Turkey tries anti-Erdogan journalists on 'terror' charges

POLAND PRESIDENT VETOES DIVISIVE COURT REFORMS



LAHORE: Pakistani rescue workers try to move the bodies of victims at the site of an explosion. —AP

BLAST KILLS AT LEAST 25 IN LAHORE

DOZENS MORE INJURED IN VEGETABLE MARKET EXPLOSION

LAHORE: An explosion killed at least 25 people and injured dozens in a busy vegetable market in the Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday, officials said, but the cause of the blast was not immediately clear. The powerful explosion hit a bustling main road in the south of Lahore and blew out windows in nearby buildings. Initial police investigations suggested it might be a suicide bomb attack.

"Apparently, according to our initial findings, he was a suicide bomber, who used a motorcycle," deputy chief of police operations branch, Haider Ashraf told reporters in Lahore. The city's commissioner Abdullah Khan Sumbul said the blast targeted police. A

spokesman for Lahore police, Syed Hammad Shah, put the toll at 25 dead with 40 injured. Senior local administration official Sumair Ahmad Syed confirmed the death toll, though he put the number of injured at 35.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan told a press conference held minutes after the blast that most of the casualties were police officers, but was unable to confirm the nature of the explosion. Haider Ashraf told AFP that at least 10 police officers were among the dead. The area was busy with police at the time because officers had been sent to the market to clear stalls that had illegally spilt onto the road. Provincial law minister Rana Sanaullah said the

blast had appeared to target the vegetable market, which was crowded with shoppers.

'Deafening blast'

Eyewitness Sher Dil, who works at an office close to the site of the explosion, said it blew out the windows of his office building. "I was in my office when it all happened. It was a deafening blast, which shook the entire Arfa Karim Towers," Dil told AFP. Pakistan's president, prime minister and army chief all issued statements expressing condolences for the loss of life.

Lahore has been hit by significant militant attacks in Pakistan's more than decade-long war on extremism, but they have been less frequent

in recent years. The last major blast in the city was in March last year, when 75 were killed and hundreds injured in a bomb targeting Christians celebrating Easter Sunday in a park. But the country was hit by a wave of attacks in February this year, including a bomb that killed 14 people in Lahore.

In April a further seven were killed in an attack in the city targeting a team that was carrying out the country's long overdue census. After years of spiraling insecurity, the powerful army launched a crackdown on militancy in the wake of a brutal attack on a school in late 2014. More than 150 people, most of them children, died in the Taliban-led assault in the northwest-

ern city of Peshawar—the country's deadliest ever single attack. It shook a country already grimly accustomed to atrocities and prompted the military to step up an operation in the tribal areas, where militants had previously operated with impunity. Explosions caused by gas cylinders—which are used for cooking as well as in cars—are also common in Pakistan. A blast in Lahore in February was initially thought to be a militant attack, but turned out to be a gas explosion. Officials have since been cautious about prematurely confirming the nature of explosions. Lahore, a city of around six million, is Pakistan's cultural hub and the capital of its most powerful province, Punjab. —AFP

DUTERTE VOWS TO CONTINUE DRUG WAR, END COMMUNIST REBEL TALKS

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed yesterday to continue his bloody war on illegal drugs despite international and domestic criticism and warned that offenders will end up in "jail or hell." In his second state of the nation speech, Duterte also insisted he would not hold peace talks with communist rebels because of continuing attacks.

Security issues dominated his most important annual speech, including a disastrous two-month uprising by pro-Islamic State group militants in a southern city, the worst crisis he has faced. Thousands of protesters marched outside Congress demanding he deliver on a range of promises which mirror the diverse burdens of his presidency, from protecting human rights to improving internet speed. A look at the most serious issues confronting Duterte as he enters his second year in power.

ISLAMIC STATE-LINKED SIEGE

Two months after more than 600 pro-Islamic State group militants blasted their way into the southern city of Marawi, the military is still fighting the last gunmen—fewer than 100, about 10 of them foreign. Duterte told reporters after his speech yesterday that the government counteroffensive will not stop "until the last terrorist is taken out." The crisis, however, may not end soon, according to Duterte, because troops have to move carefully to ensure the safety of about 300 hostages he said are being held by the gunmen. "I don't want these innocent people to be slaughtered," he said.

Congress overwhelmingly voted on Saturday to grant Duterte's request to extend martial law in the south to the end of the year to allow Duterte to deal with the

Marawi crisis and stamp out other extremist groups across the south, something five presidents before him have failed to do. About half a million people have been displaced by the Marawi fighting. Some have threatened to march back to the still-besieged city to escape the squalor in overcrowded evacuation camps in nearby towns. Rebuilding Marawi will require massive funds and national focus and will be fraught with pitfalls. Amid the despair and gargantuan rebuilding, it's important "to ensure that extremist teachings do not find fertile ground," said Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

DRUG WAR

Despite criticism and threats of criminal prosecution, Duterte said his drug crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, will go on. "Do not try to scare me with prison or the International Court of Justice," he said yesterday. "I'm willing to go to prison for the rest of my life." He reiterated his plea that Congress reimpose the death penalty for drug offenders and others. "The fight will not stop until those who deal in (drugs) understand that they have to stop because the alternatives are either jail or hell," Duterte said, to applause from his national police chief, Ronald del Rosa, and other supporters in the audience.

During the campaign, he promised to rid the country of illegal drugs in three to six months and repeatedly threatened traffickers with death. But he missed his deadline and later declared he would fight the menace until his last day in office. When then-U.S. President Barack Obama, along with European Union and UN

rights officials, raised alarm over the mounting death toll from the crackdown,

Duterte lashed out at them, telling Obama to "go to hell." Duterte's fiercest critic at home, Sen. Leila del Lima, was detained in February on drug charges she said were baseless. More than 5,200 suspects have died so far, including more than 3,000 in reported gun battles with police and more than 2,000 others in drug-related attacks by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen and other assaults, police said. Human rights groups have reported a higher toll and called for an independent investigation into Duterte's possible role in the violence.

Duterte "has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office," U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said. In April, a lawyer filed a complaint of crimes against humanity against Duterte and other officials in connection with the drug killings before the International Criminal Court. An impeachment complaint against the president was dismissed in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte's allies.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

More than a month into Duterte's presidency, the Philippines won a landmark arbitration case before a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated China's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea under a 1982 UN maritime treaty. Aiming to turn around his country's frosty relations with China, Duterte refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the ruling. He promised he would take it up with Beijing at some point. Confronting China, which has dismissed the ruling as a sham, risks sparking an armed conflict that the



MARAWI: Rescuers carry a body bag containing the remains of a victim of Marawi siege during a mass burial at a public cemetery. —AFP

Philippines would surely lose, Duterte contended.

In a news conference yesterday, Duterte said he told Chinese President Xi Jinping during a Beijing visit last year that the Philippines would drill for oil in disputed areas it asserts as its own, and that Xi responded that such an action would spark an armed confrontation. Nationalists and critics blasted Duterte for what they see as a sellout to China. After the Xi meeting, China allowed Filipino fishermen to return to Chinese-controlled Scarborough Shoal, where Chinese coast guard ships drove Filipinos away in 2012.

The Philippines had been the most vocal critic of China's assertive behavior in the disputed waters until Duterte took power and reached out to Beijing, partly to secure funding for infrastructure projects. His move has de-escalated tensions in the busy sea, but critics have warned that Duterte's friendly overtures to China may erode the country's chances of demanding that China comply with the ruling and relinquish its claims to waters regarded as the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. —AP

ISRAEL EMBASSY SHOOTING IN JORDAN COMPLICATES CRISIS

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SENDS ENVOY TO DIFFUSE SITUATION

JERUSALEM: A deadly shooting at Israel's Embassy in Jordan further complicated Israeli government efforts yesterday to find a way out of an escalating crisis over a major Jerusalem shrine, including mass Muslim prayer protests and Israeli-Palestinian violence. The shooting, in which an Israeli security guard killed two Jordanians after being attacked by one of them with a screwdriver, led to a diplomatic standoff between the two countries at a time when Jordan is heavily involved in efforts to defuse the crisis over the Jerusalem holy site.

Jordan is the Muslim custodian of the shrine, which is also holy to Jews. The 37-acre walled compound is the third holiest site of Islam, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. It is also the holiest site of Judaism, revered as the place where biblical Temples once stood. Jordanian officials said yesterday that the guard could only leave after an investigation, according to a news site linked to Jordan's military. Israel insisted the guard has diplomatic immunity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he spoke to the guard and assured him that Israel has experience in dealing with such a situation and would bring him home. He said Jordan's ambassador to Israel came to the Foreign Ministry earlier yesterday "to help solve the crisis." The drama played out as President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy, Jason Greenblatt, headed to the Holy Land yesterday. It was the first sign of a high-level, on-the-ground attempt by the Trump administration to end the standoff between Israel and the Muslim world.

The holy site is known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount. The escalation began earlier this month when Arab gunmen fired from the holy site, killing two Israeli policemen. In response, Israel installed metal detectors at the site, a move that incensed the Muslim world. The shooting at Israel's embassy in the Jordanian capital of Amman could further inflame Jordanian public opinion against Israel.

'Diplomatic measures'

The Amman shooting took place on Sunday evening in a residential building used by the embassy staff. Israel's Foreign Ministry said the incident began when two Jordanian workmen arrived at the building to replace furniture. It said one of the workers, later identified as a 17-year-old of Palestinian origin, attacked an Israeli security guard with a screwdriver.

The guard opened fire, killing the teen. A second Jordanian, the owner of the building who was also a physician, was hit by gunfire and later died of his wounds. The guard was lightly hurt, the ministry said. The Jordanian news site Hala Akhbar, which is linked to the kingdom's military, quoted diplomatic and security officials as saying that



WEST BANK: Palestinian protesters clash with Israeli security forces near the Jewish settlement of Beit El. — AFP

Jordan refused to let the guard leave without an investigation. The website quoted the officials as saying that Jordan might take "diplomatic measures" if Israel refuses to meet the demand.

Israel's Foreign Ministry did not refer to Jordanian demands, but said the guard enjoys diplomatic immunity under international conventions. An Israeli government official said talks were under way whether to evacuate the embassy staff, given the tensions in Jordan. He said either all or none of the staff would be evacuated, and that the security guard would not be left behind. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the diplomatic efforts underway to defuse the situation.

The father of the slain teen on Monday called for an investigation and said he would not bury his son until he was shown security camera footage of the incident. Zakariah Al-Jawawdeh told The Associated Press that his son Mohammed is a "son of Jordan who was shot on Jordanian soil" and he deserved justice. He described Mohammed as apolitical, saying his son spent long hours working in the family furniture store and had no time to watch the news.

Israel's security Cabinet met from late Sunday until the early hours of yesterday to discuss the crisis at the shrine and the embassy shooting, and was to convene again yesterday afternoon. Netanyahu said Israel is in regular contact "with security and government officials on all levels in Amman to bring as speedy a resolution as possible to this event."

Israel and Jordan signed a peace deal in 1994, but the agreement remains deeply unpopular in the kingdom where many residents are of

Palestinian origin. Jordan and Israel have close security ties, but frequently clash over Israeli policies at the Jerusalem shrine. Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty, said to trace its ancestry to the Prophet Muhammad, draws much of its legitimacy from its role as protector of the shrine.

Growing criticism

Meanwhile, the security Cabinet reached no decision after a six-hour meeting on how to defuse the crisis over the Jerusalem shrine, Israeli media said. The ministers were reportedly reviewing the initial decision on installing the metal detectors and weighing possible alternatives. Israel has said the metal detectors were a needed security measure to prevent future attacks. However, the government is facing growing domestic criticism, with some commentators saying it did not fully weigh all the repercussions of introducing new measures at the most volatile spot of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Muslim religious leaders have alleged that Israel is trying to expand its control at the site under the guise of security - a claim Israel denies. The tensions have led to mass prayer protests and deadly Israeli-Palestinian violence. Ikrema Sabri, a senior Muslim cleric, said Monday that Jerusalem's police chief, Yoram Halevi, met a day earlier with a lawyer representing the Muslim leadership to discuss solutions to the crisis.

Sabri said newly installed security cameras, described in media reports as a possible alternative to the metal detectors, were discussed. He said the lawyer was to brief the Muslim leadership later Monday on Israel's responses. — AP

NEW AL-SHABAB VIDEO CALLS TRUMP 'BRAINLESS BILLIONAIRE'

MOGADISHU: The Somalia-based Al-Shabab is mocking President Donald Trump in a new video that calls him a "brainless billionaire" as his administration steps up military efforts against what has become the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa. The SITE Intelligence Group says the video released Sunday includes the criticism of Trump as it addresses next month's presidential election in neighboring Kenya.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabab has claimed a growing number of deadly attacks in Kenya as the election approaches, and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta this month declared a new offensive against the extremists. Trump earlier this year approved expand-

ed military operations against Al-Shabab, including more aggressive airstrikes and considering parts of southern Somalia areas of active hostilities. Somalia also is included in Trump's ban on refugees and visitors from six mostly Muslim countries.

The new video says US voters elected "arguably the most stupid president a country could ever have" and says Trump is "making the United States the greatest joke on earth and is now propelling it further to its eventual defeat and destruction." The extremist group has vowed retribution on Kenya in particular for sending its troops to Somalia to take part in a multinational African Union force against Al-Shabab. — AP

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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State of Kuwait



Announcement by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Consumer Protection Department

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry – Consumer Protection Department announces that according to law No.39/2014 in connection with consumer protection, in coordination with OPW Company, it is announcing the removal or replacement of the swivel hose connections OPW from their authorized distributor Abdulla Sayed Rajab Al Reffai & sons as follows:

- Swivel connections model 241 W and 241 C (3/4 inch and 1 inch)
- Swivel connections model 36 S (3/4 inch and 1 inch)

Whereas the affected swivel connections are classified under the model number and manufacturing date in the swivel connections terminal in the following form: month and year (/) or month- day – year (/ /) or month-year (/). Only the swivel connections carrying the manufacturing stamp during the period from January 2013 to March 2017 are the ones affected. The following are the affected connections and the stamp dates:

Model	Manufacturing date
241TPS-0241C, ¾ inch	1/1/2013 to 12/3/2017
241TPS-0241, ¾ inch	1/2013 to 3/2017
241 TPS-1000, 1 inch	1/2013 to 3/2017
241 TPS-1000 C, 1 inch	1/1/2013 to 31/3/2017
241 TPS-91000, 1 inch	1/1/2013 to 31/3/2017
36S-5080, ¾ inch	1/1/2013 to 12/3/2017
36S-5090, 1 inch	1/2013 to 3/2017

These products were sold to gas stations as being independent units and as part of several hoses during the period from 1 January 2013 to 3 February 2017. These products were not sold to individual clients.

❖ Immediate required action:

- Inspection of the gas pumps and determining the affected swivel connections OPW and the affected date.
- Removal or replacement of all the affected swivel connections with the model numbers and affected date.
- If the swivel connection as part of several hoses is separate, the swivel connection shall only be replaced and not the full hose set.
- The application shall be registered on the website:
- <https://OpwSwivelRecall.expertinquiry.com> or contact No. (+965) 66089725 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday or (+44) 207 4425650 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The contact details and a number of confirmations should be indicated in order to identify the affected swivel connections which should be replaced.
- A mark shall be placed and the affected swivel connections disposed according to the instructions provided to you with the new swivel connections.
- The removal or replacement should take place without using the affected swivel connections. Reusing them may cause fire or serious personal injuries and death.

OPW regrets this disturbance to you and your business and appreciate your patience. We are working to guarantee the safety and quality of our products.

BRAZILIANS FUNNELED AS 'SLAVES' BY US CHURCH, EX-MEMBERS SAY

SPINDALE, North Carolina: When Andre Oliveira answered the call to leave his Word of Faith Fellowship congregation in Brazil to move to the mother church in North Carolina at the age of 18, his passport and money were confiscated by church leaders - for safekeeping, he said he was told.

Trapped in a foreign land, he said he was forced to work 15 hours a day, usually for no pay, first cleaning warehouses for the evangelical church and later working at businesses owned by the sect's senior ministers. Any violation of the rules risked the wrath of church leaders, he said, ranging from beatings to shaming from the pulpit.

An Associated Press investigation has found that Word of Faith Fellowship used its two church branches in Brazil to siphon a steady flow of young laborers who came on tourist and student visas to its 35-acre compound in rural Spindale. The Brazilians often spoke little English when they arrived and many had their

passports seized. "They kept us as slaves," Oliveira told the AP. "How can you do that to people - claim you love them and then beat them in the name of God?"

Assaults

Under US law, visitors on tourist visas are prohibited from performing work for which people normally would be compensated. Those on student visas are allowed some work, under circumstances that were not met at Word of Faith Fellowship, the AP found. In 2014, three former congregants told an assistant US attorney that the Brazilians were being forced to work without pay, according to a recording of the meeting obtained by the AP.

Jill Rose, now the US attorney in Charlotte, promised she would "take a fresh look at it," according to the recording. But the former members said she never responded when they repeatedly tried to contact her in the months after the meeting. Rose declined to comment

to the AP, citing an ongoing investigation. Oliveira, who fled the church last year, is one of 16 Brazilian former members who told the AP they were made to work while being subjected to physical or verbal assaults.

Former congregant Jay Plummer, an American, supervised remodeling projects for a church's leader business and confirmed the Brazilians' assertions that the U.S. workers who labored alongside them were paid while they were not. The revelations of forced labor are the latest in an ongoing AP investigation exposing decades of abuse at Word of Faith Fellowship. Based on exclusive interviews with 43 former members, documents and secretly made recordings, the AP reported in February that congregants were regularly punched and choked in an effort to "purify" sinners by beating out devils.

The church has rarely been sanctioned since it was founded in 1979 by Jane Whaley, a former math teacher, and

her husband, Sam. Another previous AP report outlined how congregants were ordered by church leaders to lie to authorities investigating reports of abuse. The AP made repeated attempts to obtain comments for this story from church leaders in both countries, but they did not respond.

Relationship with God

Under Jane Whaley's leadership, the church grew from a handful of followers to about 750 congregants in North Carolina and nearly 2,000 members in its churches in Brazil and Ghana and affiliations in Sweden, Scotland and other countries. Whaley and her lieutenants travel several times a year to the Brazilian branches, in the southeastern cities of Sao Joaquim de Bicas and Franco da Rocha.

She tells the Brazilian members of her flock that they can improve their lives and relationships with God with pilgrimages to Spindale, according to several of

those interviewed. Some said they also were enticed with the chance to attend college, to learn English, to see a bit of the US Others said they felt they had no choice but to travel to North Carolina. Perhaps to circumvent the rules against employment, church leaders sometimes referred to the forced labor projects as "volunteer work," according to Brazilians interviewed in both countries.

Many females worked as babysitters and in the church's K-12 school, and many males worked in construction, the former members said. The work included ripping out walls and installing drywall in apartments owned and rented out by a senior church minister, they said. "It was slave labor," said Rebeca Melo, 29, who grew up in the church in Brazil and visited the US about 10 times. Whaley's brand of "love" also played a key role in enticing Brazilian males to Spindale - and keeping them there once their visas expired, according to former members of the church. — AP

ABSURD: TURKEY TRIES ANTI-ERDOGAN JOURNALISTS ON 'TERROR' CHARGES

CASE INTENSIFIES ALARM OVER PRESS FREEDOM IN TURKEY

ISTANBUL: Staff from one of Turkey's most respected opposition newspapers yesterday rejected as absurd "terror" charges against them on the first day of a trial which has intensified alarm over press freedom under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The 17 defendants from the Cumhuriyet daily were detained from October last year and a dozen of them have now spent more than eight months in jail without being convicted of any crime.

They have been held under a state of emergency

marks the end of official censorship in the Ottoman Empire in 1908 under Sultan Abdulhamid II.

'Illogical'

Those appearing in court included some of the best known names in Turkish journalism including the columnist Kadri Gursel, the paper's editor-in-chief Murat Sabuncu, cartoonist Musa Kart as well as its chairman Akin Atalay. They are charged with supporting in the newspa-

illogical and against good sense," Gursel told the court. "There is nothing to justify my jailing-nothing apart from slander," he added. Atalay said it was the authorities who were scared. "But Cumhuriyet will not give in... independence and liberty are written into the DNA of the paper."

'Test for Turkey'

Cumhuriyet (Republic), which was set up in 1924 and is Turkey's oldest mainstream national title, has been a thorn in the side of Erdogan in recent years. It is one of the few genuine opposition voices in the press, which is dominated by strongly pro-government media and bigger mainstream dailies that are increasingly wary of challenging the authorities. Also being tried in the case is the investigative journalist Ahmet Sik who in 2011 wrote an explosive book "The Imam's Army" exposing the grip of the movement had on the Turkish state. Eleven of the 17 including Gursel, Sabuncu, Kart and Sik, are held in custody, while the others are free. Since their arrests, Cumhuriyet has continued publishing the columns of the jailed journalists but with a blank white space instead of text.

"This trial is a test for Turkey," Aydin Engin, one of the writers on trial who was freed after his initial arrest. "Erdogan says justice is balanced in Turkey. Now we will see." Being tried in absentia is the paper's former editor-in-chief Can Dundar, who was last year sentenced to five years and 10 months in jail over a front-page story accusing the government of sending weapons to Syria. He has now fled Turkey for Germany.

'Journalism on trial'

The opposition fears the emergency has been used to go after anyone who dares defy the government and the trial is seen as a test for press freedom under Erdogan. Turkey ranks 155th on the latest Reporters Without Borders (RSF) world press freedom index, below Belarus and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the P24 press freedom group, there are 166 journalists behind bars in Turkey, most of whom were arrested under the state of emergency. Erdogan, however, insisted in an interview earlier this month there were just "two real journalists" behind bars in Turkey and anyone else was jailed for offences including robbing ATMs. "It's journalism in Turkey, not just Cumhuriyet, that is being put on trial," said RSF secretary general Christophe Deloire.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in an opinion released last month, said it found that the detention of the staff was arbitrary and that they should be immediately released and given the right to compensation. Filiz Kerestecioglu, an MP from the opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), commented: "According to the government, all of the opposition are terrorists. The only ones that are not terrorists are themselves." — AFP



ISTANBUL: A journalist holds a banner yesterday outside the headquarters of opposition daily newspaper Cumhuriyet. — AFP

imposed after the July 2016 failed coup aimed at ousting Erdogan that the authorities blame on US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen. The staff-including writers, cartoonists and executives-were applauded by supporters crammed into the Istanbul courtroom as the trial opened, an AFP journalist said. Supporters released dozens of multicolored balloons outside the courthouse, chanting: "Don't be silenced! A free media is a right!"

If convicted, the defendants face varying terms of up to 43 years in jail. In an extraordinary coincidence, the trial opened on Turkey's annual national day of the press which

marks the end of official censorship in the Ottoman Empire in 1908 under Sultan Abdulhamid II.

marks the end of official censorship in the Ottoman Empire in 1908 under Sultan Abdulhamid II.

POLAND PRESIDENT VETOES DIVISIVE COURT REFORMS

WARSAW: Poland's president yesterday vetoed controversial judicial reforms that had prompted huge street protests and threats of unprecedented EU sanctions. President Andrzej Duda's veto was a surprise move as he is a close ally of the ruling rightwing Law and Justice (PiS) party that had pushed the reforms.



Andrzej Duda

had made his decision after consulting legal experts at the weekend, when thousands of people took to the streets across Poland urging him to veto proposals which critics say threaten the rule of law. The reforms now return for amendment to parliament, where they require a three-fifths majority-which the PiS does not have-to go through unchanged.

"I have decided to send back to parliament-therefore, to veto-the law on the Supreme Court, as well as the law on the National Council of the Judiciary," Duda said in a televised announcement. "This law would not strengthen the sense of justice" in society, he said. The opposition welcomed his move. "It's without a doubt a step in the right direction," said Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz, a lawmaker from the liberal Nowoczesna party. "It's proof that pressure from citizens can work."

Polish freedom icon Lech Walesa, a Nobel Peace laureate and former president, said he "was pleasantly surprised." "The people have woken up, young people have woken up... We'll do what we can so that these people (the conservatives) get off the wrong path or that we manage to replace them," Walesa said.

Candlelit protest

The reforms would have increased political control over the judiciary, sparking an outcry amongst critics who said the PiS party was seeking to reduce the independence of the courts. "It was never part of our tradition that the attorney general could interfere in the work of the Supreme Court," Duda said. The role of attorney general has been held by the justice minister in Poland since 2016, following one of the PiS's earlier reforms which sparked concern over the rule of law.

"I don't want this situation to deteriorate, because it's reinforcing divisions in society. There's only one Poland. Poland needs peace and I feel responsible for it as president," Duda said. He added that "a good reform" of the judicial system was needed and said he hoped to table his own versions of the laws within two months. Supreme Court chief justice Malgorzata Gersdorf offered Duda her "intellectual collaboration" on the new texts, and publicly thanked him for the veto.

The Polish senate had on Saturday backed the reforms, but they had still needed the president's sign-off. Huge crowds of protesters held a candlelit protest outside the Supreme Court on Sunday night urging Duda to veto the changes. Several hundred had gathered at the court again yesterday.

Urgent PiS meeting

The European Commission had threatened to halt Poland's voting rights over the proposed reforms-a so-called "nuclear option" that the EU had never invoked-while the United States had also expressed concern. The Commission's spokesman, Margaritis Schinas, said commissioners would discuss the situation tomorrow.

The government has defended the reforms, calling them indispensable to combat corruption and streamline the judicial system. — AFP



MAIDUGURI: Rescue workers remove a body following a suicide attack at a camp of people displaced by Islamist extremists. — AP

FOUR KILLED IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA SUICIDE ATTACKS

MAIDUGURI: Four people were killed in suicide bomb attacks at a camp for those displaced by the Boko Haram conflict in northeast Nigeria, the emergency services said yesterday. Abdulkadir Ibrahim, from the National Emergency Management Agency, said the blasts happened at about 11:20 pm (22:20 GMT) on Sunday, just outside the Borno state capital of Maiduguri.

"Two suicide bombers (a male and a female) detonated their improvised explosive devices at Dalori 1 IDP (internally displaced persons) camp, leading to the death of three IDPs, while 17 others were injured," he said in a statement. "Another incident occurred at Dalori 2 IDP camp, where a suicide bomber was intercepted, leading to the death of the suicide bomber."

Ahmed Sartori, the head of the Borno state emergency management agency, said the death toll had risen by late morning. "The death toll is now four, with the death of one more victim," he told AFP, adding

that another suicide bomber had died trying to get into the city's university. "A suicide bomber exploded while he was trying to scale the barbed wire fence at the university," he said. A trench is currently being dug around the campus, which lies on the edge of Maiduguri, to deter intruders after a spate of suicide bomb attacks on the premises.

Boko Haram blamed

The Islamist militant group Boko Haram has increasingly used suicide bombers in its eight-year insurgency that has left at least 20,000 dead and displaced more than 2.6 million others. Dalori, which is about 15 kilometers from Maiduguri, houses some 50,000 people in makeshift accommodation and has been targeted by bombers before.

On the evening of June 18, two women blew themselves up at Dalori 2, where 10,000 people are living. The attack injured several IDPs but killed only the bombers. — AFP

News

in brief



SCHAFFHAUSEN: The police shut down the old town of Schaffhausen in Switzerland, while they search for an unknown man who attacked people. — AP

5 injured in Swiss chainsaw attack

GENEVA: A man armed with a chainsaw injured at least five people in an attack in a Swiss town yesterday, local media reported. The Blick news site said police, ambulances and a helicopter had rushed to the scene in Schaffhausen and had sealed off the area. Witnesses, including a local shop manager, told Blick the attacker was wielding a chainsaw and that businesses and pedestrians had been evacuated. Police told multiple local media outlets there had been an attack but officers have not confirmed that a chainsaw was used.

Mugabe lavishes sis-in-law with \$60,000 birthday gift

HARARE: Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe lavished his sister-in-law with \$60,000 on her birthday, state-owned media reported yesterday, at a time when the country is running critically short of cash. The Herald newspaper said Mugabe, 93, and his wife Grace gave Junior Gumbochuma the money at her birthday celebrations, while the couple's children gave her \$10,000. "The gift was to thank Mrs Gumbochuma, a pastor, for the pivotal role she played in raising the First Family's children," the newspaper said. Gumbochuma, who is Grace Mugabe's elder sister, celebrated her 60th birthday on Sunday as Grace celebrated her 52nd at one of the Mugabes' farms in Shamva, northeast of Harare.

Maldives leader shuts parliament

COLOMBO: Maldives lawmakers were locked out of parliament yesterday after President Abdulla Yameen ordered it shut to prevent a vote to impeach his speaker, the opposition said, in the latest turmoil to grip the troubled honey-moon islands. Parliament had been expected to hear a no-confidence motion against the speaker but MPs found their way blocked, the Maldivian Democratic Party said. Party spokesman Hamid Abdul Ghafoor added several opposition MPs broke through the military cordon only to be pepper sprayed and evicted. The opposition this month secured enough support from government defectors to begin impeachment proceedings against the speaker, in a bid to wrest control of parliament from Yameen.

Vietnam says four fishermen wounded by Indonesian navy

HANOI: Four Vietnamese fishermen were shot and wounded by Indonesia's navy over the weekend, authorities said yesterday, the latest clash to erupt over fishing in the hotly disputed South China Sea. The Vietnamese fishing vessel, which had six sailors on board, was fired at late Saturday, according to an online report by the disaster and relief agency of Vietnam's central Binh Dinh province. The boat was led back to Vietnam's Con Dao island early Monday morning and the wounded men were rushed to hospital.

Floods swallow up Myanmar pagoda

YANGON: Rising floodwaters have swallowed a Buddhist pagoda in central Myanmar and sent tens of thousands fleeing their homes, as the government warned of more heavy rains ahead. Dramatic footage circulating on social media showed the riverside pagoda sinking into the flood waters in Magway region, with shocked bystanders looking on as its golden spire collapsed beneath the waves. Monk Pinyin Linkara, who filmed the footage, said the pagoda was destroyed on Thursday last week. "This pagoda was built in 2009, when it was far away from the river," he said yesterday.

Protesters wall off access to French migrant shelter

TOULOUSE: Protesters in a town in southwest France have built a nearly-two-meter-high wall around the entrance to a disused hotel to try to prevent it being turned into a migrant shelter. Working under cover of darkness, a few dozen residents of Semeac in the Pyrenees mountains erected a wall 18 meters long and 1.8 meters high barring access to the Formule 1 hotel, a spokesman for the group confirmed. "We not against taking in migrants," Laurent Teixeira told AFP. "But you have to take account of the citizens." Teixeira accused the authorities of failing to consult residents about the project to turn the former budget hotel into a shelter for up to 85 migrants.

CHINA WARNS INDIA OF ITS 'RESOLVE' AMID STANDOFF

BEIJING: China yesterday warned India not to "push your luck" by underestimating Beijing's determination to safeguard what it considers sovereign Chinese territory, amid an ongoing standoff between the two neighbors over a contested region high in the Himalayas. Defense ministry spokesman Col Wu Qian reiterated China's demand that Indian troops pull back from the Doklam Plateau, an area also claimed by Indian ally Bhutan where Chinese teams had been building a road toward India's border.

"China's determination and resolve to safeguard national security and sovereignty is unshakable," Wu said at a news conference to mark the upcoming 90th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army. "Here, I wish to remind India, do not push your luck and cling to any fantasies," Wu said. "The 90-year history of the PLA has proved but one thing: that our military means to secure our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity has strengthened and our determination has never wavered. It

is easier to shake a mountain than to shake the PLA." India has called for both

sides to withdraw forces and a negotiated settlement to the standoff that began

last month after Chinese troops began working to extend southward the road from Yadong in Tibet.

While the sides have exercised restraint thus far, heated rhetoric in both Beijing and New Delhi has raised concern over a renewal of hostilities that resulted in a brief but bloody frontier war between the sides in 1962. The nuclear-armed neighbors share a 3,500-kilometer border, much of it contested, and China acts as a key ally and arms supplier for India's archrival, Pakistan.

for dominance between the two for influence in Asia.

India has felt threatened by the growing presence of China's navy, diplomats and state-backed companies in the Indian Ocean region, while Beijing resents closer relations between New Delhi and Washington. India's decision not to participate in a massive Chinese-funded push to develop infrastructure and transport routes in Asia, known as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, has also rankled Beijing.

Keeping up a weeks-long propaganda assault on New Delhi, official Chinese newspapers yesterday again labeled India's actions on the Doklam Plateau as illegal and threatening to China's security. "Even if the standoff is resolved diplomatically, it has already crippled the bilateral relationship. This will have a long-term impact on Sino-Indian ties," Chinese India scholar Long Xingchun wrote in the Global Times, a nationalistic tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party. — AP



BEIJING: Chinese paramilitary policemen practice self-defense tactic in the compound of the State Council Information Office. — AP

Vociferous nationalism

The crisis is expected to be discussed when Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval visits Beijing at the end of this week for a security forum under the BRICS group of large developing nations that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The standoff has been fueled in part by a muscular and increasingly vociferous nationalism among both the Chinese and Indian publics against the background of competition

AT LEAST 26 KILLED IN KABUL BOMB CLAIMED BY TALEBAN

SPIRALING INSECURITY AS RESURGENT TALEBAN RAMP UP OFFENSIVE

KABUL: At least 26 people were killed and 41 wounded yesterday after a Taliban-claimed car bomb struck a bus carrying government employees through a Shiite neighborhood in Kabul, raising fears of sectarian violence in the Afghan capital. The assault came as a presidential spokesman said the Taliban also killed at least 35 civilians in an attack on a hospital in central Ghor province over the weekend. The deadly attacks underscore spiraling insecurity in Afghanistan as the resurgent Taliban ramp up their offensive across the country, while security forces struggle to contain them.

In yesterday's blast the bus was carrying employees of the ministry of mines, passing from western Kabul to the downtown ministry during rush hour, interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish told AFP. It was struck by the car bomb as it passed through a busy area of the capital that is home to many Shiite Hazaras, a persecuted ethnic minority. An AFP photographer at the scene saw multiple bodies and wounded people in the street, surrounded by shattered glass as security forces cordoned off the area.

The bus's charred remains were left smoking in the middle of the road as the wounded were rushed to hospitals in ambulances as well as private cars and taxis. "It was a huge explosion, my house nearly collapsed," a neighborhood resident who gave his name as Mostafa told AFP, adding that the street was "filled with human flesh and blood." "It was horrible," said shopkeeper Momin. "It is a crowded area-many of my friends and other shopkeepers are either killed or wounded."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast, which came just before 7 am. The group rarely claims attacks with high civilian casualties, but does frequently target government employees. Afghan presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi put the toll at 26 dead and 41 wounded. At a press conference, Murtazawi also said at least 35 people were killed in the hospital attack over the weekend.

All the victims were civilians, Murtazawi said, without specifying if they were patients or staff. "This is a cruel crime against humanity," he added. He did not elaborate, and officials say phone lines are down in Taywara district, captured by the militants over the weekend. The Taliban have denied the claim and reports they torched the hospital, though a spokesman said parts of the building were damaged in fighting.



KABUL: Footwear of victims are seen on the ground as Afghan residents inspect the site of a car bomb attack. — AFP

Ghor is a poor, mountainous province that has been relatively safe in the past but shares a border with the Taliban-infested provinces of Helmand and Farah.

Demonstration cancelled

Afghan forces control 59.7 percent of the country, according to a US watchdog's report issued in May after the winter lull in fighting, up slightly from the previous quarter. But the insurgents have ramped up their offensive across the country since launching their so-called "spring offensive" earlier this year.

Yesterday's attack in Kabul came as the Hazara community had planned to hold a demonstration in the same neighborhood to mark the one-year anniversary of twin bombings that killed 84 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State. They had agreed to postpone the demonstration over security fears and after meeting with President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday.

The Taliban have carried out sectarian attacks in the past, though they have been rare in Sunni-majority Afghanistan throughout its

decades of war. The rise of IS, which has frequently targeted Shiites, has fuelled the spectre of more such assaults, with fears Monday that Hazaras had been the target of the car bomb rather than the government employees.

Others suggested the politician Mohammad Mohaqeq, whose home is nearby, could have been the target. Kabul is regularly rocked by suicide bombs and assaults. A recent UN report showed that attacks on the capital accounted for nearly one-fifth of all civilian Afghan casualties in the first half of 2017. Many died in a single devastating attack in late May when a truck bomb exploded, also during the morning Kabul rush hour, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds.

The bloody toll for the first six months of 2017 has unsettled the government and put increasing pressure on Ghani, who condemned yesterday's attack. NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan ended three years ago, handing sole responsibility to the country's security forces, which have also suffered spiraling casualties as they try to beat back the Taliban. — AFP



SHA ALAM: Ithram-clad Malaysian Muslim boys from the Little Caliphs kindergarten circumambulate a mockup of the Kaaba, Islam's most sacred structure located in the holy city of Makkah, during an educational simulation of the Hajj pilgrimage. — AFP

MALAYSIAN CHILDREN PARADE IN WHITE ROBES FOR PRACTICE HAJJ

KUALA LUMPUR: Thousands of Malaysian children took part in a practice run for the Muslim hajj pilgrimage yesterday, walking round a model of the holy Kaaba shrine under the tropical sun. About 4,000 six year olds, dressed in white robes of the kind worn by pilgrims and carrying green bags, participated in the "Little Hajj" event in a field outside the capital Kuala Lumpur. The Kaaba is a square building covered in a veil located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is the holiest shrine in Islam. Part of the hajj involves walking round the Kaaba. Khairizah Kamaruddin, spokeswoman for the organizers, said the event was aimed at getting youngsters ready to perform the annual hajj at a future date.

"The aim of this simulation is to educate young Muslims of the importance of the hajj and remove any fear or anxiety when they perform the actual rites around the crowded Kaaba," Khairizah told AFP. "The children were so excited, they are now looking forward to conducting the actual hajj pilgrimage." The children taking part in the "Little Hajj" also threw pebbles at a wall during a practice version of the "stoning of the devil", another of the hajj rituals. Predominantly Muslim Malaysia sends some 27,000 pilgrims to perform the hajj every year. The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, and marks the spiritual peak of their lives. — AFP

CHINA ANTI-GRAFT WATCHDOG PROBES POLITBURO MEMBER

BEIJING: The Chinese Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog has launched an investigation into a Politburo member who was once seen as a contender for a top leadership post, state media reported yesterday. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection is investigating Sun Zhengcai, who until a week ago was party chief in the major city of Chongqing, for "serious discipline violation", Xinhua news agency said.

Sun is the first serving member of the 25-person Politburo to be placed under investigation since Bo Xilai, who was jailed

for life in 2013 in the wake of President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign. Xinhua's brief report did not say whether Sun would remain a member of the Politburo.

His replacement as party chief in Chongqing was announced on July 15. The shake-up in Chongqing comes as the Communist Party prepares for a congress later this year that will likely cement Xi's position as the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation. At the gathering, Xi is widely expected to secure a second five-year term. — AP

64 YEARS AFTER KOREAN WAR, NORTH STILL DIGS UP BOMBS

HAMHUNG: In the 10 years he has been digging up ordnance from the Korean War, Maj Jong Il Hyon has lost five colleagues to explosions. He carries a lighter one gave him before he died. He also bears a scar on his left cheek from a bomb disposal mission gone wrong. Sixty-four years after it ended, the war is still giving up thousands of bombs, mortars and pieces of live ammunition. Virtually all of it is American, but Jong noted that more than a dozen other countries fought on the US side, and every now and then their bombs will turn up as well.

"The experts say it will take 100 years to clean up all of the unexploded ordnance, but I think it will take much longer," Jong said in an interview with The Associated Press at a construction site on the outskirts of Hamhung, North Korea's second-largest city, where workers unearthed a rusted but still potentially deadly mortar round in February. Last October, 370 more were found in a nearby elementary school playground.

According to Jong, his bomb squad is one of nine in North Korea, one for each province. His unit alone handled 2,900 leftover explosives - including bombs, mortars and live artillery shells - last year. He said this year they have already disposed of about 1,200. Fortunately, there have been only a few injuries in the past few years. But Jong said an 11-year-old boy who found a bomb in May lost several fingers when it went off while he was playing with it.

Explosive legacy

North Korea is just one of many countries still dealing with the explosive legacy of major wars. In Asia alone, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and even Japan have huge amounts of unexploded ordnance left to clean up. The three-year Korean War, which ended in what was supposed to be a temporary armistice on July 27, 1953, was one of the most brutal ever fought.

Virtually all of the 22 major cities in North Korea were severely damaged and hundreds of thousands of civilians killed by US saturation bombing. The tonnage of bombs dropped on the North was about the same as the total dropped by the US against Japan during World War II. North Korea is probably second only to Cambodia as the most heavily bombed country in history. — AP

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

Focus

TRAFFICKED, BEATEN, ABUSED: LIFE OF A NIGERIAN HOUSE GIRL

Handed over by her mother to an agent at the age of 10, Titi was crammed into a truck in the tiny West African nation of Benin and driven across the border into southwest Nigeria. Titi feared the worst. She recalled how a previous employer in Nigeria had welcomed her with a thin mat and a leather whip. "Sometimes, she beat us," said Titi, recounting the businesswoman who had flogged the girls for the smallest mishaps, such as breaking a plate. Bed had been the floor.

"Sometimes, she didn't give us breakfast till after 1 pm," Titi, now 14, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from Lagos, where she works for a "nicer" family - cleaning, cooking and caring for children for 18 hours a day. Titi is one of countless young girls working as domestic servants in cities across the nation, far from their own homes in rural Nigeria or neighboring countries such as Benin. Many girls are sent away by their parents who cannot afford to feed or school them, while others provide for their families - sometimes acting as the main breadwinner.

Some girls, like Titi, are abused, cut off from their relatives, denied an education and left with nowhere to turn. With Nigeria facing its first recession in 25 years, rampant unemployment and booming population growth, activists fear more and more girls may be forced into housework as families plunge deeper into poverty and so-called agents seek out profits. Halting this phenomenon presents a huge challenge. Little data exists on the number of girls working as maids, confusion surrounds the laws about their minimum age and the practice is deeply ingrained in Nigerian culture.

"These are under-the-radar crimes so there is no data on how many house help are trafficked through Nigeria's borders," said Arinze Orakwue of Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency NAPTIP. "These are usually done under the auspices of the family so it's difficult to prosecute," Orakwue added.

Taking a Cut

House girls in Nigeria are usually employed by upper- and middle-class families with disposable income to spare, especially by working women who rely on these children to ease their domestic load while they focus on paid jobs. "I decided to hire house help because of too many domestic responsibilities," said Eucharía Anuligo, a banker and mother of two in Abuja, who employs three girls, the youngest aged 14. "I believe the girls are better off with me than with their families," added Anuligo, who sends her employees to school.

Many women who are in the market for house help turn to the agents, who source young girls from within Nigeria, as well as nearby countries, before transporting them to their new employers, taking a cut of the salary as commission. Many agents demand that the young domestic workers provide a guarantor who knows their family, so that they can be held accountable if the children steal or commit other crimes.

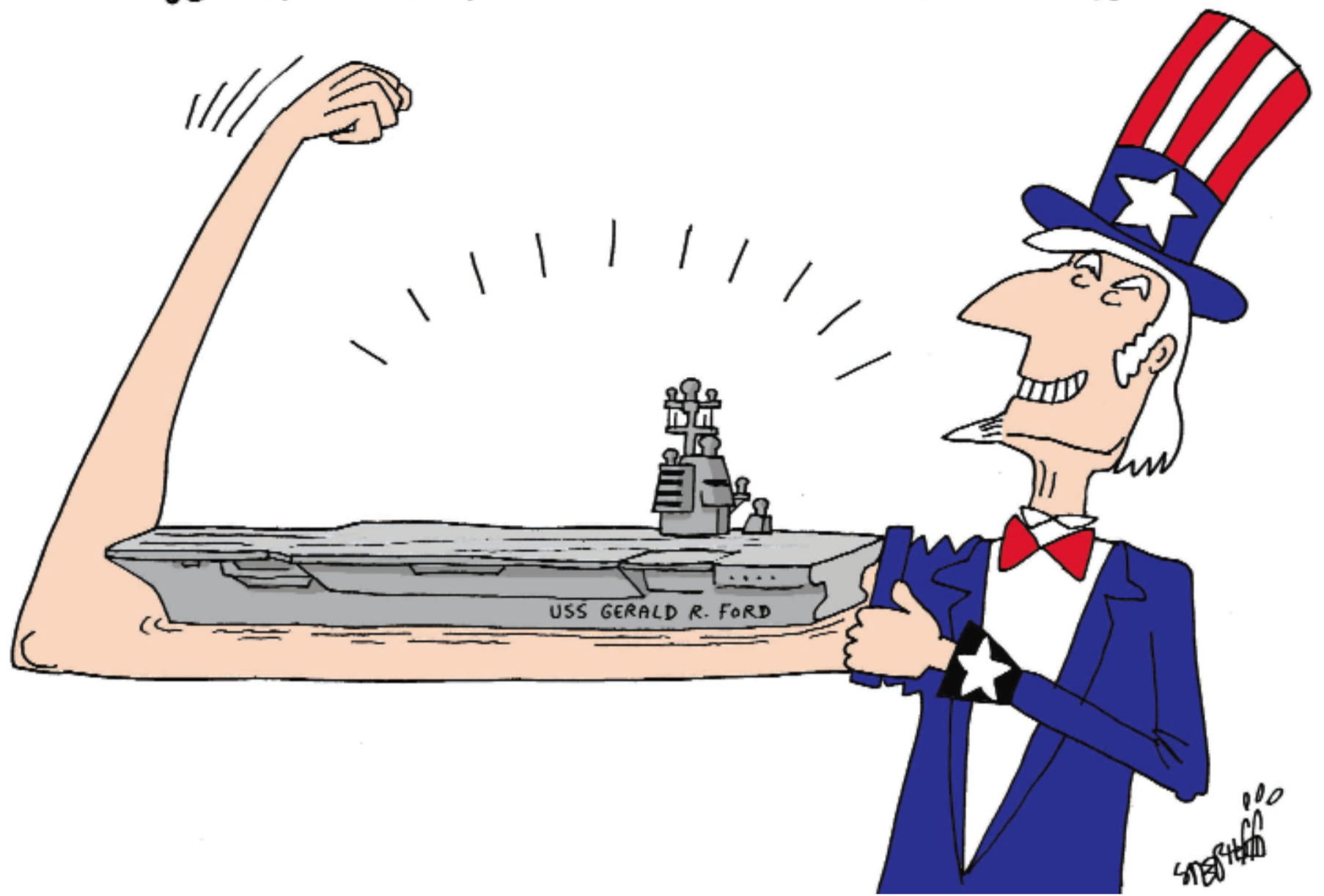
One agent, a 50-year-old known as 'Uncle', said those in his ranks, as well as the families of the girls, like to move maids regularly from one household to another because of the fresh commission it generates, and the higher wages they can demand. Despite the long days of domestic slog, Titi wants to stay with her current family. While they do not send her to school or teach her English like her previous employers, they are kind and provide her with a salary of 10,000 naira (\$33) per month. Yet, despite her protests, Titi's mother says she must move to a new family when her two-year contract expires in December. "Some agents just collect the commission from the girl's salary," added the Lagos-based 'Uncle'. "When she has worked just three months in a place, they want to move her again." "They don't care whether the girl is happy there or not."

Crackdown

While police, NAPTIP officials and human rights activists are working to curb the trafficking and abuse of house girls, Nigeria's laws regarding the minimum age of employment are inconsistent, according to a 2015 US Labor Department report. The Child Rights Act prohibits those under 18 from working yet the Labor Act sets the minimum age of employment at 12, said the report, which detailed the world's worst child labor. However, Nigeria in 2015 amended its trafficking law to increase penalties for offenders and criminalize the employment of children under 12 in domestic labor, a move activists hope will give authorities greater power to crack down. The National Human Rights Commission, a government rights watchdog, said it frequently received reports of house girls being abused, and worked with the police and NAPTIP to secure prosecutions as well as provide shelter and aid for the victims. — Reuters

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US NAVY'S 100,000-TON MESSAGE TO THE WORLD



MUSLIMS STRUGGLING TO ESCAPE GUJARAT GHETTOS

Sahjahan Bano was a young boy in Feb 2002, selling vegetables with his mother in a market in Ahmedabad in the western Indian state of Gujarat, when some of the worst communal riots in the country's history broke out. For days mobs rampaged the city, burning houses, looting shops, raping women and killing men, women and children. More than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, died in the violence.

Bano and his mother, who hid in the market the first night, were taken to a relief camp the next day where other Muslims huddled, awaiting news of their families and homes. It was a month before Bano was reunited with other family members - and eight months before they could leave the camp. They moved into what they thought would be a temporary home in Citizen Nagar, an enclave of 116 modest homes, built quickly by a Muslim charity for some of the displaced families.

Fifteen years on, Bano and his family still live there, spilling out of their two-room home in a fly-infested neighborhood flanked by a large, smoking landfill. "We lost everything in the riots," said Bano, 23, a lanky young man, staring into the distance. "We are very grateful for this house, but we die a little everyday here: The smoke, the smell, the rubbish, the lack of facilities. We have thought about moving, but where can we go?"

The riots displaced about 200,000 people in the state, mostly Muslims. Some returned to their homes, while others found new accommodation in mainly Muslim neighborhoods. Muslim charities resettled about 17,000 people in 80 colonies across Gujarat, among India's wealthiest states. Fifteen of these colonies are in Ahmedabad. Every family in these colonies lost family, homes, possessions or businesses in the riots, which led to greater segregation and marginalization.

"The state has done very little to resettle the victims," said Shamshad Pathan, a lawyer who has represented some victims in their fight for more compensation from the government. "Today, Ahmedabad is a segregated city: You

will not find many buildings or neighborhoods where Hindus and Muslims live together. Muslims are forced to live in ghettos, excluded from the development of the rest of the city and state," he said.

State Sanctioned

Nearly 800,000 people have been displaced by conflict and violence in India, according to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. The data is not specific to communal violence. Muslims displaced by communal violence are often too fearful to return to their homes, and have asked the government to relocate them. But government officials say that would promote division rather than unity between Muslims and Hindus, who make up about 80 percent of India's population.

But informal rules and deep-rooted biases are eroding the multicultural nature of India's cities and dividing communities into ghettos, analysts say. Horrific as the Gujarat riots were, they were not solely responsible for the segregation in the state. A property law unique to Gujarat, the birthplace of India's founding father Mahatma Gandhi, helped create ghettos and a sense of apartheid in its urban areas well before 2002.

The "Disturbed Areas Act" (1991), a law that restricts Muslims and Hindus from selling property to each other in "sensitive" areas, was meant to avert an exodus or distress sales in neighbourhoods hit by inter-religious unrest. The state, headed at the time by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, amended the law in 2009 to give local officials more power in property sales. It also extended the reach of the law, saying it was doing so to protect Muslims, who make up about 10 percent of the state's 63 million people.

But critics say the act's enforcement and the addition of new districts under it - about 40 percent of Ahmedabad is governed by the law - means it is being applied as a tool of social engineering. "It is state sanctioned segregation," said Pathan. "As a result, Muslims are confined to the filthiest corners, with no hope of upliftment. Development and

progress are for everyone else in the state, but not for Muslims," he said.

'Little Pakistan'

The division is so marked that Juhapura, a teeming township in Ahmedabad of about 400,000 people, many who moved there after the 2002 riots, is referred to by local Hindus as "Little Pakistan". Conditions there and in other Muslim settlements in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's largest city, are similar: Residents lack proper roads, streetlights, adequate drinking water, sewage pipes, and access to public clinics and schools.

They also do not own the small homes they live in, whose title deeds are with the charities that built them. "They don't own their homes, they can't live anywhere else; they are just forgotten here," said Rasidaben Abdul Sheikh of the Adhikar Prapti Kendra charity that works with riot victims. "After 15 years, their difficulties are no less. Maybe they feel a bit more secure because they are living with their own people, but in many ways they are worse off," she said. Elsewhere in Gujarat, which has among the most slums in the country, officials are backing residents as they upgrade and redevelop their settlements, but not here. Calls to the state social welfare department were not returned. The federal government, in response to petitions, said it has given Gujarat about 4.3 billion rupees (\$6.7 million) to compensate victims, including for residential and commercial losses.

Victims say the compensation was not enough to buy new homes. There's little evidence of that money in Mehtab Colony, another Muslim settlement of 16 houses for riot victims. Piles of rubbish lie in the open courtyard where stray dogs scavenge. "We used to live in a neighborhood with Hindus, but we never went back to our home," said Razia Aseembhai Kedawala, standing outside her one-room home. "This is where we have lived for 15 years. Perhaps we will live here always; we have nowhere else to go." — Reuters

THAI DISSIDENT FIGHTS TO KEEP HISTORY ALIVE

Carrying a bucket of cement and a heavy bronze plaque, Ekachai Hongkangwan set out across Bangkok's heavily-policed Royal Plaza in late June to perform a solo act of DIY dissent. But the 42-year-old was quickly bundled into a police van before he could lay down the metal disc - an exact replica of a monument that was mysteriously removed in April, sparking fears officials were trying to whitewash history. The 38-cm plaque, which had lain undisturbed for decades, marked the bloodless 1932 Siamese Revolution that ended absolute monarchy.

But it was suddenly replaced with a new plaque espousing loyalty to Thailand's royal family, an institution whose influence has roared back into prominence in recent decades as democracy has faltered. The date Ekachai chose for his one man protest was 24 June, the anniversary of that revolution. "I wanted to dig the new one out but I think (knew) it will be very difficult for me," he told AFP from his house in eastern Bangkok, a wry smile across his face.

The attempted restoration was a dangerous and rare act of subversion in a country smothered by an arch-royalist military and where criticism of the monarchy is being purged at an unprecedented rate. More than 100 people have been charged with Thailand's notorious lese majeste law since the junta's 2014 coup, threatened with up to 15-years in jail for each slight to the country's royals.

Unprecedented purge

Record-breaking, decades-long sentences have been handed down and many of those advocating for reform of the law or pushing for greater scrutiny of the royals have gone to ground, fled or been imprisoned. Ekachai, a former lottery ticket seller, served nearly three years for the offence in 2011. His crime was selling Thai translations of State Department cables and international press reports that were unflattering of the then Crown Prince and now King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Since his release Ekachai stayed away from protest, choosing instead to set up a small foundation to help those charged with lese majeste.

But the disappearance of the plaque reignited his defiance. "This is a democracy symbol," he said, proudly retrieving the replica plaque from the back of his house, which authorities returned after he was released without charge for his stunt. "They try to make it a hidden history." Junta officials and police have said they do not know what happened to the original plaque, a position that stretches credibility given it lay outside a palace in a heavily policed area of the city. CCTV cameras were not working when the plaque vanished and authorities have warned against fur-

ther protests or enquiries over the mystery. Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a politics expert at Chulalongkorn University, described the plaque as "a bump on the road of Thailand's royalist narrative". Until its removal few knew it existed "even those who live in Bangkok". "But now its controversial disappearance has led to a kind of rebirth of the June 1932 political change from absolutism to constitutional rule," he told AFP.

A history lesson

So far Ekachai has managed to avoid being charged over the plaque and he steers clear of any direct criticism of Thailand's royals. Instead he focuses on trying to reform the lese majeste law, which makes scrutiny of the family impossible and forces media to self-censor. It was during the last few decades of King Bhumibol's 70-year reign that the law was increasingly wielded, despite an address the late monarch gave in 2005 saying he was not above criticism. Since Bhumibol's death in October little has changed

under Vajiralongkorn, who has yet to attain his father's widespread popularity. At least eight people are known to have been charged with lese majeste charges since his succession. One case expected to hit the courts soon involves a man charged for liking a sarcastic Facebook post about Bhumibol's favorite dog.

"I'm not opposed to the monarchy," Ekachai said, a portrait of the recently departed King Bhumibol Adulyadej hanging behind him. "But that doesn't mean we should be unable to criticize them at all," he said. While Ekachai admits his plaque replacement stunt was never going to succeed, he dismisses those who say such acts are futile.

Following his detention he discovered his military interrogator was unaware that the date he had chosen marked the anniversary of the 1932 revolution. "In school they teach them nothing about this, they try to erase it from history," he said. Breaking into a chuckle, Ekachai said he was delighted to get a chance to give the officer a brief lesson. — AFP



This photograph taken on July 12, 2017 shows Thai dissident Ekachai Hongkangwan holding a brass replica of the missing plaque commemorating the year Thailand went from being an absolute monarchy to a democracy in 1932, outside his house in Bangkok. — AFP

PARENTS OF TERMINALLY-ILL UK BABY END LEGAL FIGHT

LONDON: The parents of British baby Charlie Gard yesterday abandoned their legal fight to take him to the United States for experimental treatment in a case that has attracted global attention. A lawyer representing Gard's parents Connie Yates and Chris Gard told judge Nicholas Francis at London's High Court that "time had run out" and that they had made their decision after seeing the 11-month-old's latest brain scans. "We have decided it is no longer in Charlie's best interests to pursue treatment and we will let our son go," father Chris Gard said outside court. "He had a real genuine chance of life. We are truly devastated. We are now going to spend our last precious moments with our son, who unfortunately won't make his first birthday in just under two weeks' time," he added. Judge Francis had been due to rule on whether there was enough new evidence to allow the

parents to take the baby, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder, to the US for a type of treatment that has never been used on a human being. Charlie suffers from a rare form of mitochondrial disease, which causes progressive muscle weakness in the heart and other key organs. British doctors believe Gard's brain damage is "severe and irreversible" and have said the baby "may be suffering". Great Ormond Street Hospital argued that Gard's illness has left him "deprived of his senses" and that he is "without any awareness" as far as doctors can tell. "He has no quality of life and no real prospect of any quality of life," the hospital said. But father Chris Gard criticized the authorities, saying "there is one simple reason why treatment cannot now go ahead, and that is time." "Had Charlie been given the treatment sooner, he would have had the potential to be a normal, healthy lit-

tle boy," he said. "We will have to live with the what-ifs, that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. Our son is an absolute warrior and we will miss him terribly." The couple fought a long legal fight to allow them to take their child out of London's Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), but lost in both Britain's Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The ruling led to the intervention of both US President Donald Trump and Pope Francis, who offered to help the baby, leading to the hospital to ask the courts for a final assessment of any new evidence. The latest legal battle saw new testimony from a US neurologist, but a lawyer also warned the boy's parents Connie Yates and Chris Gard that latest scans made "sad reading". In response, Chris Gard shouted "evil", while mother Connie burst into tears. With emotions running high, the hospital on Saturday said that it had contacted police over a "shocking and disgraceful tide of hostility and disturbance." "Staff have received abuse both in the street and online," it said. Mother Connie responded that "we do not, and have not ever, condoned any threatening or abusive remarks towards any staff member", but added that they too had suffered "the most hurtful comments from the public". Great Ormond Street Hospital said the parents "command GOSH's utmost respect and humble all who work there". Scores of supporters holding blue balloons gathered outside the court for yesterday's hearing, and reacted to the news with anger, chanting: "shame on you judge" and "shame on GOSH". The parents now want to establish a foundation "for Charlie's voice to be heard," according to their lawyer Grant Armstrong. Judge Francis paid tribute to the parents "for the love and the care they gave to their child Charlie". "No parents could have done more for their child," he said. — AFP



LONDON: Undated handout photo of Chris Gard and Connie Yates with their son Charlie Gard at Great Ormond Street Hospital. — AP



WASHINGTON: White House senior adviser Jared Kushner (center) accompanied by his attorney Abbe Lowell (right) arrives on Capitol Hill yesterday to meet behind closed doors before the Senate Intelligence Committee. — AP

KUSHNER SAYS MET RUSSIANS FOUR TIMES, DENIES COLLUSION

WASHINGTON: Senior White House adviser Jared Kushner said yesterday he had contacts with Russian officials four times during his father-in-law Donald Trump's presidential campaign but denied any collusion, hours before facing grilling by senators as part of the probe into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election. In a statement he will submit to investigators, Kushner described contacts during last year's campaign with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and other Russians as routine. The sprawling probe has plagued the White House since the president took office, with many influential members of Trump's team having failed to report their contacts with Russian officials. "I did not collude, nor know of anyone else in the campaign who colluded, with any foreign government," Kushner said in the prepared remarks. "I had no improper contacts. I have not relied on Russian funds to finance my business activities in the private sector," Kushner said in the 11-page statement. The statement was the first time the reticent Kushner - a key figure of Trump's inner circle who is married to the president's eldest daughter Ivanka - publicly explained his contacts with Russian officials. "I am not a person who has sought the spotlight," he said. "Because there has been a great deal of conjecture, speculation, and inaccurate information about me, I am grateful for the opportunity to set the record straight." Kushner was testifying in a closed-door meeting before the Senate intelligence committee yesterday. He is scheduled to appear before the House panel today.

Michael Flynn, who became Trump's national security advisor but was quickly ousted over his contacts with the Russian ambassador. "I stated our desire for a fresh start in relations," Kushner said of the meeting, saying he asked Kislyak who had direct lines to Russian President Vladimir Putin and was open for dialogue. "The fact that I was asking about ways to start a dialogue after Election Day should of course be viewed as strong evidence that I was not aware of one that existed before Election Day," Kushner said. The senior advisor emphasized that he "did not suggest an on-going secret form of communication for then or for when the administration took office." Kushner said Kislyak recommended meeting with banker Sergey Gorkov - "someone with a direct line to the Russian President who could give insight into how Putin was viewing the new administration and best ways to work together," the statement said. Trump's son-in-law said Gorkov expressed hope for improved US-Russian relations but that no specific policies were discussed.

A 'waste of time'
The 36-year-old, working in his first political position, will be asked about meetings with Russia's ambassador to Washington, the head of a major Russian bank and a Russian lawyer - the latter along with Trump's son Donald Jr. In his statement Kushner said the June 2016 meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya - which Donald Jr had taken hoping to get dirt on his father's rival Hillary Clinton - was a "waste of time" He acknowledged a brief meeting with Kislyak in April 2016, and another during his father-in-law's transition - a meeting also attended by

Fresh sanctions
Kushner said there was no mention of sanctions in his talks with both Kislyak and Gorkov. The topic has made recent headlines as Congress prepares to approve fresh punitive measures against Moscow. The Senate overwhelmingly passed new tough measures in mid-June, and after reaching an agreement the House is set to vote Tuesday on a bill targeting Russia over the suspected campaign meddling as well as its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. The Kremlin has warned such sanctions would be "counter-productive and harmful to the interests of both countries". Special counsel and former FBI director Robert Mueller is leading the investigation into possible collusion. The House and Senate, however, have organized separate probes. Donald Trump Jr and Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign director, are currently negotiating with the Senate Judiciary Committee about when they will appear to give their version of events. — AFP

IRAN AMBASSADOR TO REMAIN IN KUWAIT...

Continued from Page 1

severed relations with Iran, although it kept a charge d'affaires and two officials. Meanwhile, Islamist opposition MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei submitted a draft law proposing jail terms of up to 20 years for supporters and members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group and called to declare the group as a terrorist organization. The draft law declares that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. It stipulates a jail term of between 10 and 20 years for any Kuwaiti for joining or expressing any form of loyalty with Hezbollah and for those who establish any group or association that belongs to or supports Hezbollah. It proposes a jail term of up to five years for those who use any logo or symbol of Hezbollah. The penalty also applies to those who support or promote Hezbollah through the media and social networks. The draft law also calls for banning the entry of members of Hezbollah into Kuwait. The legislation comes days after Kuwait lodged an official protest to the Lebanese government after the conviction of the 21 Kuwaiti Shiites of joining Hezbollah and undergoing military training at the group's camps in Lebanon.

Kuwait called on the Lebanese government to take all necessary measures to curb Hezbollah's practices, since the organization has ministers in the Lebanese cabinet. Tabtabaei said the draft law came following the cassation court's conviction that the terror cell were members of Hezbollah and that they underwent specialized military training, especially for the use of explosives. The court ruling, which was released yesterday, said large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives were seized from the terror cell. The weapons included hundreds of hand grenades and machineguns, several tonnes of ammunition and a number of missiles. The ruling also detailed how Iran and Hezbollah established the cell, providing them with training and helped them smuggle large quantities of explosives by sea from Iran. It also said that members of the cell held meetings with Iranian intelligence officers, acting as diplomats, at the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait City and with the Revolutionary Guard in Iran. The draft law must be approved by National Assembly panels and later in the Assembly by voting and has to be accepted by the government to become law.

QATAR, TURKEY PRAISE KUWAIT MEDIATION

Continued from Page 1

Erdogan held talks on Sunday in Kuwait, which is leading mediation efforts in the crisis, and Saudi Arabia, where King Salman hailed the Turkish leader's "efforts in the fight against terrorism and its financing". Erdogan has voiced support for the mediation efforts of Kuwait, a possible indication that Ankara sees Kuwait as the key to resolving the crisis. Qatar's emir said in an address to the nation on Friday that Doha was open to talks with the Saudi-led bloc on condition his country's "sovereignty" was

respected. His call received a cold reception from the UAE's state minister for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, who wanted Qatar to review its policies. "Dialogue is necessary, but it should be based on a revision" of Qatar's stance, he tweeted. Qatar has emerged as Turkey's top ally in the Middle East in recent years, with Ankara and Doha closely coordinating over issues including the Syria conflict where the two are staunch foes of President Bashar Al-Assad. Turkey is also setting up a military base in Qatar, its only such outpost in the region. It has expedited the process since the crisis began and reportedly now has 150 troops in the emirate. — Agencies

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ANCELOTTI RULES OUT VIDAL MOVE

SINGAPORE: Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti said yesterday there was "no way" that Arturo Vidal would leave the club but admitted that Renato Sanches could be on his way. Manchester United are rumoured to be chasing both midfielders but Ancelotti ruled out any move for the combative Chilean international Vidal. "There is no way. Vidal is our player, I have a lot of confidence," said the Italian coach, asked about reports in the British media about United's interest in the 30-year-old. Speaking in Singapore on the eve of a friendly with Chelsea, Ancelotti said that there was a chance that the Portuguese Sanches, who had a poor first season with the German champions, may be heading for the exit. "Can be a possibility, but can also be a possibility to stay with us," the manager said when asked if Sanches would depart after just one season, with British media reporting that United boss Jose Mourinho is close to securing a loan move for the 19-year-old. —AFP



PEDRO SUFFERED MULTIPLE FRACTURES: CHELSEA BOSS

SINGAPORE: Chelsea boss Antonio Conte said yesterday that forward Pedro sustained "multiple fractures" to his face after colliding with Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina. The 29-year-old Spaniard was taken to hospital with a bloodied face after Ospina flew into him while clearing a ball with two fists during the Blues' 3-0 pre-season win over their London rivals in Beijing on Saturday. Pedro spent the night in a Beijing hospital and returned to London the following day. Speaking to media in Singapore ahead of a friendly with Bayern Munich on Tuesday, Conte said: "The situation was more serious because I hoped that it would only be a concussion. Instead he had multiple fractures and I think with a mask in 10 days, he could come back to work for us." Conte said there was no ill-feeling towards Ospina. "Absolutely no, because I was a player, I know these accidental (challenges) could happen," said Conte. "Ospina tried to take the ball." —AFP

DANISH KEEPER SORENSEN RETIRES AFTER 24 SEASONS

MELBOURNE: Former Denmark international goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen said yesterday he is retiring from professional football after a playing career spanning 24 years. A veteran of over 350 matches in the English Premier League with Sunderland, Aston Villa and Stoke City, Sorensen played 101 times for the Danish national team. The 41-year-old ends his career after two seasons with Melbourne City in Australia's A-League, where he was named the league's goalkeeper of the year in his first season. "It was a very challenging decision, but after reflecting on my career and my achievements to this point, I knew the time was right, both mentally and physically," Sorensen said in a statement. "I've been in a privileged position to play the game I love and enjoy a career of over 20 years, which has included many highlights and I will look back on my career very fondly." —AFP



SPIETH HAS CAREER GRAND SLAM IN SIGHTS AFTER OPEN TRIUMPH

SOUTHPORT: Jordan Spieth will go into the US PGA Championship next month looking to join an elite club and complete the career Grand Slam after his memorable British Open triumph on Sunday. Spieth's dramatic victory on the links at Royal Birkdale in north-west England saw him add the Open's famous Claret Jug to the Masters green jacket he won at Augusta in 2015 and his US Open title the same year. The Texan has now emulated the great Jack Nicklaus in winning three different majors before the age of 24 — his 24th birthday is this coming Thursday.

At the moment Nicklaus is one of just five players to have claimed all four majors, but Spieth can join that elite group by winning the PGA at Quail Hollow in North Carolina starting on August 10 — and would be the youngest to get there.

"It's incredible. It's a life goal of mine. It's a career goal. Growing up playing golf, I just wanted to be able to play in major championships and compete with the best in the world, and things have happened very quickly," said Spieth on Sunday.

He survived a major wobble in the last round at Birkdale to end on 12 under par and beat compatriot Matt Kuchar by three shots. He was already the fourth-youngest man to capture two majors with his 2015 double, having previously become the youngest winner on the PGA Tour in over 80 years at the John Deere Classic in 2013.

PRaise FROM NICKLAUS

Adding to his achievements, Spieth warmed up for Birkdale with a victory at the Travelers Championship last month which allowed him to match Tiger Woods in reaching double digits for tour wins by such a young age. "It's good and bad, because a lot comes with it. And a lot more attention, versus just being able to kind of go about your own thing. And I never realised how underrated that was."

Along with Nicklaus, the other players to have completed the career Grand Slam are Woods, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Gene Sarazen. But Spieth is not a fan of comparisons between him and the greats of the sport. "I feel blessed to be able to play the game I love, but I don't compare myself. And I don't think that they're appropriate or necessary. To be in that company, no doubt is absolutely incredible. And I certainly appreciate it. And we work really hard to have that, with that being the goal," said Spieth after becoming the youngest British Open champion since a 22-year-old Seve Ballesteros won at Royal Lytham in 1979. "But I'm very careful as to what that means going forward because what those guys have done has transcended the sport. And in no way, shape or form do I think I'm anywhere near that, whatsoever. So it's a good start, but there is a long way to go." Spieth showed great nerve on Sunday after quickly frittering away a three-stroke overnight advantage and then almost blowing it completely on the back nine.

A wayward tee shot on the 13th forced him to take a drop and play his third from an adjacent practice ground. He escaped with a bogey to sit just one stroke behind Kuchar before three birdies and an eagle in the next four holes sealed the deal.

It was a remarkable show of guts, all the more so with memories still fresh of his collapse at the 2016 Masters, when he blew a five-stroke lead on the back nine on the last day.

His victory, and the manner of it, drew praise from Nicklaus. "He's won 11 tournaments and I had won eight before 24," Nicklaus, now 77, wrote on Twitter on Sunday.

"If you look at his victory total, his win today and the way he won, Jordan has shown an amazing display of maturity for someone so young, and he has been doing that for a quite a while." —AFP



AUBURN: Grayson Murray of the United States celebrates with the trophy after winning on the 18th green during the final round of the Barbasol Championship at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National on Sunday in Auburn, Alabama. —AFP

GOLF

ROOKIE MURRAY TAKES FIRST US PGA TITLE BY A SHOT

WASHINGTON: Grayson Murray, a 23-year-old American rookie, fired a three-under par 68 Sunday to win the Barbasol Championship, edging compatriot Chad Collins by a stroke for his first US PGA title. Murray, who missed the cut in nine of his prior 23 tour starts, sank a tap-in birdie at the par-5 16th hole for his margin of victory at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National layout in Auburn, Alabama.

"I was in control. I didn't get out of my game plan once," Murray said, calling his tee shots "the best I've ever driven it in my life." Murray took the \$630,000 top prize after finishing 72 holes on 21-under par 263 with Collins second on 264 and Brian Gay, Tag Ridings and Scott Stallings next in an all-US top 10 on 265. The event, played opposite the British Open at Royal Birkdale, featured

players largely fighting to reach the US PGA points list top 125 and qualify for the season-ending playoffs that begin next month.

World number 156 Murray ranked 124th in the US PGA playoff chase before this week but jumped into the top 60 with the triumph. "To get into the playoffs, that was my goal this year," Murray said. "I didn't set my goals too high for my first year."

Six players were in the hunt down the final holes, but Murray endured down the stretch after a bogey-birdie start and closing the front nine with birdies at seven and nine around a bogey at the eighth.

Murray eagled the par-5 13th, dropping his second shot four feet from the cup and making the putt, but found a fairway bunker off the 14th

tee and made bogey, setting up the birdie at 16 that proved the difference. While booking a spot at next month's PGA Championship, Murray did not claim a berth in next year's Masters, with US PGA winners in events opposite majors or World Golf Championship events not earning an automatic berth at Augusta National.

Stallings, seeking his fourth career PGA title and first since 2014, began the day with a one-stroke edge on Murray atop the leaderboard but fired a 71. He fell back with a three-putt bogey at the par-5 13th, stayed within reach with a six-foot birdie at 16, but needing a birdie at 18 to match Murray, his tee shot went far right beyond a cart path and needed three shots to make the green at the par-4 18th to doom his hopes. — AFP

KIM WINS MARATHON CLASSIC, SECOND 2-TIME LPGA WINNER

SYLVANIA: In-Kyung Kim rallied to win the Marathon Classic on Sunday to become the second two-time winner this season on the LPGA Tour. Two strokes behind 18-year-old Nelly Korda entering the round, Kim birdied six of the first nine holes and finished with an 8-under 63 for a four-stroke victory over Lexi Thompson.

"I had a great day," Kim said. "I have been hitting it very solid over the few days, and today I was feeling really good about my putting before going out. I wasn't expecting to go very low, but I did my best, and sometimes without expectation, just, I guess, it works out."

Kim also won the ShopRite LPGA Classic in June in New Jersey. The six-time LPGA Tour winner joined fellow South Korean player So Yeon Ryu as the only multiple winners this season. After playing the front nine in 6-under 28, the 29-year-old Kim and added birdies on Nos. 15 and 16. She finished at 21-under 263 at Highland Meadows.

"You have to hit the fairways," Kim said. "Some holes are very shaping holes, and I was very comfortable playing those holes, and I feel like I took advantage of that, birdied three of the par 5s. ... Today, the pin positions were a little bit comfortable for me. I've been hitting little draws this week, and when the pin is tucked on the left side, I was having a hard time." In 2010 at

Highland Meadows, she lost to Na Yeon Choi in a playoff.

"I always liked the golf course," Kim said. "I had a playoff before and I just have great memory." Thompson closed with a 66 for her fifth runner-up finish of the year. She won the Kingsmill Championship in May.

"Overall, I'm very happy with the way I played," Thompson said. "I was hitting a cut around the golf course, and that's usually not what I do. But I managed to put up some good scores."

Gerina Piller, still looking for her first LPGA Tour victory after leading after each of the first two rounds, had a 68 to tie for third at 15 under with Peiyun Chien (68). "I didn't come away with the win, but it doesn't mean I didn't have a winning performance," Piller said. "I'm looking forward to taking the week off and heading over to the British."

Sung Hyun Park, coming off a victory last week in the US Women's Open in New Jersey, tied for sixth at 13 under after a 70. Korda shot a 74 to tie for eighth at 12 under. "The ups and downs are what I love about this sport," Korda tweeted. "It constantly challenges you to improve either yourself or your game. British next!"

Lydia Ko, winless since her victory last year at Highland Meadows, tied for 20th at 9 under after a 69. She also won the 2014 event. — AP



SYLVANIA: In-Kyung Kim holds the trophy after winning the Marathon Classic golf tournament at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio. On Sunday, Kim became the second two-time winner this season on the LPGA Tour. —AP

KUWAIT SHOOTER TALAL WINS GRAND MONDIAL PERAZZI CUP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait shooter Talal Al-Rashidi won the first place and the cup on the second day of the Grand Mondial Perazzi tournament, he also won second place in the high tech rifle competition.

The final results of the competition saw Russia's Alipov Alexey win first place, followed by Italy's Emanuele Bernasconi while Talal Al-Rashidi ended in third place, bearing in mind that more than 600 participants took part in the competition.

Head of Kuwait's delegation, KSSF board member Eng Hussam Al-Roumi congratulated President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi for this achievement was made possible despite stiff competition from 600 shooters of both genders, yet Talal competed so well and made everyone proud and received appreciation from the Gulf and world delegations.

Al-Roumi thanked Minister of Commerce and Industry, State Minister for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan, Director General of Public Authority for Sports Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his deputies for the support of the shooting sport club, and meeting the club's needs to prepare shooters and send them to the necessary camps.

Al-Roumi wished all Kuwait shooters success in their future competitions.



BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAMER JOHN KUNDLA DEAD AT 101

MINNEAPOLIS: Before Phil Jackson and Pat Riley, before Gregg Popovich and Larry Brown, even before Red Auerbach, there was John Kundla. Kundla, the Hall of Fame coach who led the Minneapolis Lakers to five NBA championships, died Sunday. He was 101.

Son Tom Kundla said his father died at an assisted living facility in Northeast Minneapolis that he called home for years. With George Mikan in the middle and Kundla the calm, steady hand directing the team, the Lakers won the 1949 championship in the BAA - the league that preceded the NBA - and NBA titles in 1950 and 1952-54, cementing the franchise's place as the league's first true dynasty. The Lakers also won an NBL title in 1948, but the NBL marks are not included in the NBA's records.

"On behalf of the entire Lakers organization, I'd like to express our sadness at the passing of John Kundla," Lakers President and co-owner Jeanie Buss said in a statement. "John played an important role in the history of the Lakers organization. ... In addition to his numerous contributions to the Lakers and our legacy, John was a wonderful man and will be

remembered fondly." Kundla was the oldest living Hall of Famer in any of the four major pro sports. Kundla was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995. A year later, he was named one of the league's 10 greatest coaches as part of the league's "NBA at 50" celebration. He was hired at 31 and resigned at 42 with a career record of 423-302, happy to cede the attention and the accolades to his players over himself. He was known for his understated sideline demeanor, which was unique compared to the fiery drill sergeants of the era.

"John wasn't a screamer and was very mild-mannered, but he'd let loose when we deserved it, and usually I was the first one he bawled out," Mikan once told Sports Illustrated. "The message he sent was that no one on the team was above criticism."

Kundla was born in Star Junction, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1916. He relocated to Minneapolis with his family at the age of 5. The Detroit Gems of NBL moved to the Twin Cities in 1947 and hired Kundla to run the re-named Lakers. In Mikan, Vern Mikkelsen and Jim Pollard, the Lakers assembled the first super-team,

beating New York in 1952 and '53 and Syracuse in '54 for the three straight titles.

TRAILBLAZER

He also was a trailblazer during those racially tense seasons, often turning down hotels that refused to house black players when the team was on the road. When he later coached at the University of Minnesota, Kundla was on the bench when the first black players arrived at the school. "John was an incredible staple of Minnesota basketball," Timberwolves and Lynx owner Glen Taylor said in a statement. To this day Jackson, Auerbach and Kundla stand as the only three coaches to have won more than two championships in a row and Kundla remains tied with Popovich and Riley for total championships with five.

"He was an all-time great, Hall of Fame NBA coach," Timberwolves coach Tom Thibodeau said in the team release. "He had a very profound impact on the NBA, coaching and the overall game."

WHAT WAS KUNDLA'S SECRET?

"One game with about a minute left to go. Tie game. I substituted," Kundla

recalled to NBA.com last year. "The player I substituted gets a beautiful basket and wins the ball game. Everybody said, 'What a smart move you made.' 'What had happened, the (other) player came to me and said, 'I want to go to the bathroom.' I got credit for being smart."

That kind of humility was his hallmark, both on the court and at home. Kundla and wife Marie, who died in 2007, had six children. Five of Kundla's six grandchildren played college basketball, a hoops-loving family that would only find out how revered the patriarch was when others would speak for John. Only two were around during his Lakers days. "We were too young to realize how important it was and what a number of accomplishments he had made until we reached the age of reason," Tom Kundla said. "That's what my dad does. No big deal. We'd see the trophies and the big gold basketball in the entry way. It was a norm." Kundla stepped down in 1959 to coach at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota, before the Lakers moved to Los Angeles.

"We played team ball," Kundla told NBA.com. "We didn't try to (run up) the score. We played defense. We didn't try to



John Kundla

make the other team look bad. But the players were a real good group together."

His induction speech for the Hall of Fame lasted just over six minutes, with the vast majority of it spent thanking coaches, players and his wife, Marie, "who still yells defense in her sleep, believe it or not."

The entire family was there for the induction ceremony, many of the children only then realizing just how accomplished their father was. "I would say, 'Dad you were a superstar coach,'" Tom Kundla said. "No no," he would say. "I had a great team. It was always, 'I had a great team.'" — AP



LOS ANGELES: Cody Bellinger #35 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a solo homerun in the eighth inning against the Atlanta Braves at Dodger Stadium on Sunday in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

BASEBALL

DODGERS LOSE INJURED KERSHAW, BEAT BRAVES

LOS ANGELES: Clayton Kershaw left after two innings with lower back tightness that is sending him to the disabled list, and the Los Angeles Dodgers overcame a blown save by Kenley Jansen to beat the Atlanta Braves 5-4 on Sunday on Logan Forsythe's bases-loaded single in the 10th. Kershaw, unbeaten in 15 consecutive starts, came out after 21 pitches. He was headed for scans and declined to compare his current situation with last year, when he was out 2 1/2 months with a herniated disk in his back. Jansen entered with a 3-1 lead and got the final out of the eighth, then gave up a tying three-run homer to Matt Adams in the ninth. Forsythe singled after Cody Bellinger was intentionally walked by Jim Johnson (6-2) to load the bases. Brandon Morrow (3-0) retired the side in the 10th. Austin Barnes hit a three-run homer in the fourth for the Dodgers and Cody Bellinger hit his 27th of the season in the eighth.

NATIONALS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Stephen Strasburg left with a 5-0 lead after the second inning, when he walked the No. 8 and No. 9 batters. He is 10-3 with a 3.25 ERA. Strasburg said his early departure was a precaution. He described the problem as slight "achi-

ness" in his forearm. Strasburg said he wants to "nip it in the bud" so he's available to the team in the crucial stages of the late season. Brian Goodwin's leadoff homer ignited a four-run first inning off Robbie Ray (9-5), who lasted five innings, allowing five runs. Bryce Harper singled in the first to extend his hitting streak to 16 games. Joe Blanton (1-2) got two outs and earned the win.

CUBS 5, CARDINALS 3

Willson Contreras hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and Jose Quintana won again as Chicago beat St. Louis to move into a virtual tie for first in the NL Central. Kyle Schwarber also connected as the Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games since the All-Star break. The World Series champions improved to 51-46, just a few percentage points ahead of Milwaukee after the Brewers (53-48) lost 6-3 at Philadelphia. Quintana (6-8) struck out seven in six innings in his first home start since he was acquired in a blockbuster trade with the White Sox on July 13. He pitched seven sparkling innings in an 8-0 victory at Baltimore in his Cubs debut last Sunday. Coming off his first career shutout, Michael Wacha (7-4) was charged with five runs and six hits in six innings in his first

loss since May 30. Wade Davis finished for his 20th save in 20 chances.

YANKEES 6, MARINERS 4

New York won a series for the first time in six weeks when Aroldis Chapman struck out Ben Gamel with a runner on to preserve the Yankees' third win in four games against Seattle this weekend. The Yankees had been 0-8-2 in series since sweeping Baltimore on June 9-11. After Seattle overcame a 3-0 deficit with a four-run fourth inning against Caleb Smith, Brett Gardner hit a tying, bases-loaded single in the sixth and Clint Frazier followed with a two-run double off former Yankee James Pazos (2-3). Didi Gregorius had his first career multihomer game with solo shots, and Gardner opened the game with his 17th home run. A converted starter pitching on consecutive days for the first time in big league career, Chad Green (1-0) struck out three in 2 1/3 perfect innings. Chapman had another shaky finish for his 11th save.

RANGERS 6, RAYS 5

Rougned Odor homered twice, including back-to-back drives with Carlos Gomez in the eighth inning, and Texas completed a three-game sweep. Odor's two-run drive off Brad Boxberger (2-2) tied the score, and Gomez put the Rangers ahead 6-5 two pitches later. Joey Gallo also homered for the Rangers, who had not swept a series of three or more games at Tampa Bay since July 1999. Adrian Beltre tripled and singled, moving within 11 of 3,000 hits. Matt Bush (3-4) pitched a scoreless seventh, and Jose Leclerc got his second save despite two walks in the ninth.

INDIANS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

Corey Kluber (8-3) struck out a season-high 14 in 7 2/3 innings, and Cleveland finished a three-game sweep. Kluber allowed five hits, including Kevin Pillar's home run, and reached double figures in strikeouts for the ninth time in 16 starts. Michael Brantley hit a two-run homer in the sixth and had three RBIs. Brandon Guyer's three-run double was the key hit in the first, when Cleveland took a 4-0 lead against J.A. Happ (3-7).

ATHLETICS 3, METS 2

Rookie Matt Chapman quickly atoned getting picked off at third base by hitting a tiebreaking home run in the seventh Rafael

Montero (1-7). Rookie Daniel Gossett (2-5) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings, and Santiago Casilla worked the ninth for his 16th save, ending New York's four-game winning streak.

REDS 6, MARLINS 3

Scooter Gennett, Eugenio Suarez and Tucker Barnhart homered, and Billy Hamilton had three hits and stole a pair of bases to increase his major league-leading total to 43. Cincinnati finished a 2-8 homestand in which they allowed 23 homers and 72 runs. Rookie right-hander Sal Romano (2-2) made his fourth and longest big league start, allowing one run and three hits over six innings. Raisel Iglesias gave up one hit over two innings for his first save since July 9, his 17th this year. Tom Koehler (1-5) gave up six runs - five earned - and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

ORIOLES 9, ASTROS 7

Zach Britton pitched a hitless ninth to set an American League record by converting his 55th consecutive save opportunity. Britton broke the AL mark held by Tom Gordon, who notched 54 straight saves with Boston from 1998-99. Britton started his run on Oct. 1, 2015, added 47 in a row last season and is 6 for 6 this year. The major league record of 84 is held by Eric Gagne of the Dodgers from 2002-04. Baltimore broke a tie with two runs in the eighth against Luke Gregerson (2-3), using a sacrifice fly by Manny Machado and an RBI single by Jonathan Schoop. Britton made the lead stand up, using 16 pitches to retire the AL West leaders. Mychal Givens (7-0) worked the eighth for the Orioles.

PHILLIES 6, BREWERS 3

Nick Williams hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fourth off Junior Guerra (1-4). Jerad Eickhoff (2-7) allowed three hits in six innings and Howie Kendrick had two hits and two RBIs. Luis Garcia pitched a perfect ninth for his first save this season. The Phillies have won consecutive series for the first time since late April.

TIGERS 9, TWINS 6

Jose Iglesias had three hits, including a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh off Trevor Hildenberger (1-1) in a 4-hour, 19-minute game - the longest nine-inning game in Twins history. Ian Kinsler, James McCann and Alex Presley also had three hits apiece for the Tigers,

who took two of three from the Twins. Matthew Boyd (4-5) won his second straight start since he was recalled from the minors, striking out a career-high eight in six-plus innings.

ROYALS 5, WHITE SOX 4

Brandon Moss hit a game-ending double off Tyler Clippard, extending Chicago's longest losing streak since 2013 to nine games. Whit Merrifield, Jorge Bonifacio and Eric Hosmer hit consecutive home runs off Derek Holland in the fourth inning for a 3-0 lead, and Merrifield hit another solo shot in the eighth off Dan Jennings to tie the score at 4. Mike Moustakas singled off Gregory Infante (0-1) leading off the ninth and pinch-runner Lorenzo Cain advanced on a wild pitch and scored Kelvin Herrera (3-2) struck out two in a perfect ninth, extending the scoreless streak by the Royals bullpen to 18 innings over five games.

ROCKIES 13, PIRATES 3

Kyle Freeland (10-7) allowed two runs over six innings in his first start since his no-hit bid against the Chicago White Sox on July 9 was broken up by Melky Cabrera's one-out single in the ninth. Between the starts, Freeland threw three hitless innings against the Mets on July 15 in his first career relief appearance. Trevor Story, pinch-hitter Pat Valaika and Mark Reynolds hit two-run homers during a seven-run sixth. Ivan Nova (10-7) allowed a season-high seven runs and nine hits in five-plus innings.

ANGELS 3, RED SOX 2

Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the seventh off Rick Porcello (4-13), and Mike Trout and Andrelton Simmons also homered. Parker Bridwell (4-1) gave up two runs on five hits in seven innings. Bud Norris earned his 15th save when Xander Bogaerts hit into a game-ending double play.

PADRES 5, GIANTS 2

Wil Myers homered for the third straight game against San Francisco, and Jabari Blash hit a go-ahead two-run double in the decisive fourth to back Dinelson Lamet (4-4). San Diego hit three straight doubles in the fourth and four consecutive hits in all against lefty Ty Blach (6-6). Brad Hand, the Padres' third reliever, pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save. — AP

MLB Results/Standings									
American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	55	45	.550	-	Washington	59	38	.608	-
NY Yankees	51	46	.526	2.5	Atlanta	47	50	.485	12
Tampa Bay	51	48	.515	3.5	NY Mets	45	51	.469	13.5
Baltimore	47	51	.480	7	Miami	44	52	.458	14.5
Toronto	44	54	.449	10	Philadelphia	34	62	.354	24.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	51	45	.531	-	Chicago Cubs	51	46	.526	-
Kansas City	50	47	.515	1.5	Milwaukee	53	48	.525	-
Minnesota	49	48	.505	2.5	Pittsburgh	49	50	.495	3
Detroit	45	52	.464	6.5	St. Louis	47	51	.480	4.5
Chicago White Sox	38	57	.400	12.5	Cincinnati	41	57	.418	10.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	65	33	.663	-	LA Dodgers	68	31	.687	-
Seattle	49	51	.490	17	Colorado	58	42	.580	10.5
LA Angels	49	51	.490	17	Arizona	56	42	.571	11.5
Texas	48	50	.490	17	San Diego	43	55	.439	24.5
Oakland	44	54	.449	21	San Francisco	38	62	.380	30.5

INDIA'S RAJ WANTS WOMEN'S IPL AFTER WORLD CUP HEARTBREAK

LONDON: India captain Mithali Raj said now was time to "create the base" of a female equivalent to the Indian Premier League after her side's hopes of Women's World Cup final glory were snatched away by England at Lord's. Raj's side looked on course to lift the trophy for the first time at 191 for three, chasing 229 for victory, in Sunday's final at the 'home of cricket'.

But on the same Lord's ground where India's men had won an inaugural World Cup title back in 1983, they lost their last seven wickets for just 28 runs to be bowled out for 219 with eight balls to spare. Anya Shrubsole did the damage with a late burst of five wickets for 11 runs in 19 deliveries. The pace bowler's match haul of six for 46 was also the best individual return in any Women's World Cup final.

Pressure got to India in the end, but

the 34-year-old Raj, who later confirmed this has been her last World Cup appearance, said that would be less likely to happen if they had a tournament to match Australia's Twenty20 Women's Big Bash League or England's equivalent Super League.

"Everybody was very nervous and I think that resulted in our defeat," Raj, the all-time leading run-scorer in women's one-day internationals told reporters. England's women have been full-time professionals for some two years now, with Raj's side still on their way-although the squad did receive bonus payments of 50 lakh Indian rupees (£60,000) each for reaching the final from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

'SET THE PLATFORM'

"These girls have really set the platform for the upcoming generations in

India," said Raj. "They've opened up the channels for women's cricket and they should be really proud of themselves. I have seen the changes the girls have made. "Unlike 2005 (when Australia hammered India by 98 runs in the final at Centurion, South Africa), this went to the end." India's collapse was sparked by Punam Raut's exit for 86, the top score of the final.

Together with Harmanpreet Kaur, who made 51 after her astounding 171 not out in India's semi-final win over reigning champions Australia, the opener shared a third-wicket stand of 95.

"We messed it up in the end. It was a very brave innings from Punam," said Raj. But the skipper said her side had established a solid foundation for women's cricket in India, the sport's financial superpower.

"The response from the public is very

positive," said Raj. "I'm sure the BCCI is very proud of the team.

"When we lost to South Africa and Australia (in pool play), no one thought we would get to the final. "A team like that has come to the finals and given a good fight to the home team. "The WBBL has given exposure to the two girls who have played (Smriti Mandhana and Kaur).

"If more girls participate in such leagues, it will give them experience and help them to improve their own game. "If you ask me, they should have (women's) IPL because now is the right time to create that base."

England, beaten by India in their opening pool match, also made plenty of mistakes in the error-strewn closing overs on the way to winning a fourth World Cup title and third in as many editions on home soil. But in a year where

former England captain Rachael Heyhoe Flint, the driving force in establishing the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1973 — which her side won — died on a match day where the bell to signal the start of play was rung by 105-year-old Eileen Ash, the oldest living former England women's international, the hosts held their nerve.

"Cricket's a funny game, and pressure's a funny thing," said England captain Heather Knight after a win greeted with the sound of thousands of girls cheering in the stands of a capacity crowd rather than the polite applause usually associated with Lord's.

"It's a World Cup final, we knew if we held our nerve we would be in with a chance but it did feel like it was slipping away at 190 for three. "But we fought like hell in this tournament and today was no different." —AFP

AUSTRALIA'S PLAYERS REPORTEDLY MULL BANGLADESH BOYCOTT

SYDNEY: Australia's senior players have voted to boycott next month's tour of Bangladesh unless their long-running pay dispute with Cricket Australia (CA) is settled before they leave, reports said yesterday.

Captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner attended an undisclosed meeting with Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) chief executive Alastair Nicholson to consider their options after a breakdown in the talks with CA last week.

The Australian newspaper said the players discussed a range of options, including going ahead with the Bangladesh tour under a special contractual arrangement. But they resolved to stand by the resolutions reached at a previous meeting and refuse to take part in any tours unless there is a new memorandum of understanding in place.

The players are entering their fourth week of unemployment since the failure to reach a new agreement on pay at the end of June. The squad voted to attend the training camp in Darwin on August 10 but will not leave for Bangladesh a week later unless an agreement is reached, the newspaper said.

The first match of the two-Test series was due to start 10 days later. The Australia A squad went through a similar process before abandoning the tour to South Africa earlier this month. The dispute is over CA's refusal to renew a revenue-sharing arrangement which has been part of all deals over the past two decades.

Reports said the ACA was close to a deal with CA last week. Players proposed they retain the revenue-sharing model but sacrifice up to Aus\$30 million (\$24 million) of their pay to grassroots cricket.

But CA would not offer a revenue-sharing deal. The players expressed disappointment at the latest developments in the protracted dispute, which threatens the showpiece Ashes home series against England later this year.

"Not sure the players can do much more to solve the dispute. We're really proud to offer up to an extra \$30 million for grassroots #fairshare," Warner tweeted. Fast bowler Pat Cummins added: "Players are as frustrated as anyone else. We want to play. Offering even more to grassroots to get a deal!!! #fairshare." —AFP

SHASTRI ON MISSION TO KEEP INDIA AT NUMBER ONE

GALLE: New India coach Ravi Shastri will tomorrow look to prove his team remains the world's best Test side when they take on Sri Lanka in the first of three matches. Shastri, who took over the demanding role after Anil Kumble's acrimonious exit last month, has backed India to continue the "fearless brand of cricket" that helped them regain the number one position last year from Pakistan. While India lost the Champions Trophy final to their arch-rivals, the Virat Kohli-led side is on a roll after winning 10 of the last 13 Tests, overcoming top sides like New Zealand, England and Australia. "They know their job. They are professional cricketers. Once they step on the field they take over. That is how it should be," said Shastri, who became head coach after Kumble quit over his "untenable" relationship with Kohli. "My role will be to get the guys to express themselves and play a fearless brand of cricket," the former all-rounder added.

While India start as overwhelming favourites after the seventh-ranked Sri Lanka scraped past Zimbabwe in a one-off Test last week, Shastri has warned against complacency. "Sri Lanka can't be taken lightly at home. Their track record playing at home is as good as any other team. We would look to improve in the series," said the 55-year-old. The visitors have played a two-day warm-up game in Colombo with returning batsman Shikhar Dhawan among the scorers.

Meanwhile Indian opener Lokesh Rahul, who scored a half-century in the practice game, was ruled out of the first match due to viral fever.

'FABULOUS PERSON'

India could start with three spinners and use left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav with the experienced Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. Ashwin said the players were looking forward to working with Shastri. "Ravi has been a fabulous person to have in the dressing room. Even when he was here last time, we lost that Test in Galle and he really picked us up from that

low point in our careers," Ashwin told reporters. Sri Lanka, whose new Test skipper Dinesh Chandimal has been ruled out through flu, will need all the experience of stand-in captain Rangana Herath. The left-arm spinner, who took 11 wickets against Zimbabwe and his 31st five-wicket haul in 81 Tests, is key for Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's pace lineup has been bolstered by the return of veteran Nuwan Pradeep, who is likely to start at Galle International Stadium. Dhananjaya de Silva adds muscle to their strong batting arsenal, comprising former captain Angelo Mathews, Upul Tharanga and Niroshan Dickwella. Sri Lanka's interim coach Nic Pothas said the team should take inspiration from Kohli's men, who overcame a 1-0 deficit to beat the islanders in a three-Test series in 2015.

The triumph resurrected India's fortunes as they registered their first series win in Sri Lanka for 23 years and went on to become the number one Test side again a year later.

"I think we probably are in the same situation that Virat was talking about the Indian team being in a few years ago. We are in that rebuilding phase," said Pothas.

The South African, who took charge after Graham Ford's exit last month, added he was focused on changing the team's culture and unleashing their potential.

Squads:

Sri Lanka: Rangana Herath (Captain), Upul Tharanga, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Mendis, Angelo Mathews, Asela Gunaratne, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananjaya de Silva, Danushka Gunathilaka, Dilruwan Perera, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Malinda Pushpakumara, Nuwan Pradeep.

India: Virat Kohli (Captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice captain), Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Abhinav Mukund. — AFP



LONDON: England's Anya Shrubsole (R) raises the trophy after winning the ICC Women's World Cup cricket final between England and India at Lord's cricket ground in London on Sunday. — AFP

CRICKET

WCUP HEROINE SHRUBSOLE LIVES OUT LORD'S DREAM

LONDON: Anya Shrubsole said her match-winning display in England's Women's World Cup final win over India at Lord's on Sunday was proof that dreams can come true. The 25-year-old pace bowler turned the match on its head with a spell of five wickets for 11 runs late on as England snatched a nine-run win. India were on course for victory at 191 for three, chasing 229. But they were dismissed for 219 to deny captain Mithali Raj a winner's medal in what the star batsman said was her last World Cup match. Just days before the final Ian Shrubsole, Anya's father, tweeted a picture of his then nine-year-old daughter watching him play in a club final at Lord's, with the caption: "What a place! I'd like to play here... for England... in a World Cup final!"

Following her stunning display in front of a sold-out Lord's, Shrubsole, whose return of six for 46 was the best by any bowler in a Women's World Cup final, joked: "Dad's Twitter profile has gone through the roof. "If someone had said to me that all this time later I'd be at Lord's, winning a World Cup final, I would have laughed them away you never think that sort of thing happens."

Recalling that childhood visit to Lord's, Shrubsole told BBC Radio Five Live: "I remember the day, I remember watching him in that game. I don't remember saying that but I guess it just shows that dreams can come true."

'WATERSHED'

This World Cup altered many entrenched perceptions regarding women's cricket, with Kapil Dev, captain of the India side that won the 1983 men's World Cup final at Lord's, telling the Hindu newspaper: "Mithali's team too has won the hearts of the nation. "I know that not every daughter will become a champion, but I am sure that the mindset of parents is bound to change now." He added: "Honestly, I was not a keen follower of women's cricket, but I am their biggest fan now. I am sure... people will pray to be blessed with daughters. Hats off to them." Shrubsole agreed this World Cup had marked a turning point for the women's game, with the final drawing a global television audience of 100 million according to some estimates.

"I think it's a watershed moment for women's cricket," said Shrubsole. "The final was a really fitting tribute to the whole tournament, which has been brilliant from start to finish.

"We obviously set out to win, but we also want to inspire women and girls to play cricket and hopefully our win, and the way we have played, has done that." As for the thrilling conclusion to the final, Shrubsole-also involved in a run-out-said: "Once we got Raut it just gave us a little bit of hope, a little chance with the new batters coming in under a huge amount of pressure." There threatened to be a late twist when, with India nine wickets down but still in sight of victory, Jenny Gunn dropped an easy catch to reprieve No 11 Rajeshwari Gayakwad. But Shrubsole-who struck a first-ball four to seal a two-wicket semi-final win over South Africa after

England almost snatched defeat from the jaws of victory-bowled Gayakwad next ball.

In the end, England's total in the final of 228 for seven, featuring Natalie Sciver's 51 and valuable late-order runs had proved just enough.

"It's still pretty surreal to be honest," said Shrubsole. "You've always got to believe you can win no matter what the score and no matter what the game situation. "We fought until the end and it came off." —AFP

INDIAN WOMEN TEAM WIN HEARTS AFTER GUTSY WCUP

NEW DELHI: India's women's team was hailed at home for their gritty showing at Lord's after just missing out on making history in narrowly losing to England in the World Cup final. Millions of cricket-crazy Indians watching the match on big screens across the country were left heartbroken as their team fell short of their 229-run target by just nine runs in a thrilling finale on Sunday. After an impressive start India's batting imploded as the Mithali Raj-led side slipped from 191-3 to 219 all out in 48.4 overs. England pace bowler Anya Shrubsole led the charge with figures of 6-46 — the best recorded in a World Cup final.

But tributes flowed from the prime minister and cricket legends for the "Women in Blue", who often miss the limelight hogged by India's men's Test side. "Our women cricketers gave their best today. They have shown remarkable tenacity & skill through the World Cup. Proud of the team!" Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter.

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar consoled the team on their World Cup disappointment, the second time they have missed the cup after going down to Australia in 2005.

"Feel for all of you, #WomenInBlue! You

were good throughout but sometimes it is not meant to be. Congrats England on winning," Tendulkar wrote on Twitter.

India's men's 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev hailed the women's gutsy showing as a victory for girls across the subcontinent. "Mithali's team too has won the hearts of the nation. I know that not every daughter will become a champion, but I am sure that the mindset of parents is bound to change now." Dev was quoted as saying by The Hindu newspaper. "Honestly, I was not a keen follower of women's cricket, but I am their biggest fan now. I am sure... people will pray to be blessed with daughters. Hats off to them."

The front page of the Hindustan Times newspaper declared: "India take big steps, fall just short of giant leap." The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced a cash prize of \$800,000 for each player after their semi-final victory over Australia last week. Those cricketers working for India's railways-there are 10 members of the squad employed by the state-run transport body-will receive automatic promotions, local media reported.

Captain Raj has been promised a BMW by a former cricket selector. — AFP



LONDON: India's Jhulan Goswami (C) waits to receive a runners up medal after losing the ICC Women's World Cup cricket final between England and India at Lord's cricket ground in London. — AFP



Ravi Shastri

SWIMMING

LEDECKY ON COURSE FOR HISTORIC 12TH WORLDS GOLD

BUDAPEST: Gold-medal machine Katie Ledecky cruised into the women's 1500m freestyle final from yesterday's heats at the world aquatic championships to stay on course for an historic 12th worlds gold.

Ledecky was the fastest qualifier at 15 minutes, 47.54 seconds—nearly 18 seconds ahead of the field—to maintain her iron grip on the event. "I feel good. I just wanted to have a good controlled easy swim and get a good lane for the final," said Ledecky.

The unstoppable 20-year-old already picked up two golds on Sunday night, winning the 400m title for the third championships in a row, then helping the United States win the 4x100m relay. That left her level with Missy Franklin on a record 11 gold

medals at world championships.

Ledecky is on course to win her third title-of-a possible six here—in today's 1500m final which would make her the first woman to win 12 world championship golds. Fresh from his 400m freestyle gold medal on Sunday, Sun Yang was the fastest through the men's 200m freestyle heats into Monday's semis, but admitted feeling jaded.

RELAXED

"I was a little tired, I didn't do my best in the heat, but I didn't have to," said the 25-year-old Chinese superstar. Despite his fatigue, Sun clocked one minute, 45.78 seconds with Britain's James Guy, the defending world champion, just 0.44secs back.

Guy is determined to make amends

for a disappointing sixth in the 400m final. "It's parked and we've done," he insisted. "The 200m race felt so much better this morning, there was so much more control, I just feel more relaxed."

Mack Horton, who Sun defeated in the 400m final, finished 11th and 1.19secs adrift. "Obviously that was tough after yesterday, but with an evening and a bit more rest there should be a bit more," said Horton.

"It was always going to be tough backing up and trying to get into that semi, but I should be ok." Katinka Hosszu, the Olympic champion, was the second fastest into the evening's 100m backstroke semi-finals, just 0.18 seconds behind Canada's Kylie Masse.

Hosszu refused to speak to reporters after her heat. Hungarian media

reports claim she has pulled out of the semis to focus on the 200m individual medley final—her strongest event—which comes later on Monday night.

Australia's Emily Seebohm, who won the world title two years ago in Kazan, was third fastest at 0.33secs behind Masse. In the men's 100m backstroke heats, both the Olympic champion, Ryan Murphy of the US, and Australia's Mitch Larkin, the defending world champion made it through to the evening's semis.

BAD BLOOD

The strength of the women's 100m breaststroke field shone through in the heats with Olympic champion Lilly King of the USA the fastest in 1:05.20 mins. But both the defending world champi-

on Yuliya Efimova of Russia, the Olympic silver medalist in Rio, and 2012 Olympic champion Ruta Meilutyte were within a second of King.

Olympic bronze medalist Katie Meili of the US and Taylor McKeown, the 200m Commonwealth champion, were also in the top five. There is bad blood between King and Efimova, who served a 16-month doping ban until February 2015, then won the world five months later in Kazan.

Efimova won Olympic silver in Rio only after winning an appeal to be able to race, waving her finger signalling 'No1' after winning her semi-final. "You wave your finger 'No1' and you've been caught drug cheating ... I'm not a fan," retorted King in Rio last year. —AFP

RUSTY NAMIBIA ADVANCE AS ZIMBABWE PAY PENALTY

JOHANNESBURG: Zimbabwe were bundled out of the African Nations Championship Sunday by rusty Namibia, just two weeks after being hailed as national heroes for becoming regional champions. Many of the players who beat Zambia to win the COSAFA Cup southern Africa title were in the team that beat Namibia 1-0 in Harare, but lost 5-4 on penalties.

The shootout was triggered by an aggregate deadlock after Namibia won the first leg of the second round qualifier 1-0 in Windhoek last weekend. Namibia converted all five spot-kicks, but Zimbabwe goalkeeper Herbert Rusawo had his saved to cost the "Warriors" the tie. Prince Dube scored the only goal on 39 minutes at the National Sports Stadium, cancelling the first-leg advantage Namibia gained through a Hendrik Somaeb scorcher.

The exit of Zimbabwe after the second of three qualifying rounds for the 2018 Nations Championship in Kenya next January and February was a shock. They had qualified for the four previous editions of a competition restricted to footballers registered with clubs in their country of birth. With most African nationals squad composed almost exclusively of Europe-based players, the Nations Championship was introduced in 2008 to give local stars international exposure.

Matches have full international status,

count toward the monthly FIFA rankings and caps are awarded. Another factor that seemed to favour Zimbabwe was the rustiness of Namibia as there has been no domestic league football for more than a year due to feuding among officials.

Tiny island state Comoros booked a third-round tie against Namibia during August despite losing 1-0 to Lesotho at Setsoto Stadium in Maseru. Reboame Koloti struck after only 12 minutes to get the home team off to an encouraging start, but they failed to score again and bowed out 2-1 on aggregate.

Madagascar upset Mozambique 2-0 in Maputo after being held at home with goals from Bela Claudel Fanomezana and Njiva Rakotoharimalala setting up a showdown against Angola.

Another unexpected second leg result was Liberia defeating Mauritania 1-0 in Nouakchott through a Christopher Jackson goal six minutes before half-time. But the win was not enough to erase the damage caused by a 2-0 loss in Monrovia last weekend and Mauritania progressed to face Mali next month. Benin squeezed past Togo 8-7 on penalties after another 1-1 draw between the west African neighbours, this time in Cotonou.

Warris Aboki gave Benin an early second half lead that Kodjio Sewonou cancelled with 18 minutes remaining. — AFP



BREDA: England's forward Jodie Taylor (L) vies with Spain's defender Andrea Pereira (R) during the UEFA Women's Euro 2017 football tournament match between England and Spain at Rat Verlegh Stadion in Breda city on Sunday. — AFP

SOCCER

ENGLAND SINK SPAIN TO CLOSE IN ON QUARTERS

BREDA: Fran Kirby and Jodie Taylor handed England a 2-0 win over Spain in a game marred by heavy rain in Breda on Sunday, to make it back-to-back victories at the women's Euro tournament. Earlier in the day, Carolina Mendes and substitute Ana Leite gave Portugal a 2-1 win over Scotland in a clash of Euro newcomers in Rotterdam. England are all but into the quarter-finals and sit at the Group D summit, having thrashed Scotland 6-0 in their opener.

The second knock-out round spot is likely to go to Spain or Portugal, with the former the favourites as they take on bottom team Scotland in their final group game on Thursday. The Scots appear destined for an early exit, and will have to beat Spain by two goals to have any chance of progressing. Chelsea striker Kirby picked up a pass from Ellie White in the second minute and stormed into the box, beating Spain keeper Sandra Panos with a low shot to score her seventh international goal.

Taylor scored her fourth goal in two games five minutes from the end, after a pass from Jordan Nobbs found her inside the box. "If you look at the overall picture, it's a fantastic performance and a really good result," said England coach Mark Sampson. "Bloody damn happy. The spirit, the resilience, the grit... It was all there tonight."

A frantic opening period saw England skipper Steph Houghton slam the ball over and Spain's Alexia Putellas send a weak shot straight at keeper Karen Bardsley. It came to an end with a torrential downpour that dampened the pitch and slowed things down considerably with Spain on the front foot. The second half was very much in the same vein as the rain returned—Spain dominated the game, pushing for an equaliser, but they never really came close as the soaked pitch hampered their play.

"We dominated the whole game but we weren't lucky," said Spain coach Jorge Vilda. "We are going to continue this way, I am confident about my team." In Rotterdam, Mendes scored against the run of play on 27 minutes after a cross from Diana Silva which Scotland defender Vaia Bardsley comically failed to clear.

Scottish substitute Erin Cuthbert put Scotland level in the 68th minute with a clinical finish after being put through by Caroline Weir. But Scotland's joy was short-lived as four minutes later, Leite sprinted down the middle and beat goalkeeper Gemma Fay with a low strike. "We are enjoying this moment - it is our first time," said Portugal coach Francisco Neto, whose side will need to better Spain's result against Scotland when they face England on Thursday to reach the last eight. "We will try our best, but we know England are in the top three of European teams in the rankings. But Portugal will fight with everything we have, for sure."

Portugal scored from their single shot in the first half, despite Scotland being more threatening up front, with Lana Clelland first firing wide

and then seeing her shot tipped onto the post by keeper Patricia Morais. Scotland found themselves under pressure early in the second half, with Carole Costa and Tatiana Pinto fringing wide, just like Weir and Leanne Crichton at the other end. Mendes then sent her left-footed effort just past the post and Leite fired over, while Weir hit the upright five minutes from the end as Scotland

desperately tried to salvage their campaign. Scotland coach Anna Signeul bemoaned the missed first-half chances. "We should have been up 2-0 in the first half, but we could not put the ball in the net unfortunately, and then a counter and the ball takes that bounce off the defender and that was an unfortunate goal which put us on the back foot," she said. — AFP

MONACO'S MENDY COMPLETES RECORD MANCHESTER CITY MOVE

LONDON: Monaco full-back Benjamin Mendy yesterday signed a mega five-year contract with Manchester City making him the world's most expensive defender. The 23-year-old, who joined the French champions from Marseille last summer, has agreed a deal reported to be worth a record £52 million (\$58 million euros, \$67 million) for a defender.

The France player will link up with his new teammates in the United States where Pep Guardiola's side are preparing for their second pre-season tour game against Real Madrid in Los Angeles.

"I am absolutely delighted to be joining Manchester City," Mendy said. "They are one of Europe's leading clubs and in Pep Guardiola they have a manager committed to playing attacking football. "I am sure that over the next few years we will be successful." Tottenham's Kyle Walker and goalkeeper Ederson are the other players to join a new-look City backline with Mendy's Monaco team-mate Bernardo Silva coming in to bolster midfield.

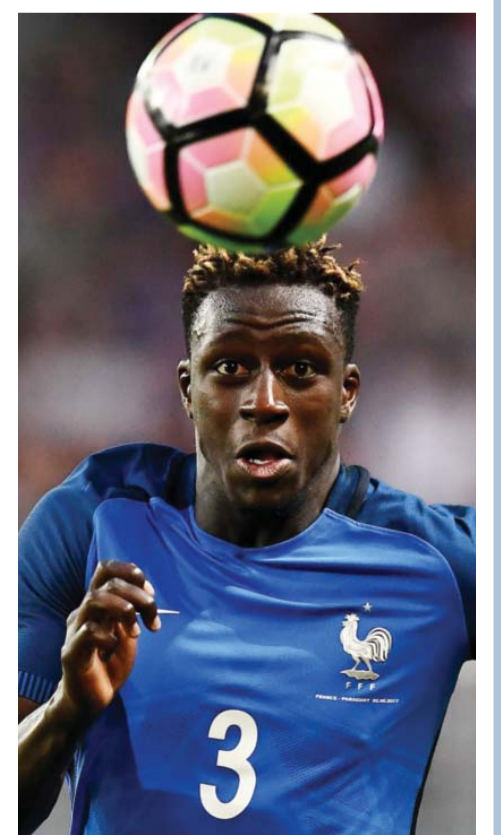
Guardiola was desperate to add Mendy to his full-back options after releasing Gael Clichy, Bacary Sagna and Pablo Zabaleta this summer, but City's original £44.5 million (\$55.7 million, 49.7 million euros) offer was rejected. The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss had already lured England right-back Walker to the Etihad Stadium in a deal which could be worth up to £54 million (\$70.1 million, 60.1 million euros) and Monaco wanted a similar amount for Mendy.

The deal took a while to complete, but City's director of football, Txiki Begiristain, was pleased to have secured their first-choice target. "Benjamin has all the qualities we are looking for in a full-back. For such a young player, he has a wealth of top-level experience," he said. "He is undoubtedly one of the world's best full-backs, our number-one target in this position. We are all delighted to have him here at Manchester City."

"I'm sure he will prove a fantastic addition to the squad." Mendy becomes City's fifth

major signing of the summer and takes their spending to more than £200m (223 million euros, \$260 million). The Premier League giants, who have already raided Monaco in the close season having signed Silva, on Sunday welcomed another full-back, Real Madrid's Danilo.

Mendy made his France debut in a 3-1 World Cup qualifying victory over Luxembourg in March, and won Ligue 1 in his first season with Monaco. Man City finished third in the Premier League last season behind champions Chelsea and Tottenham. —AFP



Benjamin Mendy

MAN UNITED EDGES REAL MADRID ON PENALTY KICKS

SANTA CLARA: Jose Mourinho has challenged Anthony Martial to produce the goods on a more consistent basis after the Manchester United frontman caught the eye against Real Madrid. Martial produced a scintillating weaving run to set up Jesse Lingard's opening goal in United's 1-1 draw against Real in the International Champions Cup at Santa Clara, California, on Sunday, albeit the French international blazed over from the spot in the penalty shootout that followed the draw.

The 21-year-old shone during his impressive debut campaign at Old Trafford under Louis van Gaal two years ago, yet struggled under Mourinho last season—prompting speculation that he could be on the move this summer.

But after Martial looked back to his best, Mourinho admitted that talent is not the issue for the United forward. "Obviously, we want more consistency in his talent," said Mourinho. "I think today was positive for him. That's why I left him for 90 minutes on the pitch. He was enjoying it, trying things and it's important in these friendly matches to try things, which he did."

"That's only good for his confidence." On the stroke of half-time, Martial's quick feet saw him leave both Daniel Carvajal and Luka Modric for dead, before squaring the ball across the six-yard box for Lingard to tap home.

It was just reward for Lingard after he was the best player on the pitch during the first half, only a smart save from Keylor Navas keeping out a swerving shot from 25 yards in the seventh minute.

In their first pre-season outing, Real were understandably rusty during the first half, but they improved significantly after Zinedine Zidane changed his entire 11 at the interval and introduced a host of

youngsters. They drew level when Victor Lindelof brought down summer signing Theo Hernandez in the area and Casemiro smashed home the resulting spot-kick. Zidane said he was "satisfied" with the performance, particularly the contribution of the club's hot prospects.

But when asked about the depth of his squad and whether he was chasing a replacement for the departed Alvaro Morata, Zidane was cautious at being drawn over any transfer business. "I've talked to the president, but we have a roster of 28 players and I'm happy," said the Real boss.

"Ultimately, we will see. We have until August 31, but I have not asked for any (players)." United won 2-1 in a desperately low quality penalty shootout at the conclusion of the encounter, but it was an injury to midfielder Ander Herrera which was preying on Mourinho's mind afterwards.

The half-time substitute lasted just seven minutes before he was forced off with a rib injury. "For him to come off, it has to be very painful," Mourinho said. "I want to wait and see what it is but I always say there's no risk in friendly matches. If you feel that something is coming, a little injury, then get off. The result is not important."

Herrera is expected to join Juan Mata on the treatment table when United round off their Stateside pre-season tour against Barcelona, in Landover, Maryland tomorrow.

But despite a hectic period of five games in the space of 12 days, Mourinho feels the trip has been beneficial. "We managed to organize the pre-season in a way where we were based in LA for 15 days," he added. "It's fantastic to always be in the same hotel, same training ground. The flights were quite short to go to Salt Lake, Houston. —AFP



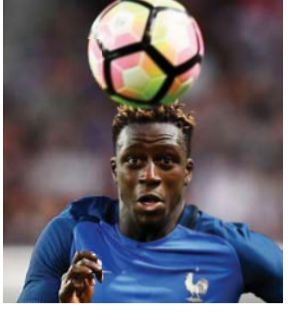
SANTA CLARA: Marcelo Da Silva Junior #12 of Real Madrid and Timothy Fosu-Mensah #24 of Manchester United go for the ball during the International Champions Cup match at Levi's Stadium on Sunday in Santa Clara, California. — AFP

Sports

Kim wins Marathon Classic, second 2-time LPGA winner



Monaco's Mendy completes record Man City move



TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

INDIA'S RAJ WANTS WOMEN'S IPL AFTER WORLD CUP HEARTBREAK

Page 14



PASADENA: Alvas Powell #5 of Jamaica attempts a shot on Jesus Molina #5 of Mexico during a 1-0 Jamaican win in the CONCACAF 2017 semifinal at Rose Bowl on Sunday. — AFP

JAMAICA STUN MEXICO 1-0 TO REACH CONCACAF GOLD CUP FINAL

PASADENA: After Kemar Lawrence ripped an exquisite shot over Mexico's five man wall and into the top corner for one of the biggest goals in Jamaican soccer history, the defender hushed his teammates and refused to celebrate. These Reggae Boyz are staying cool, even after a goal that sent them into the CONCACAF Gold Cup final with a chance to make history.

Lawrence scored on a clutch 24-yard free kick in the 88th minute, and Jamaica advanced to the final with a 1-0 upset victory over Mexico on Sunday night. "I think our guys were hungry," Jamaica coach Theodore Whitmore said. "They needed it more than the Mexicans, and we did what we had to do."

Jamaica will face the United States on Wednesday night at Santa Clara, California. With a victory over the home team, the Reggae Boyz would claim their first championship in soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region.

"The best way I could put it is the Biblical story," Whitmore said. "David slew Goliath." The Reggae Boyz have reached the final for the second straight Gold Cup, but this stunning upset at the Rose Bowl ranks among their biggest international wins. Mexico has won seven Gold Cup titles, the US five and Canada one.

"That's a cycle we want to break," Whitmore said. "That's something we sit and discuss. It's always Mexico, US. We want to be in that group. We want to be a team, a country that someone can talk about, and that's what we're working toward."

Jamaica goalkeeper Andre Blake kept this game scoreless with a series of impressive saves while Mexico dominated possession with a lineup missing most of El Tri's most-accomplished players.

But after Lawrence repositioned the ball in a bit of shifty gamesmanship, his late strike froze Mexico goalkeeper Jesus Corona. The ball curled over the wall and slipped just below the bar for the New York Red Bulls defender's third international goal and first in three years.

The 24-year-old Lawrence doesn't take free kicks for his MLS club, but Whitmore knew his quality from recent practices. "The New York Red Bulls probably have a better kicker than Kemar Lawrence," Whitmore said with a smile. "Now, Jamaica's team needs Kemar Lawrence in dead-ball situations. It's a totally different thing. Probably when the New York Red Bulls see this tonight, they might (want him) to take free kicks."

Trying to win its second consecutive

Gold Cup and fourth in five tournaments, Mexico used the deeper reaches of its player pool following the World Cup qualifiers and the Confederations Cup last month. While teams were allowed to make up to six substitutions for the knockout rounds, El Tri coach Juan Carlos Osorio said he was blocked by Mexico's clubs. Mexico hadn't trailed in the tournament before Lawrence's late goal, but El Tri also hadn't been impressive - no player scored more than one goal.

"This is a process, and it takes a lot of work to get a team that can compete in a World Cup," assistant coach Luis Pompilio Paez said. "This is not a sufficient result, but this is the middle of the process. I saw a team that gave everything. We always respect what the other team does. We just needed to get a goal, and we didn't have the right circumstances. Embarrassment, sadness - as a team, we feel it." Blake also starred 11 days ago when Mexico and Jamaica played to a 0-0 draw in Denver. With the Philadelphia Union keeper playing exceptionally well, Jamaica has allowed only two goals in the tournament.

The semifinal crowd was dominated by Mexico's vast Southern California fan base, yet the Rose Bowl was less than half-full with just 42,393 fans. —AP

'TRAPPED' TOMIC SAYS HE HAS NO LOVE FOR THE GAME

SYDNEY: Australian star Bernard Tomic admits he has no love for a game that has earned him millions, saying it is just a job and he feels "trapped". In a frank Australian television interview, the 24-year-old told his fans to stay at home rather than paying to watch him play if they were opposed to his polarising on-court antics.

"Don't come," Tomic said late Sunday. "Just watch on TV, you don't have to pay anything." Tomic, who was hit with a US\$15,000 fine after he claimed he was "bored" during his lacklustre first-round defeat at Wimbledon last month, said he oscillates between full commitment and apathy on court. "Throughout my career I've given 100 per-

cent. I've given also 30 percent. But if you balance it out, I think all my career's been around 50 percent," he said in the interview. "I haven't really tried, and (still) achieved all this. So it's just amazing what I've done." The talented Tomic has long been plagued by controversy, making headlines last year when he turned his racquet the wrong way to face a match point against Fabio Fognini in Madrid. Once mooted as a rising star of the sport, he has slid down the rankings to 73 from a career-high 17 and added: "I'm just going to go about it as a job."

Tomic divides opinion in Australia and there was both criticism and support following his latest candid revelations. He has had a fractious relation-

ship with Tennis Australia, which dropped him from the Davis Cup team, but the organisation's head of performance Wally Masur expressed sympathy yesterday. "Bernie has been ultra-professional since he was 14 and it's almost like he's suffering some sort of burn-out at the moment," Masur told reporters.

'DON'T PLAY TENNIS'

The tabloid Sydney Daily Telegraph pulled no punches: "Few people lose any sleep over Bernard Tomic these days. "As a nation Australia has become accustomed to the tennis brat's shameful performances on the tennis court and off it, and

his window of forgiveness is now barely a centimetre wide, if it's even there at all."

But he won a more sympathetic hearing on social media. "Tough to watch because Tomic is a talent that doesn't realise his potential. Needs guidance and direction," tweeted Australian football star Tim Cahill.

Aussie NBA basketball Andrew Bogut said on social media: "Watched Tomic interview. Will cop flak for my opinion: His family is the root of most of what's going on. Hope he finds peace + bounces back." Asked during his interview to provide advice to aspiring tennis players, Tomic was blunt. "Don't play tennis. Do something you love and enjoy

because it's a grind and it's a tough, tough, tough life. My position, I'm trapped. I have to do it," he said. "Tennis chose me. It's something I never fell in love with." He also stood by his inflammatory comments after being controversially eliminated at Wimbledon by German Mischa Zverev. "I don't regret what I said. That's why I said it-to piss a few people off," he said.

"I didn't come from a rich family. We had no money. "And now living in all these lavish houses and property around the world, it's my choice. It's something that I've worked for." Tomic was axed by his racquet sponsor just hours after his Wimbledon fine, deeming his behaviour unacceptable. — AFP

Santiveri
it's easy to stay fit

- ✓ 70 Calories
- ✓ 0%^{added} Sugar
- ✓ Wheat Bran

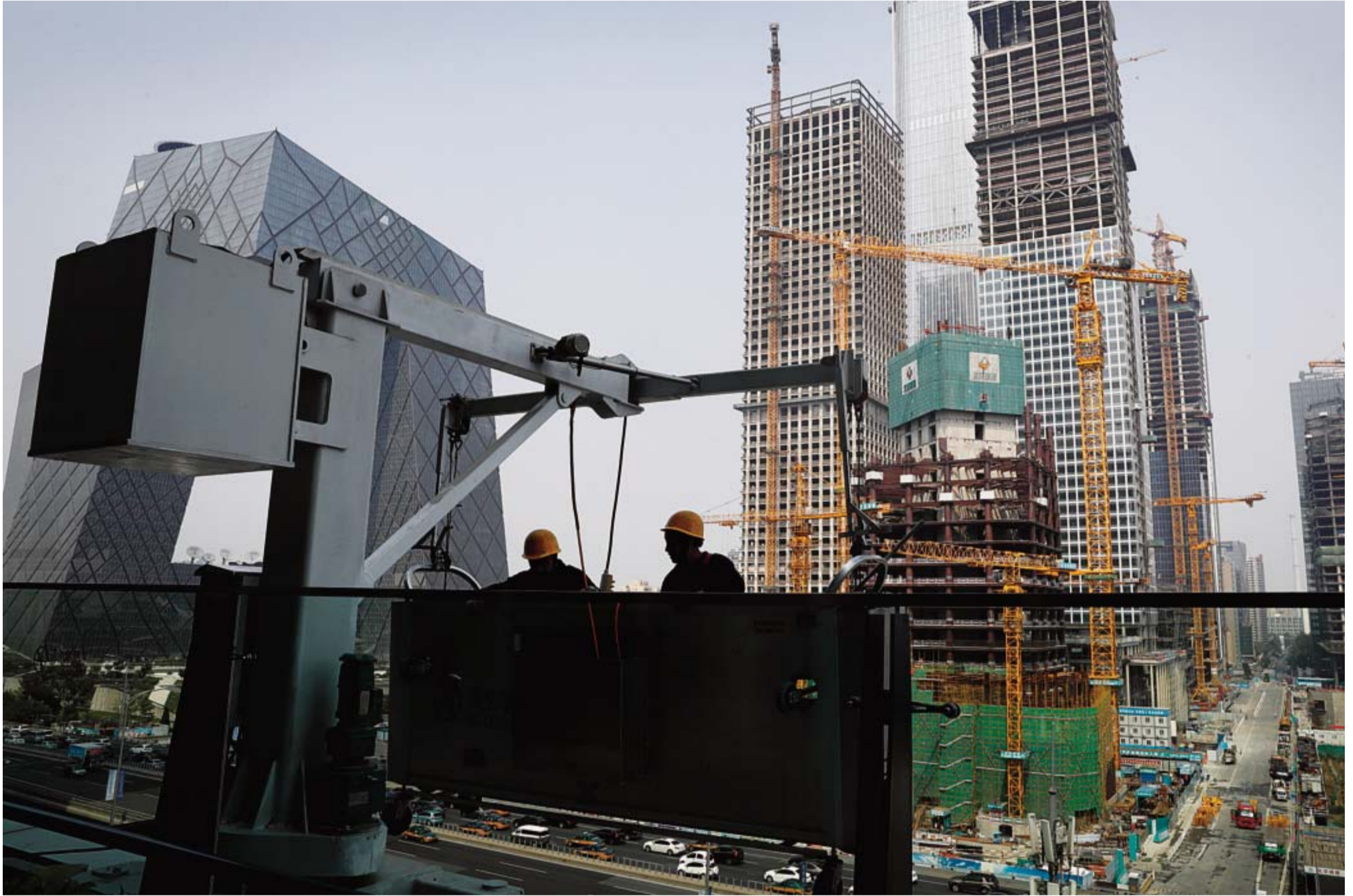
Lite Bite Wheat bran 0% added sugar Rich in fiber Coated with Milk Chocolate

Lite Bite Wheat bran 0% added sugar Rich in fiber Coated with Dark Chocolate



Al-Mazaya Holding announces KD 4.17m in net profit for H1

HIGH-FLYING EURO LAYS EUROPEAN SHARES LOW



In this June 27, 2017 file photo, Chinese workers on a suspended platform prepare to clean window of a newly opened shopping mall against the China's state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) headquarters and construction buildings at the Central Business District in Beijing. —AP

ME GROWTH TO DIVE AS SAUDI ECONOMY SLOWS: IMF

GLOBAL RECOVERY ON FIRMER FOOTING; OUTLOOK FOR US, UK ECONOMIES LOWERED

DUBAI: Economic growth in the Middle East and North Africa is forecast to slow considerably over oil prices as the Saudi economy slides, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. After a better than expected performance with five percent growth in 2016, the economies of countries in the Middle East and North Africa as well as Pakistan and Afghanistan will subside to just 2.6 percent growth this year, it said.

Last year's healthy regional economic performance was mainly attributed to Iran's strong growth estimated at above 6.5 percent because of higher crude production, the IMF said.

In its World Economic Outlook update, the IMF lowered economic growth of Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, to just 0.1 percent in 2017, down 0.3 percent on its April projections. This will be Saudi Arabia's worst growth since 2009 when its economy contracted by 2.0 percent on the slump of oil revenues following the global financial crisis.

"The recent decline in oil prices, if sustained, could weigh further on the outlook for the region's oil exporters," the IMF said. After recovering to over \$55 a barrel following a production reduction agreement by producers, oil prices receded on strong inventory levels and a pickup in supply.

The IMF projected that regional growth will rebound to 3.3 percent in 2018, however. Saudi economic growth is also forecast to rebound to 1.1 per-

cent next year, down 0.2 percentage points on April projections, it said. Saudi Arabia's economy, the largest in the region, grew by 4.1 percent and 1.7 percent in 2015 and last year respectively. MENA oil exporters have lost hundreds of billions of dollars since the mid-2014 crash in crude prices, transforming huge surpluses into shortfalls.

They have since implemented some economic reforms that have included raising fuel and power prices. Gulf states, which earn more than 70 percent of their revenue from energy, have been posting budget deficits since oil prices fell.

Global recovery

The global economic recovery is on firmer footing as improving growth in China, Europe and Japan offset downward revisions for the United States and Britain, the IMF said. However, wage growth remains sluggish which risks increasing tensions that have pushed some countries toward more anti-global policies, while efforts to erode financial regulations put in place since the 2008 crisis could erode stability, the IMF warned.

"The recovery in global growth that we projected in April is on a firmer footing; there is now no question mark over the world economy's gain in momentum," IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld said.

Presenting the latest update of the World Economic Outlook (WEO), he said "recent data point

to the broadest synchronized upswing the world economy has experienced in the last decade."

The fund still expects the global economy will grow by 3.5 percent in 2017 and 3.6 percent in 2018, the same as in the April WEO. However, the unchanged forecast masks some significant revisions, including in the United States where the IMF downgraded its growth estimate last month after judging that spending plans promised by President Donald Trump that had been expected to provide a boost to the economy were stuck in limbo.

The US estimate was cut to 2.1 percent for this year and next, down 0.2 points and 0.4 points, respectively, from the more optimistic forecast in the last report.

The outlook for the British economy also was revised down by 0.3 points to 1.7 percent this year on weaker-than-expected activity in the first quarter, while the impact of Brexit "remains unclear." In an update to its April forecasts, the IMF lowered its 2017 growth forecast by 0.3 percentage point to 1.7 percent following weaker than anticipated first quarter figures. During the first three months of the year, the British economy expanded by only 0.2 percent, lower than any other Group of Seven economy.

Upward revisions

But those downward revisions were offset by the improving outlook in key economies, includ-

ing the euro area where growth prospects have improved in France, Germany, Italy and Spain. The euro area now is projected to see economic growth of 1.9 percent this year and 1.7 percent in 2018.

Japan also is seeing improved growth prospects, with an expansion of 1.3 percent this year expected, although that is seen slowing sharply to 0.6 percent in 2018. Meanwhile, China continues to be a major engine of global growth, expanding by 6.7 percent this year, and 6.4 percent next, driven by economic policies in Beijing.

The forecast for 2017 was revised up by 0.1 percentage point, "reflecting the stronger than expected outturn in the first quarter" which the IMF said was underpinned by Beijing's "supply-side reforms."

The 0.2-point upward revision for 2018, however, was the result of the expected delay in the "needed fiscal adjustment," which could cause risks down the road. China's "higher growth is coming at the cost of continuing rapid credit expansion and the resulting financial stability risks," Obstfeld warned in his prepared statement.

Key to prosperity

But within the mostly upbeat forecasts, the IMF once again sounded the warning on the growing anti-global sentiment, which could leave all

economies worse off. That has been fueled in part by the fact the benefits of increased growth have not been broadly shared. "Even as unemployment is falling, wage growth still remains weak," Obstfeld said. That "not only holds back the improvement of living standards, but also carries risks of exacerbating social tensions that have already pushed some electorates in the direction of more inward-looking economic policies."

While the report does not specify any country, it comes amid Brexit talks and the Trump administration's continuing focus on "America first" policies, including cutting bilateral trade deficits and backing away from free trade agreements.

The report warned that "policies based narrowly on domestic advantage are at best inefficient and at worst highly damaging to all," Obstfeld said. "Strengthening multilateral cooperation is another key to prosperity."

Finally, the IMF cautioned that "a broad rollback of the strengthening of financial regulation and oversight achieved since the crisis" - something the Trump administration is pushing - could increase the risk to global financial stability. - Agencies in contrast, the IMF upgraded its forecasts for Europe's main economies, such as Germany and France.

Despite the IMF's downgrade, Britain's projected growth is just shy of the eurozone's expected 1.9 percent growth rate. —AFP

OPEC MOVES TO CAP NIGERIAN OIL OUTPUT, BOOST COMPLIANCE

ST PETERSBURG: OPEC moved yesterday to cap Nigerian oil output and called on several members to boost compliance with production cuts to help clear excessive global stocks and support flagging prices. OPEC has agreed with several non-OPEC producers led by Russia to cut oil output by a combined 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) from January 2017 until the end of March 2018.

OPEC states Libya and Nigeria were exempted from the limits to help their oil industries recover from years of unrest. The deal to curb output propelled crude prices above \$58 a barrel in January but they have since slipped back to a \$45 to \$50 range as the effort to drain global inventories has taken longer than expected.

Rising output from US shale producers has offset the impact of the output curbs, as has

climbing production from Libya and Nigeria. A ministerial committee of OPEC and non-OPEC states that monitors the global oil pact said it had agreed Nigeria would join the deal by capping or even cutting its output from 1.8 million bpd, once it stabilizes at that level from 1.7 million bpd recently.

The monitoring committee, known as JMMC and which met in the Russian city of St Petersburg, did not give the timeframe for when this would happen, saying it would track Nigerian production patterns in the next weeks. The committee did not back capping Libyan output as it said its production was unlikely to exceed 1 million bpd in the near future compared to its capacity of 1.4 million-1.6 million bpd before unrest erupted in 2011 and plunged the nation into chaos.

Brent oil prices rose about 1 percent at

about \$48.50, helped by news of a cap on Nigeria and by comments from Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih that the kingdom's exports would fall to 6.6 million bpd in August as demand at home was rising, effectively representing a cut of 1 million bpd year-on-year. He said global stocks had fallen by 90 million barrels, but were still about 250 million barrels above the five-year average for industrialized nations, which is the level OPEC and non-OPEC states are targeting with their output curbs.

Russia and Saudi Arabia face mounting pressure to prop up oil prices. Russia, which is heavily reliant on oil revenues, holds a presidential election next year. Saudi Arabia needs higher prices to balance its budget and support next year's planned listing of state oil firm Saudi Aramco.—Reuters

FED WILL LIKELY FOCUS ON LOW INFLATION BUT LEAVE RATES ALONE

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve has already achieved one of its two mandates: With the unemployment rate at just 4.4 percent, the Fed has essentially maximized employment. It's the Fed's other goal - price stability - that's stayed persistently out of reach. Inflation has been edging further below the Fed's 2 percent target. Problem is, too-low inflation tends to slow consumer spending, the US economy's main fuel. Many consumers delay purchases if they think the same price - or a lower one - will be available later.

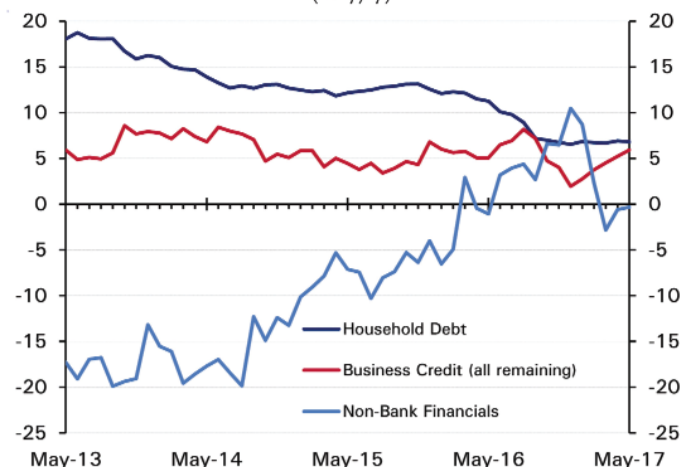
Low inflation will likely be a key discussion point when the Fed holds its latest policy meeting this week. The central bank has raised its benchmark interest rate twice this year, but no one expects another hike when its meeting ends tomorrow. And unless inflation picks up, some analysts foresee no further rate increase this year.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen deepened the uncertainty earlier this month when she sounded less

sure about her position that a slowdown in inflation this year was due to temporary factors. Yellen conceded that Fed officials were puzzled by recent developments. Her remarks lifted financial markets as investors interpreted her words to suggest that the Fed might slow its pace of rate increases.

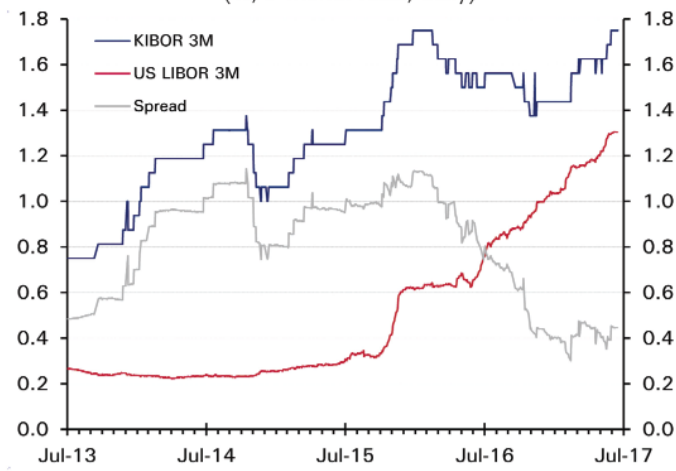
"In the past, Yellen was pretty confident that inflation would come back, but that is now in doubt," said Sung Won Sohn, economics professor at California State University-Chanel Islands. Over the past 12 months, the inflation gauge the Fed monitors most closely has risen just 1.4 percent, according to the latest data. That's down from a 1.9 percent year-over-year increase in January. In part, it's why some economists say they suspect the Fed may be keeping its rate increases on hold, waiting to see if inflation in coming months rebounds from its current slowdown. —AP

Chart 2: Credit growth by component (% y/y)



Source: CBK; *Excl. loans to nonbanks and for the purchase of securities.

Chart 5: Interbank rates (% 3-month rates, daily)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, Central Bank of Kuwait

KUWAIT CREDIT GROWS 4.7% TO KD 279 MILLION IN MAY

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Credit saw a healthy gain in May of KD 279 million, with growth improving to 4.7 percent year-on-year (y/y). Both business and household credit accounted for most of the healthy gain. Private deposits saw a moderate increase. Interest rates were steady in May. They have risen since even though the central bank opted to keep its key policy rate unchanged following the June US Fed hike.

The gain in household lending was relatively good in May, though growth held steady. The sector saw a gain of KD 75 million, with growth at 6.8 percent y/y. There was a noticeable net drop in consumer loans of KD 11 million, with loans contracting by 4.6 percent y/y. Installment loans continued to be the only source of household loan growth, gaining KD 90 million and recording growth of 8.3 percent y/y.

Business credit (excluding nonbanks) added KD 216 million, with growth improving to 4.0 percent y/y. Most of the gains were in real estate, industry and trade. Other sectors were flat, though there was a noticeable KD 20 million decline in credit to the oil & gas sector. Despite this, credit to the sector still doubled from a year before. "Productive" business sectors (excluding real estate and securities lending) continued to exhibit strong growth of 10.4 percent y/y.

Private deposits saw moderate gains in May while an increase in government deposits offset recent declines. Private deposits rose by KD 42

Table 1: Monetary indicators

	May-17		1-month change		3-month change		12-month change	
	KD mn	%	KD mn	%	KD mn	%	KD mn	%
Total system liquidity (M2)	36,574	173	0.5	840	2.4	180	0.5	
Currency in circulation	1,810	130	7.8	195	12.1	260	16.8	
Private sector deposits	34,764	42	0.1	645	1.9	-80	-0.2	
KD deposits	32,288	262	0.8	1,055	3.4	1,129	3.6	
Sight deposits	8,767	272	3.2	583	7.1	687	8.5	
Savings deposits	4,887	50	1.0	152	3.2	177	3.8	
Time deposits & CDs	18,635	-61	-0.3	320	1.7	265	1.4	
Foreign currency deposits	2,476	-219	-8.1	-410	-14.2	-1,209	-32.8	

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

million, following decent gains in KD sight and savings deposits. These were offset by declines in foreign currency and KD time deposits. Money supply (M2) growth remained subdued at 0.5 percent y/y, though M1 growth has been stronger at 9.8 percent y/y. Government deposits rose by KD 172 million, with growth bouncing back to 13.4 percent y/y.

Banking system liquidity was steady in May. Bank reserves (cash, deposits with the CBK, and CBK bonds) declined marginally by KD 46 million to KD 4.8 billion or 7.8 percent of bank assets. This coincided with no net issuance of public

debt during the month. Outstanding domestic public debt instruments (PDIs) were steady at KD 4.117 billion, or an estimated 12 percent of GDP.

Interest rates were relatively steady in May, though they have risen since. The 3-month and 6-month interbank rates were up just 1-2 basis points in May. Customer deposit rates were also little changed. Rates have moved up since, following the Fed's June rate hike of 25 bps, which saw the CBK increase its repo rate by 25 bps but keep its main policy rate, the discount rate, unchanged. The move was an effort to avoid pressuring domestic economic growth.

CHINA HOPES CONSTRUCTION OF THAI RAILWAY CAN START QUICKLY

BANGKOK: China's foreign minister said yesterday he hopes construction of a new Thai railway can start immediately so Thailand will have better access to Chinese markets.

Wang Yi spoke during an official visit to strengthen political and economic relations, which have become increasingly warm in recent years as China has sought to spread its influence and Thailand's military government has loosened ties with the United States, its traditional ally.

The joint Thai-Chinese plan for a new 179 billion baht (\$5.3 billion) railway from Bangkok to the northeast has been repeatedly delayed over differences about financing and other issues. Last month, however, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha issued a special order to expedite construction by decreeing that certain regulations could be ignored, including labor rules, so that Chinese engineers could work on the project. The railroad is part of China's "One Belt, One Road" project allowing cross-border development and connectivity among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.

Wang and Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai spoke in a joint news briefing of their two countries' good relations and major long-term projects. Wang met earlier with Prime Minister Prayuth.

"We want to hasten the China and Thailand railway project, and make sure that construction can start immediately, which would allow Thailand to connect

to the large market in China and become a hub of regional connectivity," Wang said.

Don called the rail project an example of ancient dreams coming closer to reality thanks to Chinese efforts. "China, over the past 40 years, has been able to have their people's dreams come true. They have transformed themselves from a country with millions of people living in poverty, to now being able to free those millions from poverty," he said.

Thai deputy government spokesman Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak told reporters that Prayuth "is determined to improve the already good relationship with China." He said Thailand is ready to strategically cooperate with China in all aspects to benefit both nations.

He said their development plans benefit both countries, giving the rail project as an example of a Chinese plan that meshes with Thailand's intentions to upgrade its technological abilities and develop its Eastern Seaboard. Thailand's military government, which took power in a 2014 coup, has been criticized by the United States for failing to restore democracy and limiting civil rights, putting a strain on relations with Washington.

At the same time, it has expanded links with Beijing and adopted policies - such as limited tolerance of social and political activism, and mass surveillance, especially online - that seem based on Chinese concepts of social discipline. — AP

FROM RENTED JEANS TO REUSED COOKING OIL, BUSINESSES ARE GOING 'CIRCULAR'

LONDON: From recycled paint to rented jeans, businesses large and small are looking at ways to cut waste, use fewer resources and help create what has been coined a "circular economy" in which raw materials and products are repeatedly reused.

Unilever, Renault, Google and Nike are some of the companies starting to move towards a circular business model, experts say. Cities too - including London, Amsterdam and Paris - are looking at how they can shift to a circular economy, which means reusing products, parts and materials, producing no waste and pollution, and using fewer new resources and energy.

London's Waste and Recycling Board last month published a routemap for how the city as a whole could make the shift, thereby cutting emissions and creating jobs. "As London grows it faces unprecedented pressure on its land and its resources. If we are to meet these challenges, moving London to a circular economy will be vital," Shirley Rodrigues, London's deputy mayor for environment and energy, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The city would likely need less land and infrastructure to manage waste, freeing up space for housing and saving up to 5 billion pounds (\$6.5 billion) in infrastructure costs. The shift could generate 40,000 jobs, including 12,500 new jobs across London, she said.

It would also cut harmful greenhouse gas emissions. "It is widely accepted that the circular economy has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions ... through using less resources to make products in the first place and releasing less gases from energy generation, for example," Rodrigues said.

"This can also be achieved through using resources more efficiently by extending the life of products and through the sharing of goods," she added.

PwC, which offers audit, tax and consulting services, is going circular, and offering advice about this to its clients, who number 26,000 in Britain with more overseas. The company uses cooking fat from its canteens and other kitchens to fuel its offices, it re-uses and

remanufactures office furniture where possible and donates the rest to charity, and when its computers and phones need upgrading - a frequent occurrence - they send them to another company which resells them.

'Walk the talk'

Bridget Jackson, PwC's head of corporate sustainability, is looking at everything from office carpets to recycled wall paint to see how to cut the company's waste and use of resources. Even worn out company uniforms are taken apart and reused.

"There are big cost savings, there's reputational benefits from being responsible, and it is a topic which is of a lot of interest to our employees," Jackson said. "We are often giving advice to clients about how they can make their operations more efficient and be more sustainable, and we try to walk the talk," she said. Some companies are looking for ways to become less reliant on raw materials because they fluctuate in price and become harder to source.

That can mean recycling aluminium for cars, old trainers for sportswear, and others are looking at reusing parts. Many have developed ways to lease products - including jeans, lighting and photocopiers - to customers who return them when they want to upgrade.

London authorities are hoping that architects will increasingly design buildings which can be taken apart at the end of their lives and the materials and components used again. "I think increasingly, everything that we do will be seen through the lens of a circular economy," said Wayne Hubbard, chief operating officer of the London Waste and Recycling Board.

Experts say change is happening in pockets. "We're still in the early stages where you see some businesses, some cities, national governments playing around with these ideas and ... starting to make moves towards a circular economy," said Ashima Sukhdev, head of governments and cities at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. "I'm very hopeful that London will become a circular economy." — Reuters

GREECE READIES FIRST FORAY INTO BOND MARKET IN THREE YEARS

ATHENS: Greece will make its first return to the debt markets in three years today, testing the waters to see if it can begin to wean itself off bailout loans after tough reforms.

Athens "announces today that it intends to offer new euro-denominated fixed rate notes due 2022," the finance ministry said in a statement yesterday. "Pricing of the new notes offering is expected to occur on 25 July 2017, subject to market conditions, with settlement expected to occur on 1 August 2017," the ministry said. BNP Paribas, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC and Merrill Lynch have been picked to handle the five-year sale, the ministry said.

Athens has also invited holders of an existing five-year bond, due in 2019, to a switch and tender offer. "The cash purchase price to be paid for (the existing 2014 bond) will be equal to 102.6 percent of the nominal amount," the ministry said. The last time Greece issued bonds was in 2014 under the coalition government of Antonis Samaras with a yield to investors of 4.95 percent. The goal of current Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is a lesser yield, according to reports. Greece currently has no need to draw money from the bond markets-but it is a necessary psychological milestone.

The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) will keep feeding the debt-ridden country with low interest rate loans (0.8 and 1.8 percent) until the end of the bailout program in July 2018. Earlier this month, eurozone finance ministers approved the latest 8.5 billion-euro (\$9.9-billion) disbursement of the bailout, just in time for Athens to meet major debt repayments. This gives Athens the chance to test without major risks its credibili-



THESSALONIKI: A woman makes a straw chair in Thessaloniki yesterday. Greece will make its first return to the debt markets in three years today, testing the waters to see if it can begin to wean itself off bailout loans after tough reforms. — AFP

ty in the markets. 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. The EU's economy commissioner, Pierre Moscovici, said ahead of visit to Athens for

talks with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on debt relief that Greece is beginning to see the positive results from the tough austerity measures it has undertaken. "Greece was caught up in an incredible economic and financial storm," Moscovici told France Inter radio yesterday. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.706
Indian Rupees	4.713
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.953
Singapore Dollar	228.800
Hongkong Dollar	38.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.731
Philippine Peso	5.978
Thai Baht	9.052

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.974
Qatari Riyal	83.400
Omani Riyal	788.591
Bahraini Dinar	806.300
UAE Dirham	82.673

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.100
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.830
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	125.910
Jordanian Dinar	428.480
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.023
Syrian Lira	2.164
Morocco Dirham	32.111

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.450
Euro	351.400
Sterling Pound	399.190
Canadian dollar	241.120
Turkish Lira	86.640

Swiss Franc	317.920
Australian Dollar	241.090
US Dollar Buying	302.250

GOLD	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.100
Canadian Dollar	240.555
Sterling Pound	395.155
Euro	354.530
Swiss Frank	289.630
Bahrain Dinar	803.920
UAE Dirhams	82.920
Qatari Riyals	84.135
Saudi Riyals	81.720
Jordanian Dinar	427.420
Egyptian Pound	16.954
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Indian Rupees	4.715
Pakistani Rupees	2.877
Bangladesh Taka	3.746
Philippines Peso	5.976
Cyprus pound	167.275
Japanese Yen	3.710
Syrian Pound	2.415
Nepalese Rupees	2.950
Malaysian Ringgit	71.725

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.280
Thai Baht	10.050
Turkish Lira	86.255

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.388332	0.398332
Czech Korune	0.005357	0.017357
Danish Krone	0.042850	0.047850
Euro	0.343465	0.352465
Norwegian Krone	0.033509	0.038709
Romanian Leu	0.076252	0.076252
Slovakia	0.009055	0.019055
Swedish Krona	0.032446	0.037446
Swiss Franc	0.310701	0.321701
Turkish Lira	0.081072	0.091372

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.231960	0.243960
New Zealand Dollar	0.216182	0.225582

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.234840	0.243840
Georgina Lari	0.137053	0.137053
US Dollars	0.299350	0.303770
US Dollars Mint	0.299850	0.303770

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003390	0.003974
Chinese Yuan	0.043319	0.046819
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036779	0.039529

Indian Rupee	0.004247	0.004935
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002619	0.002799
Kenyan Shilling	0.002912	0.002912
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067235	0.073235
Nepalese Rupee	0.002983	0.003153
Pakistan Rupee	0.002676	0.002966
Philippine Peso	0.005931	0.006231
Sierra Leone	0.000037	0.000043
Singapore Dollar	0.215993	0.225993
South African Rand	0.017354	0.025854
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001602	0.002182
Taiwan	0.009838	0.010018
Thai Baht	0.008667	0.009217

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.797806	0.806306
Egyptian Pound	0.015158	0.021066
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423391	0.432391
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019702	0.043702
Nigerian Naira	0.000392	0.001027
Omani Riyal	0.781762	0.787442
Qatar Riyal	0.079060	0.084000
Saudi Riyal	0.079833	0.081133
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.121146	0.129146
Turkish Lira	0.081072	0.091372
UAE Dirhams	0.081148	0.082848
Yemeni Riyal	0.000986	0.001066

GULF INSURANCE GROUP POSTS KD 5.6M NET PROFIT FOR H1 2017

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (gig) announced a net profit of KD 5.6 million (\$18.4 million), or 31.21 fils per share, for the first half of 2017 compared with net profit of KD 7.13 million (\$23.5 million) for the same period last year and with decrease of KD 1.53 million (\$5.1 million) or 21.7 percent. This decrease is due to the group's share of results from its subsidiaries.

Shareholder equity reached KD 70.1 million (\$230.8 million), as at June 30, 2017. Book value per share reached fils 391 as at June 30, 2017.

Gross written premium reached KD 156.3 million (\$514.8 million), with an increase of 58.7 percent compared with the same period last year of KD 98.5 million (\$324.5 million).

Net investment income and sundry income reached KD 7.8 million (\$25.8 million) compared to KD 5.7 million (\$18.8 million) with the same period last year with increase of 37 percent.



Khaled Al-Hasan

to withstand emergencies and risks that may rise in the future.

Total assets reached KD 525.8 million (\$1.73 billion) as at June 30, 2017, an increase of KD 149.9 million (\$493.7 million) or 39.9 percent from Dec 31 2016.

Net technical reserves were raised from being KD 106.4 million (\$350.5 million) on December 31, 2016, reaching KD 138.2 million (\$455.1 million) as at June 30, 2017. This increase represents a growth of 29.8 percent, supports the company's technical operations and to protect the policyholders rights, thereby strengthening gig's ability

Khaled Al-Hasan, gig's CEO, said, "Our results of the 1st half of 2017 reflect the growth we have achieved. This is also a strong indication of the Group's ability to protect its assets and shareholders' equity. It is also in line with our constant strive to provide the best insurance services to our clients across all markets we operate in, supported by our strategy for regional expansion and increasing our domestic and regional market share."

He added, "We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the support of our shareholders, namely KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts."

Gulf Insurance Group is the largest insurance Group in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in both life and non-life insurance. Gulf Insurance has become one of the

largest insurance networks in the Middle East and North Africa with companies in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Bahrain, Emirates, Turkey and Kuwait. Its reported consolidated assets stand at US\$ 1.73 billion as at 30 June 2017.

KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company - is Gulf Insurance Group's largest shareholder, followed by the Canadian-based Fairfax Financial Holding Ltd.

Gulf Insurance Group enjoys the privilege of being the first triple-rated insurance group in Kuwait. The group holds a Financial Strength Rating of 'A' (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of 'a' with stable outlook from A.M. Best Europe - Rating Services Limited, a Financial Strength Rating of A- with stable outlook from Standard & Poor's and an Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR) of 'A3' from Moody's Investors Service carrying a stable outlook.

UK LAUNCHES FUND TO BOOST ELECTRIC BATTERY TECHNOLOGY

MAJOR GROWTH AREA FOR CAR AND ENERGY SECTORS

BIRMINGHAM/ LONDON: Britain launched a 246 million-pound (\$320 million) fund yesterday to boost the development and manufacturing of electric batteries, a major growth area for the car and energy sectors. The scheme, which allows those in business and academia to apply for government funds to work on a range of possible electric battery schemes, is part of Britain's industrial strategy which Prime Minister Theresa May published in January. It is designed to take a more hands-on approach to developing key industries to help protect the e-economy as Britain leaves the European Union.

Automakers are racing to build greener vehicles and improve charge times in a bid to meet rising customer demand and meet air quality targets but Britain lacks sufficient manufacturing capacity, an area ministers are keen to build up. The first tranche comprises a 45 million-pound pot of money which will help to establish a 'Battery Institute' for research to help improve the affordability of the technology, which needs to bolster charge and use times, reduce storage sizes and boost capacity.

Business minister Greg Clark also wants to establish a "National Battery Manufacturing Development facility" which would support the building of electric batteries for the automotive sector. "Joining together the research, development, application and manufacture of energy storage technologies - and specifically battery storage - is a huge opportunity for the energy sector and the automotive sector alike," Clark said in a speech in Birmingham. In May, representatives from politics, academia and business in the central English city of Coventry pitched plans to receive part of the funds for a "National Battery Prototyping Centre" which would focus on research and development and testing.

Japan's Nissan already builds its electric Leaf at its north of England plant but Britain's biggest carmaker Jaguar Land Rover is building its first low-emissions model in Austria.

Its chief executive told Reuters last year that a number of factors needed to be put in place



WASHINGTON: British Trade Secretary Liam Fox speaks at American Enterprise Institute. British Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox delivered remarks on "The Future of UK Trade Policy" at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) yesterday in Washington, DC. —AFP

before JLR would build electric models in Britain, including pilot testing and support from science.

Germany's BMW favours building its first electric model at its Oxford plant, two sources told Reuters last week, in a decision which is due to be announced in September.

Clark also said that up to 40 billion pounds could be saved by 2050 with a range of measures designed to better manage energy use, including allowing users to control their appliances from their smartphones. But businesses have become more cautious about future investment in Britain ahead of Brexit, worried that the

country may lose unfettered and free trade with its biggest export partner at the end of two-year divorce talks in March 2019.

Many companies have urged the government to push the European Union to agree to a clear and lengthy transitional arrangement to help them make investment decisions.

Asked yesterday when the government would set out the kind of transitional arrangement it would be seeking, Clark said: "During the autumn... and as the negotiations move forward, we hope from their initial discussion, then that's the time to say more about that." — Reuters



This July 10, 2017 photo shows a home for sale, in North Andover, Mass. The National Association of Realtors reported on sales of existing homes in June. — AP

US HOME SALES FELL IN JUNE; WOULD-BE BUYERS CAN'T FIND HOMES

WASHINGTON: Homebuyers faced surging prices and a shrinking number of properties for sale in June - causing the pace of sales to fall. Sales of existing homes slipped 1.8 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.52 million, the National Association of Realtors said yesterday.

The decline speaks to a troubling cycle for a US housing market hampered by a worsening shortage of properties to buy. Despite solid demand in a relatively healthy economy for houses, sales listings have been steadily declining for more than two years. The resulting shortage has caused prices to consistently rise faster than wage gains, making it harder for more Americans to build up their net worth by becoming homeowners. Sales levels have improved a mere 0.7 percent over the past

12 months. The modest gains come despite solid levels of hiring that have pushed the unemployment rate to a healthy 4.4 percent, a level that in the past would have helped to fuel further sales growth.

But many would-be homebuyers are unable to find properties to purchase. The number of sales listings has been falling on an annual basis for the past 25 months. There were 1.96 million homes for sale in June, a 7.1 decline from a year ago. That shortage has caused prices to climb at more than double the pace of average hourly earnings. The median sales price has climbed 6.5 percent over the past year to \$263,800. Homes sold in June at a median of just 28 days, down from 34 days last year. Sales declined last month in the Northeast, South and West but increased in the Midwest. — AP

IRELAND MAY NEED TO COOL ECONOMY FROM 2019: CB

DUBLIN: Ireland may need to cool parts of its economy in a couple of year, potentially by raising taxes, if ramped up public investment coincides with full employment, its central bank chief was quoted as saying yesterday. The economy has grown faster than any other in Europe for the last three years and employment is showing no sign of slowing down, with a current jobless rate of 6.3 percent down from over 15 percent five years ago.

"We are not overheating now and we may not overheat because of downside risks," Governor Philip Lane told Ireland's edition of The Times newspaper in an interview, a transcript of which was published on the central bank's website. "The big challenge for the government is that from 2019-2021 in the scenario where we do hit full employment in late 2018 or early 2019... the nature of the economy totally changes and everyone recognizes that this has to be handled."

Full employment means that just about everyone who wants a job has one, a situation which leads to workforce shortages and wage inflation. Dublin also plans to stimulate growth by nearly doubling capital spending over the next five years, tackling bottlenecks built up after investment ground to a near-halt during the financial crisis and which remains among the lowest in the European Union.

Lane said that while there was some slack in the economy with wage growth remaining relatively modest, pay pressure built up quite quickly when Ireland last reached full employment in the late 1990s before the crash of the "Celtic Tiger" economy.

"The process of adding through a surge in public investment, how does that work in full employment? Other parts of the economy may need to cool down and this is where the government's overall fiscal strategy may come into play," Lane said.

"So, raising taxes... Not saying we're going to raise taxes forever. But raising taxes to make room for a surge in public investment or to make room for the fact the economy is operating above potential... For small economies the type of budget surplus needed could be significant."

Ireland's Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe said last week that overheating was a risk that could develop and that the government needed to be ready to act. Ireland also faces an economic unknown relating to next door Britain's leaving the EU, potentially cutting its land route to mainland Europe for exports and also creating a different trade relationship with its main UK market. — Reuters



Customers enter and leave the Sears store in St. Eustache, Quebec. Dozens of Sears stores across the country destined for closure began liquidation sales yesterday. — AP

EUROZONE ECONOMY HAS 'HIT A SPEED BUMP': ECB SURVEY

LONDON: Economic activity across the 19-country eurozone cooled slightly in July as the region struggled to keep up the fast pace of its recent upturn, according to a survey that is closely monitored by the European Central Bank. Financial information firm IHS Markit said yesterday that its headline purchasing managers' index for the region fell to a six-month low of 55.8 points in July from 56.3 the previous month.

Despite the modest retreat, the indicator pointed to one of the strongest expansions seen in the past six years, with quarterly growth at a still-healthy 0.6 percent, down slightly from the 0.7 percent signaled for the second quarter. Official second-quarter figures are due at the start of August and are expected to show that the eurozone at least matched the 0.6 percent growth recorded in the first three months of the year.

A run of economic news recently has pointed to a pick-up in growth across the eurozone countries amid rising confidence in the region's outlook following a series of elections that saw populist politicians defeated.

Chris Williamson, the firm's chief business economist, says it's "too early to know for sure whether the economy has merely hit a speed bump or whether the upturn is already starting to fade." The evidence, he

says, "points to the former," with the economy "hitting bottlenecks due to the speed of the recent upturn."

He noted that forward-looking indicators, such as new order inflows, suggest further robust growth in coming months. As a result, job creation is "booming" as companies seek to expand capacity to meet the demand. The survey is likely to inform the ECB's deliberations as it mulls when to start reining back its monetary stimulus. Last week, ECB President Mario Draghi sought to be neutral, worried that any indication of any change of course could lead to the euro currency surging. More clarity is expected in the autumn.

Much will depend on the inflation outlook. The chief purpose behind the ECB's stimulus efforts, which has involved slashing interest rates and buying 60 billion euros (\$69 billion) a month in bonds at least through the end of the year, is to stoke price pressures in the economy to get inflation up to its goal of just below 2 percent. In the year to June, the annual rate of inflation was 1.3 percent.

Monday's survey suggested that inflation pressures eased in July, which may reinforce Draghi's belief that there isn't "any convincing sign of a pickup in inflation." The ECB meets next to decide on policy on Sept 8. — AP

WARBA BANK LAUNCHES 'EXPRESS SHARE' SERVICE

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy institution, in line with its vision and strategy to enhance its digital services in line with the needs of the day and the expectations of customers to facilitate banking transactions, launched its latest flexible banking solution, 'Express Share' service that enables the Bank's customers to send a request to have money transferred to their accounts by anyone who has their mobile phone number and an ATM card issued by any other bank.



Haitham Al-Terkait

The idea of the new service is to help the Bank's customers to collect money contributions of 'Qatyyah' [Shared Payments] regarding social and family gatherings, events and activities from the people involved. For example, if a Warba Bank customer pays a bill and wants to share it with friends or family members, whether in restaurants, chalets or otherwise, through the Warba Bank Application or Warba Bank's website, can send requests to those persons to make them pay their shares through the 'Share Express' service. In terms of the 'Share Express' service mechanism, it requires the customer to access their online bank account, go to the Transfer Section, and choose the 'Express Share' service.

New occasion

This way, the customer can create and name a new occasion or request and then choose which account the money will be deposited into and determine the persons participating in the 'Qatyyah' along with their respective mobile phone numbers and the transfer amount. Upon completion of this process, an SMS will be sent to the mobile phones of all the parties involved. This SMS contains the link and transfer request number, a special code, and the request details. Clicking on the link will automatically lead to the electronic payment gateway where the person in question can enter the request number in the required field and complete the remaining steps to pay the amount due. This way, the request sender can receive all of their funds from all parties.

Haitham Al-Terkait, the Chief IT Group, said: "In addition to the secure payment mechanism using the K-Net portal, the 'Share Express' service has many advantages. The customer can create more than one occasion and request payments from more than one person. The customer may also remind the 'Qatyyah' participants to pay the amounts owed by them if they fail to do so. The service is available on a 24/7 basis and even during official holidays. The customer can also use it outside Kuwait."

Unique addition

Al-Terkait added, "The amounts allowed to be received from each payer range from KD 5, as a minimum, to KD 200, as a maximum. The maximum amount to be requested per each occasion created by the bank customer is KD 500. The maximum amounts that a bank customer can collect via the 'Share Express' service is KD 1000. "This service is a unique addition to the Bank's recently-launched 'Express' banking service package, which will facilitate the customers' banking transactions and help them to monitor their bank accounts easily, saving them time and effort as they will no longer need to go to one of the bank's branches to complete those banking transactions", Al-Terkait concluded.

HIGH-FLYING EURO LAYS EUROPEAN SHARES LOW

LONDON: The euro hit an almost two-year high against an ailing dollar yesterday, largely shuffling off data showing eurozone business growth slowed last month and weighing on exporters' shares.

Strength in the euro, which helped pitch the dollar to a 13-month low against a basket of major currencies, depressed European automakers, other sectors and major stock indexes, while Wall Street was also indicated lower. The euro touched \$1.1684 in Asian trade, before pulling back to trade at \$1.1648, down 0.2 percent on the day.

The European single currency hit a low for the day of \$1.1631 after preliminary data showing German private sector growth slowed more than expected in July. The euro has risen in

recent weeks on expectations the European Central Bank will begin to scale back its bond-buying monetary stimulus scheme before long.

On Friday, the day after an ECB policy meeting, four sources with direct knowledge of the discussions said policymakers saw October as the most likely date to decide on this.

European shares fell yesterday, with the exporter-dominated German DAX index dropping 0.5 percent, slightly underperforming the pan-European STOXX 600 index, which lost 0.4 percent. The STOXX index dropped 1 percent on Friday as the strong euro weighed on earnings.

German government bond yields edged lower after euro zone business activity data also came in below forecasts. The 10-year yield

- the benchmark for euro zone borrowing costs - fell to 0.49 percent, down 0.4 basis points and its lowest in more than a week. It later nudged back up to 0.5 percent.

'Path of least resistance'

The dollar index was last up 0.1 percent on the day. "A weaker dollar seems to be the path of least resistance given the soft data coming out of the US and the political uncertainty," Michael Hewson, chief markets strategist at CMC Capital Markets in London, said.

Investigations into alleged Russian meddling in last year's US presidential election are seen as potential impediments to President Donald Trump implementing his economic agenda.

Speculative investors turned negative on the dollar last week for the first time in more than a year, data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission showed on Friday. Yesterday, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan reversed losses to edge up 0.3 percent. But Japan's Nikkei dropped 0.6 percent, pressured by a stronger yen. Australian shares retreated 0.7 percent and South Korea's KOSPI edged down 0.1 percent.

Chinese bluechips closed up 0.4 percent and close to 18-month highs as institutional investors stepped up purchases of big companies' shares. Oil reversed earlier falls after leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia pledged to limit exports next month, with Brent crude, the international

benchmark, up 43 cents at \$48.49 a barrel.

Ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other non-OPEC producers will meet in St Petersburg to review market conditions and examine any proposals related to their pact to cut output. Sources familiar with the talks said the meeting may recommend a conditional cap on production from Nigeria and Libya - two OPEC members so far exempt from cuts - although some analysts were skeptical of such a move.

The weaker dollar helped push copper close to its highest since March, 0.4 percent higher on the day at \$6,025 a ton. Gold hit its highest in four weeks and stood at \$1,256 an ounce, up 0.1 percent on the day. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report									
Monday 24 July 2017									
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing						
Price index	▲ 22.51	6,822.18	6,799.67						
Weighted Index	▲ 5.34	413.82	408.48						
KSX 15	▲ 16.21	948.53	932.32						
Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0		
NAPESCO	1,560	1,500	38,201	59,051	12	1,560	▲ 35.0		
ENERGYH	39.8	39.0	12,100	479	10	39.7	▲ 2.2		
GPI	43.2	41.5	8,610,097	367,960	191	42.7	▲ 0.8		
ABAR	91	89	27,000	2,420	15	89	▲ 0.0		
Oil & Gas			8,687,398	429,910	228	1058.22	▲ 19.80		
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	289	▲ 0.0		
BPCC	556	556	91,888	51,090	8	556	▲ 2.0		
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▲ 0.0		
ALQURAIN	350	340	1,340,080	462,325	78	350	▲ 14.0		
Basic Materials			1,431,968	513,414	86	1258.77	▲ 19.90		
KCEM	445	445	55,050	24,497	1	445	▲ 0.0		
CABLE	438	428	11,317	4,857	5	436	▼ -2.0		
SHIP	207	205	452,113	92,776	41	205	▲ 0.0		
PCEM	930	922	83,397	77,217	7	922	▲ 1.0		
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	295	▲ 0.0		
MRC	112	100	5,206	580	10	108	▼ -12.0		
ACICO	270	259	50,000	13,138	5	270	▲ 11.0		
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0		
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▲ 0.0		
NICBM	180	175	11,349	2,018	3	175	▼ -5.0		
EQUIPMENT	51	49.0	620,000	31,225	18	50	▲ 0.1		
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0		
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0		
SALBOOKH	65	60	10,800	690	5	64	▼ -1.0		
AGLTY	851	838	1,869,928	1,581,221	168	849	▲ 9.0		
EDU	335	330	392,950	130,311	31	335	▲ 0.0		
CLEANING	51	51	100	5	1	51	▼ -1.0		
KGL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0		
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	155	▲ 0.0		
HUMANSOFT	4,400	4,249	411,469	1,798,092	107	4,400	▲ 101.0		
NAFAIS	174	174	8,510	1,481	3	174	▼ -23.0		
GFC	75	69	71,237	5,313	8	75	▲ 5.0		
MAYADEEN	28.5	28.0	100,010	2,800	3	28.5	▲ 0.5		
CGC	615	614	13,000	7,989	6	615	▲ 1.0		
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0		
UPAC	779	779	364	284	1	779	▲ 0.0		
ALAFCCO	350	340	242,315	83,703	23	343	▼ -5.0		
MUBARRAD	77	74	50,001	3,700	5	77	▲ 0.8		
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	▲ 0.0		
SCEM	84	84	7	1	1	84	▲ 7.9		
GCEM	77	76	486,600	37,025	12	76	▲ 0.0		
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0		
FCEM	82	78	1,914	155	3	78	▼ -4.5		
RKWC	83	83	7,735	642	1	83	▼ -6.0		
SPEC	94	90	76,750	7,100	6	94	▲ 2.7		
Industrials			5,032,122	3,906,818	474	1914.62	▲ 9.40		
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0		
CATTL	219	219	21,534	4,716	1	219	▲ 0.0		
DANAH	75	73	169,270	12,331	7	75	▲ 0.8		
FOOD	2,399	2,100	201	422	2	2,100	▲ 0.0		
Consumer Goods			191,005	17,469	10	1021.53	▲ 1.90		
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0		
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0		
YIACO	180	180	50	9	1	180	▲ 1		
Health Care			50	9	1	1515.57	▲ 1.00		
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,400	▲ 0.0		
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0		
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0		
CABLETV	28.9	27.5	10,054	290	2	27.5	▲ 1.5		
EYAS	830	800	11,639	9,360	13	830	▼ -1		
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0		
OULAFUEL	124	123	14,786	1,823	13	123	▲ 0.0		
MUNTAZAHAT	80	70	120,151	9,042	6	78	▼ -2		
JAZEERA	499	478	5,090	2,519	5	499	▼ -1		
SOOR	128	123	89,126	11,050	26	123	▼ -1		
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0		
ALRAI	122	120	92,364	11,099	9	121	▲ 1		
Jiyad	52	51	199,096	10,311	11	52	▼ -1		
Mezzan	918	907	419,500	381,316	31	910	▲ 0.0		
Consumer Services			961,806	436,810	116	1034.15	▲ -9.30		
ZAIN	444	432	4,895,886	2,150,440	185	444	▲ 12		
OOREDOO	1,175	1,160	4,559	5,295	7	1,160	▲ 9		
HITSTELEC	43.2	42.0	613,103	26,348	22	43.0	▲ 0.0		
VIVA	824	800	62,613	51,052	44	815	▲ 13		
Telecommunications			5,576,161	2,233,135	258	607.81	▲ 8.90		
NBK	700	694	4,332,598	3,023,973	96	699	▲ 5		
GBK	242	240	396,532	95,913	24	242	▲ 4		
CBK	330	325	40,000	13,194	3	330	▲ 0.0		
ABK	320	320	24,195	7,742	3	320	▲ 0.0		
ALMUTAHED	410	406	21,100	8,639	5	409	▲ 6		
KIB	244	241	781,000	188,568	22	244	▼ -1		
BURG	370	345	1,814,613	645,092	32	355	▲ 13		
KFIN	544	528	6,908,797	3,720,418	365	541	▲ 13		
BOUBYAN	410	408	219,547	89,786	26	410	▲ 4		
AUB	217	214	5,539,705	1,191,815	138	216	▲ 4		
ITHMR	45.5	43.7	9,456,571	419,275	267	45.3	▲ 1		
WARBANK	267	263	923,173	244,347	117	265	▼ -1		
Banks			30,457,831	9,648,761	1,098	945.11	▲ 13.20		
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	260	▲ 0.0		
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	510	▲ 0.0		
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	▲ 0.0		
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0		
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0		
FTI	55	47.0	110	6	2	55	▼ -0.1		
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.0	▲ 0.0		
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0		
Insurance			110	6	2	982.04	▼ -0.20		
SOKOUK	47.8	47.5	210,100	10,007	8	47.8	▲ 0.9		
KRE	59	57	2,428,562	140,299	39	58	▲ 0.7		
URC	88	88	1,900	166	3	88	▲ 0.1		
NRE	128	125	9,624,456	1,215,317	96	128	▲ 3.0		
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0		
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	▲ 0.0		
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▲ 0.0		
MASSALEH	44.9	42.0	122,050	5,470	7	44.8	▲ 0.9		
ARABREC	34.7	34.0	1,435,800	49,241	30	34.5	▲ 0.0		
ERESCO	40.0	39.7	960,240	38,368	31	40.0	▲ 0.4		
MABANEE	788	769	439,897	343,575	26	780	▲ 15.0		
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0		
INVESTORS	24.3	24.0	2,071,302	50,047	43	24.3	▲ 0.2		
IRC	31.3	31.3	27,986	876	3	31.3	▼ -0.2		
ALTUARIA	78	74	6,514,135	499,953	49	77	▲ 3.0		
SANAM	36.8	36.8	316,496	11,647	2	36.8	▼ -0.2		
AAYANRE	85								

Fly away this summer with Shamel offers for Al-Nokhba



OOREDOO INTRODUCES SHAMEL PREMIUM WITH NOJOOM BENEFITS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, is proud to announce the relaunch of Nokhba, its premium Shamel postpaid plans with Nojoom rewards.

The new revamped plans include a number of premium benefits with Nojoom, including business class tickets, priority airport passes and a lineup of the latest smartphone devices such as the iPhone 7, Samsung Galaxy 8 and Huawei Porsche Design. Additionally, all Nokhba clients get Nojoom rewards worth up to KD 500, which can be redeemed from Ooredoo's selection of exclusive partners who offer the best in class services in a variety of industries, ranging from retail to hospitality and travel.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's director of VIP direct sales Jaseem Abdul Rahim noted that the company is continuously working on enriching its portfolio of partners to ensure delivering customers with an unrivalled experience. Shamel Premium offers customers with unlimited benefits that includes credit of up to KD 240 in roaming benefits.

Abdul Rahim noted, "We tailored our premium plans to better suit the needs of our customers. We understand that our customers are global citizens and need to have the best services, in a fast-paced field of telecommunication."

In addition to the unrivalled services, Shamel Premium customers can enjoy the exclusive VIP treatment in Ooredoo's Nokhba lounge, from 8 am to 4 pm in the fourth floor of Ooredoo's head office in Kuwait City.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo Kuwait - which is an enlisted company in the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market - operates a number of telecom service providers in the region, such as Ooredoo Algeria, Ooredoo Tunis, Ooredoo Maldives, and Wataniya Palestine. Ooredoo Kuwait is a member of the international Ooredoo Group based in Doha, Qatar.

Our vision: Enabling the Kuwaiti community through digitalization and enriching people's daily experiences. Our mission: To be a leading one-stop shop, offering comprehensive telecom services to meet all the demands of our customers.

WARBA BANK TIES UP WITH AAYAN AUTO TO OFFER FINANCING SOLUTIONS

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy institution, launched a financing solution for the automotive sector in cooperation with Aayan Auto, one of the leading companies in the field of operational leasing of cars in the State of Kuwait, allowing those wishing to purchase cars to make the most of them.

The campaign is one of the Bank's leading banking solutions designed to suit the needs of the entire local community and offers a great opportunity for anyone who wishes to acquire the latest cars - whether they are customers of Warba Bank or non-customers - without any down payment. This makes it easier for those wishing to purchase the latest types of cars through convenient and flexible monthly installments.

The campaign covers both the 2016 Ford Explorer car, which can be obtained at a competitive price and a special discount if the customer decides to finance it through Warba Bank, and the 2017 KIA Optima car, which is provided by the Bank through a financing plan extending over 3 years through which the customer can own it at the cash price. Cars covered by the campaign have never been used before. Commenting on the campaign Musaad Al-Mazyad, the Bank's Branches Department Manager said, "This campaign aims to give customers more choices when it comes to buying high-quality cars at a reasonable cost and with a convenient and flexible payment method that does not add a financial burden to the customer."

"In Warba Bank we aim to create unique banking and financing solutions by collaborating with the best companies to provide value-added services to our customers. This has given birth to our partnership with Aayan Auto, the leading leasing company operating in the Kuwaiti market. Through this partnership, Aayan Auto offers the latest models sought after by customers. The campaign covers American, Japanese, and Korean made cars so as to suit all different tastes and needs of customers. We view our partnership with Aayan Auto as a long-term strategic partnership given its strong presence in the car operational leasing market and its distinctive services that achieve customer satisfaction," Al-Mazyad added.

To benefit from this campaign, one can visit any of the Aayan Auto branches spread all over Kuwait - in Al-Rai, Al-Mahboubia, Al-Qurain Markets Complex, Al-Ahmadi, and Al-Jahraa, to know the latest offers and models available and choose what suits him.

AL-MAZAYA HOLDING ANNOUNCES KD 4.17M IN NET PROFIT FOR H1

OPERATING REVENUES SURGE 22% TO KD31.32M, EPS AT 6.70 FILS

KUWAIT: Al-Mazaya Holding has announced its financial statements for H1 2017, posting KD 4.17 million in net profits, against KD 4.14 million for the same period in 2016. Earnings per share reached 6.70 fils in 2017 against 6.66 fils for the corresponding period in 2016.

Commenting on the financial statements, following the company's recent board meeting, Al-Mazaya Group CEO Engineer Ibrahim Al-Saq'abi said that Al-Mazaya Holding has continued to boost its operating performance for the first half of 2017 thanks to an intensive focus on a robust operating plan based on well-integrated strategy and a strict time frame that boosted the company's total operating revenues by 22.02 percent to KD 31.32 million by the end of the first half of this year against KD 25.67 million for the same period last year.

Al-Saq'abi attributed the significant growth in revenues to well-thought-out marketing and sales strategy that drove operating revenues up to KD 27.52 million this year, showing a growth of 25.46 percent from KD 21.93 million for the corresponding period last year, with rental revenues increasing 3.52 percent to KD 3.73 million by the end of the first six months of 2017 against KD 3.61 million for the same period in 2016. The company declared KD 7.41 million operating profits for January to June period, showing around 22 percent year on year growth, generated by sales and rentals.

Elaborating on the financial revenues generated by the company's operations, Al-Saq'abi said that the rental revenues were driven by increased rentals from Al-Olia Tower, a project located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which the company added to its income-generating streams recently. In this regard, the group chief executive also highlighted the company's success in securing high occupancy rates at its other projects, including Sky Gardens in Dubai International Financial Centre where the occupancy capacity hit 95 percent, and Al-Mazaya Towers in the Kuwaiti capital (3 towers) where the occupancy rate recorded almost 100 percent along with the company's other projects executed in a number of other regional countries, such as KSA, and Dubai where the occupancy rate also surged to around 100 percent as well.

On a similar note, Al-Saq'abi added that the company secured other sales in ready-for-sale properties, including office spaces at Al-Mazaya Business Avenue in addition to selling and handing over a large number of residential units at its "Q-Point" and "Q-Line" developments and at Ritim Istanbul Development in Turkey.

Financial statements

Al-Saq'abi informed that the company has maintained progressive growth in its operating performance and significant net profits thanks to a well-calculated strategy based on smart objectives. The company's total assets reached KD242.13 million by the end of H1 against KD233.95 million for the same period last year, showing a growth of 3.50 percent. Stockholders' rights amounted to KD 116.60 million by the end of H1 2017 from KD114.29



Engineer Ibrahim Al-Saq'abi

help to start the main upper construction work and external structure. A large-scale marketing campaign has been implemented by the company for the project and resulted in selling 30 percent of its units.

Al-Mazaya has completed the development of a world-class medical building to serve as an individual health clinic in Sabah Al-Salem. The project has been rented out to leading doctors in Kuwait and its rental revenues are projected to be listed by the end of the 4th quarter of the current year.

Al-Mazaya Holding has been named among the top 50 companies listed on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange by "Forbes Middle East", a leading source for reliable business news and financial information. The announcement was made at the annual ceremony organized by the magazine under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, who presented the award in the presence of Dr Nasser Bin Aqeel Al-Tayyar, President and Publisher of Arab Publisher House, and Publisher of Forbes Middle East. Al-Mazaya Holding Group CEO Eng. Ibrahim Al-Saq'abi received the prestigious award in the presence of a galaxy of key CEOs of leading public and private sector companies and diplomats in Kuwait as well as Arab region.

Al-Mazaya Logistics project in Bahrain Investment Wharf has been totally rented out at a 100 percent occupancy rate. Al-Mazaya Logistics represents an audacious business platform for logistics investments. Its revenues have already been included in this year's H1 budget.

An agreement with Injaz-Kuwait to train 1,000 high-school and college students by company's professionals during 2017 as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility obligations towards the country's youth.

Completion of the initial concept design stage at its new project in Al Sharq area in Kuwait (Mazaya Downtown) through Gensler, an integrated architecture, design, planning and consulting firm. The final design and architectural licensing have been entrusted to a leading local company in Kuwait to get the con-

struction license from state departments concerned.

Continuing to execute its new projects in Dubai, including completion of Phase II construction concrete and cement works of the Q-Line project, which consists of two residential buildings with 253 apartments. In addition, the company has completed design and licensing of Q-Zone Development which consists of 500 flats.

Completing sales and delivery of Phase I units at the 121-flat Q-Line project in a record time of 17 months. The project, whose profits have been included in the Q1 budget, is located in Dubailand and addresses middle-income segments.

Completed the execution of Ritim Istanbul Development, which consists of 6 residential towers and a mall. Up to 80 percent of the residential units have been sold, with the mall's occupancy reaching 50 percent so far. Work is under way to hand over sold units to its new owners and increase the mall's occupancy rate.

Completing building work at the Q-Point final phase. The project, located in Dubailand, addresses middle-income segment, with work under way to deliver residential units to their new owners and include the project's profits within the 2017 profits. The project's marketing campaign is going on in full swing to accelerate sales.

Al-Mazaya Holding continued its rental operations at its commercial tower in Al-Olia area, Riyadh, through one of its subsidiaries. The project achieved rental returns, included in the H1 budget, achieving an occupancy rate of more than 68 percent.

Al-Mazaya consolidated its rental revenue proceedings from its existing and fully-occupied projects by renewing leasing contracts with its clients at an increased rate commensurate to current market prices and matching the services the company is rendering at its property, which resulted in increased operational revenues.

Al-Mazaya Holding and Boubyan Bank have signed a partnership agreement whereby the Kuwaiti bank will provide credit facilities of up to KD 70,000 for property ownership solutions outside Kuwait. Under the agreement, the bank will provide up to KD 70,000 and free debt insurance with no salary transfer required, which means that the credit is available for all, including those who don't have accounts at Boubyan Bank.

Concluding, Al-Saq'abi said the company is currently mulling over the possibility of launching several investment opportunities available in the markets it is working at over the coming period, particularly GCC states, where the company boasts maximum credibility thanks to its extensive experience therein, said Al-Saq'abi. He added that the company is closely following up the ongoing developments in global financial markets and their impact on the real estate market in line with its expansion plans which are based on the development of strategic partnerships and working with leading investors to secure the highest possible returns in the greater interest of the company and its shareholders.



Al-Danah winner Abdullah Hussain Al-Dashti receiving his prize from Gulf Bank's team.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 23 July 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 16 July - 20 July 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 16/7): Abdullah Hussain Johar Al-Dashti, Naziha Abdulredha Khalaf Hassan

(Monday 17/7): Refat Nazmi Samoor, Hyfaa Hrmz

(Tuesday 18/7): Ammass Hussain Al-Olayan, Mohammed Aslam Faqeer Mohammed

(Wednesday 19/7): Mohammad Nasser Al-Banwa, Aziz Kurban Husein Mamuji

(Thursday 20/7): Mahmoud Hamad Al-Dallou, Haitham Abdelaziz Abdellatif Al-Subaih

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD 1,000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages you to increase your chances by depositing more into your Al-Danah account, immediately from any local bank, using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash

prize of KD 1 million and the largest international bank prize according to Guinness World Records

2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000

3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day

4) The most chances to win

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center for assistance and guidance.

CARTEL PROBE LOOMS OVER GERMAN CAR INDUSTRY

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German carmakers faced a brewing scandal yesterday as suspicions grew they colluded illegally for decades, further damaging the industry's image and exposing it to massive financial risks.

News weekly Der Spiegel reported Friday that German carmakers Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche, BMW and Daimler had secretly worked together from the 1990s onwards on huge areas of car development, construction and logistics-including how to meet increasingly tough emissions criteria in diesel vehicles. Both buyers and suppliers of the auto giants suffered from the under-the-table deals, the magazine alleged.

For the world's largest carmaker Volkswagen, the diesel emissions scandal alone has already cost tens of billions of euros since it admitted to cheating on regulatory tests in 2015. That is likely why the Wolfsburg-based firm, along with Mercedes-Benz parent Daimler, was one of the first to hand over details of the alleged broader collusion between the five firms to competition authorities, reported Spiegel, saying it had seen a VW document submitted to the authorities.

Regulators often treat the first company to report such infringements more leniently than the rest. And Daimler has experience: it suffered a billion-euro fine from Brussels last summer after agreeing on prices for its trucks with three European competitors. In theory, the maximum fine from the European Commission or Germany's federal competition authority could reach 10 percent of a firm's revenue - or close to 50 billion euros (\$58.3 billion) across all five car companies, based on their 2016 sales.

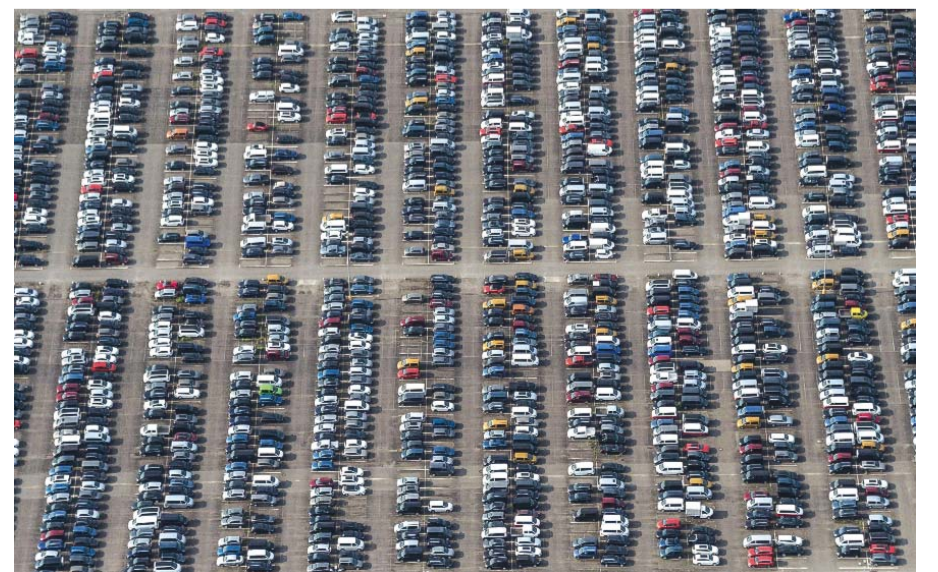
On top of that would come individual claims from customers. Many buyers could have paid "a price that was far too high" for their vehicles, Klaus Mueller of the VZBV consumer federation told newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung yesterday.

No inquiry yet
It could be some time before the full details of the automakers' cooperation come to light. Both Brussels and German authorities say they have received information on the possible agreements between the firms. These are now "undergoing examination by the Commission," the EU's executive arm said Saturday, while adding that it would not "speculate further" on the outcome.

Volkswagen has said nothing, although its supervisory board is set to meet on Wednesday, while Daimler insisted that it applies an internal competition law compliance program. Munich-based BMW denied any collusion with competitors Sunday, adding that none of its vehicles had been manipulated to meet diesel emissions norms. Among the areas Spiegel reported manufacturers collaborated on in its report Friday was the size of tanks for a liquid known as AdBlue, used to treat diesel exhaust fumes.

The fluid reacts with harmful nitrogen oxides found in the emissions and transforms them into water and nitrogen. But carmakers agreed not to add large reserves of the additive to their vehicles, Spiegel reported, preferring to save space for customers' golf bags or profitable upgrades such as speaker systems. Rather than call on drivers to refill the tiny AdBlue tanks every few thousand kilometres, Volkswagen built systems into millions of vehicles that reduced exhaust treatment unless software detected the car was undergoing a regulatory emissions test.

Other manufacturers including Daimler are suspected of doing the same. "If this turns out to be true it would cost tens of billions of euros altogether, and single-digit billions for each manufacturer," analyst Frank Schwope of Nord/LB bank told AFP. The reports have also spooked investors, with car industry stalwarts trailing on the DAX index of blue-chip German shares yesterday. — AFP



SALZGITTER, Germany: Aerial view taken from an ultra-light aircraft shows cars of German car maker Volkswagen (VW) standing on a parking site of the company's plant in Salzgitter, northern Germany.—AFP

CISCO 2017 MCR PREDICTS DEOS

DUBAI: The Cisco (NASDAQ: CSCO) 2017 Midyear Cybersecurity Report (MCR) uncovers the rapid evolution of threats and the increasing magnitude of attacks, and forecasts potential "destruction of service" (DeOS) attacks. These could eliminate organizations' backups and safety nets, required to restore systems and data after an attack. Also, with the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT), key industries are bringing more operations online, increasing attack surfaces and the potential scale and impact of these threats.

Recent cyber incidents such as WannaCry and Netya show the rapid spread and wide impact of attacks that look like traditional ransomware, but are much more destructive. These events foreshadow what Cisco is calling destruction of service attacks, which can be far more damaging, leaving businesses with no way to recover. The Internet of Things continues to offer new opportunities for cybercriminals, and its security weaknesses, ripe for exploitation, will play a central role in enabling these campaigns with escalating impact.

Recent IoT botnet activity already suggests that some attackers may be laying the foundation for a wide-reaching, high-impact cyber-threat

event that could potentially disrupt the Internet itself. "As recent incidents like WannaCry and Netya illustrate, our adversaries are becoming more and more creative in how they architect their attacks. While the majority of organizations took steps to improve security following a breach, businesses across industries are in a constant race against the attackers. Security effectiveness starts with closing the obvious gaps and making security a business priority," said Steve Martino, Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer, Cisco.

Measuring effectiveness of security practices in the face of these attacks is critical. Cisco tracks progress in reducing "time to detection" (TTD), the window of time between a compromise and the detection of a threat. Faster time to detection is critical to constrain attackers' operational space and minimize damage from intrusions. Since November 2015, Cisco decreased its median time-to-detection (TTD) from just over 39 hours to about 3.5 hours for the period from November 2016 to May 2017. This figure is based on opt-in telemetry gathered from Cisco security products deployed worldwide.

"Complexity continues to hinder many organi-

zations' security efforts. It's obvious that the years of investing in point products that can't integrate is creating huge opportunities for attackers who can easily identify overlooked vulnerabilities or gaps in security efforts. To effectively reduce Time to Detection and limit the impact of an attack, the industry must move to a more integrated, architectural approach that increases visibility and manageability, empowering security teams to close gaps," said Scott Manson, Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco.

What's hot, what's not?

Cisco security researchers watched the evolution of malware during the first half of 2017 and identified shifts in how adversaries are tailoring their delivery, obfuscation and evasion techniques. Specifically, Cisco saw they increasingly require victims to activate threats by clicking on links or opening files. They are developing file less malware that lives in memory and is harder to detect or investigate as it is wiped out when a device restarts. Finally adversaries are relying on anonymized and decentralized infrastructure, such as a Tor proxy service, to obscure command and control activities. While Cisco has seen a striking decline in exploit kits, other traditional attacks are seeing resurgence:

- Spam volumes are significantly increasing, as adversaries turn to other tried-and-true methods, like email, to distribute malware and generate revenue. Cisco threat researchers anticipate that the volume of spam with malicious attachments will continue to rise while the exploit kit landscape remains in flux.

- Spyware and adware, often dismissed by security professionals as more nuisance than harm, are forms of malware that persist and bring risks to the enterprise. Cisco research sampled 300 companies over a four-month period and found that three prevalent spyware families infected 20 percent of the sample. In a corporate environment, spyware can steal user and company information, weaken the security posture of devices and increase malware infections.

- Evolutions in ransomware, such as the growth of Ransomware-as-a-Service, make it easier for criminals, regardless of skill set, to carry out these attacks. Ransomware has been grabbing headlines and reportedly brought in more than \$1 billion in 2016, but this may be misdirecting some organizations, who face an even greater, underreported threat. Business email compromise (BEC), a social engineering attack in which an email is designed to trick organizations into transferring money to attackers, is becoming highly lucrative. Between October 2013 and December 2016, \$5.3 billion was stolen via BEC, according to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Common Challenges

As criminals continue to increase the sophistication and intensity of attacks, businesses across industries are challenged to keep up with even foundational cybersecurity requirements. As Information Technology and Operational Technology converge in the Internet of Things, organizations struggle with visibility and complexity. As part of its Security Capabilities Benchmark Study, Cisco surveyed close to 3,000 security leaders across 13 countries and found that across industries, security teams are increasingly overwhelmed by the volume of attacks. This leads many to become more reactive in their protection efforts.

- No more than two-thirds of organizations are investigating security alerts. In certain industries (such as healthcare and transportation), this number is closer to 50 percent.

- Even in the most responsive industries (such as finance and healthcare), businesses are mitigating less than 50 percent of attacks they know are legitimate.

- Breaches are a wake-up call. Across most industries, breaches drove at least modest security improvements in at least 90 percent of organizations. Some industries (such as transportation) are less responsive, falling just above 80 percent.

Important findings per industry include:

Public Sector- Of threats investigated, 32 percent are identified as legitimate threats, but only 47 percent of those legitimate threats are eventually remediated. Retail-Thirty-two percent said they'd lost revenue due to attacks in the past year with about one-fourth losing customers or business opportunities.

Manufacturing-Forty percent of the manufacturing security professionals said they do not have a formal security strategy, nor do they follow standardized information security policy practices such as ISO 27001 or NIST 800-53.

Utilities-Security professionals said targeted attacks (42 percent) and advanced persistent threats, or APTs (40 percent), were the most critical security risks to their organizations.

Healthcare-Thirty-seven percent of the healthcare organizations said that targeted attacks are high-security risks to their organizations.

Advice for Organizations

To combat today's increasingly sophisticated attackers, organizations must take a proactive stance in their protection efforts. Cisco Security advises:

- Keeping infrastructure and applications up to date, so that attackers can't exploit publicly known weaknesses.

- Battle complexity through an integrated defense. Limit siloed investments.

- Engage executive leadership early to ensure complete understanding of risks, rewards and budgetary constraints.

- Establish clear metrics. Use them to validate and improve security practices.

- Examine employee security training with role-based training versus one-size-fits-all.

- Balance defense with an active response. Don't "set and forget" security controls or processes.

For the 2017 MCR, a diverse group of 10 security technology partners were invited to share data from which to jointly draw threat landscape conclusions. Partners that contributed to the report include Anomali, Flashpoint, Lumeta, Qualys, Radware, Rapid7, RSA, SAINT Corporation, ThreatConnect and TrapX. Cisco's security technology partner ecosystem is a key component of the company's vision to bring security that is simple, open and automated to customers.

Figure 64 Targeted attacks and insider exfiltration are biggest concerns

Source: Cisco 2017 Security Capabilities Benchmark Study

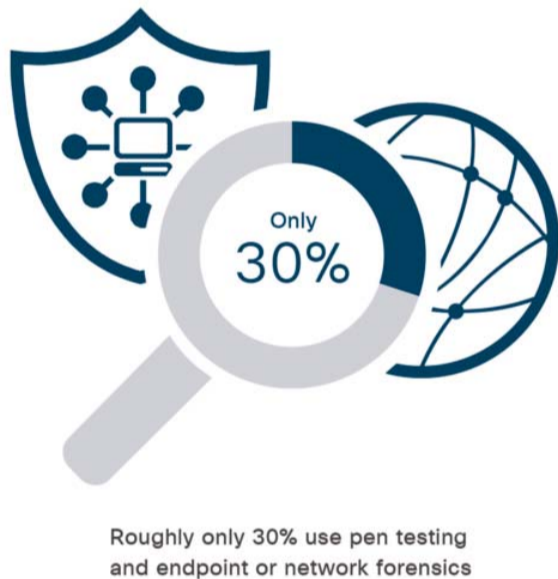


For more info visit: cisco.com/go/mcr2017



Figure 62 Percentage of public sector organizations using various defenses

Source: Cisco 2017 Security Capabilities Benchmark Study



For more info visit: cisco.com/go/mcr2017



Figure 74 Percentage of financial services organizations that use solutions from 6 or more vendors

Source: Cisco 2017 Security Capabilities Benchmark Study



For more info visit: cisco.com/go/mcr2017



Figure 5 Percentage of companies affected by selected spyware families, November 2016-March 2017

Source: Cisco Security Research



For more info visit: cisco.com/go/mcr2017



Game review

TOO MANY KIRKS

By Justin Clark

For better and worse, Star Trek: Bridge Crew is exactly what's advertised—it's a virtual-reality simulation of operating a Federation starship. For the first few moments, the sheer thrill of taking the Captain's chair in VR, looking around you to see crew members all working away at their stations, and issuing your first commands is all wonderful and novel. But the second you start yearning for new life, new civilizations, and to boldly go where no one has gone before, you find a game nowhere near that ambitious.

Set in the J.J. Abrams Trek universe, Bridge Crew's single-player campaign centers around the U.S.S. Aegis—which, after a brief training mission, sets forth on its task to help the Vulcans find a new home. This mission takes the Aegis into a Klingon-controlled territory, the Trench, and into the heart of a potentially ugly interstellar incident. You can fill one of four roles aboard the ship: the Captain issues orders to every other department from the holographic menu built into the player's chair, the Helm puts you in the driver's seat, Tactical handles shields and weaponry, and Engineering determines how much power gets shifted to the ship's vital systems.

The single-player campaign is brief, but it acts as an extended tutorial on the ins and outs of running a starship. From the Captain's chair, you receive orders from Starfleet and issue the commands that lead

the Aegis ever forward. However, particularly in single-player, those commands aren't as simple as just telling your crew to move forward at quarter impulse or fire phasers. Instead, they're a piece-by-piece process that must be followed and timed just right, with every crew member involved performing their duties with precision.

In single-player, even something as simple as warping involves opening a menu, setting the correct course, telling engineering to power up the warp drive, having the helm align the ship towards the target location, and finally issuing the order to perform the warp. The process becomes sec-

ond nature over time, especially with a proper VR controller like the PlayStation Move to navigate the menu-heavy UI.

You also have the ability to temporarily switch to another position to take manual control over the ship's various functions and levers in single-player, but it's a lot to manage and not nearly the simple power trip you might expect. A.I.-controlled crew members have a nasty habit of being complete knuckleheads who don't know how to properly and strategically fly around obstacles when pursuing a target.

Bridge Crew is somewhat more immersive in multiplayer, where you can speak

directly to your crew and coordinate actions by voice, but you need to meet certain requirements for it to go smoothly: four trustworthy crew members, all of whom know their roles inside and out, and who can pull it together long enough to take the game even marginally seriously enough to get through the trickier missions.

The situation is helped by the fact that, thankfully, the game supports Cross-Play between PSVR, Rift, and Vive users, meaning there's typically no shortage of players to fill all four roles. However, since voice chat goes through all sorts of different protocols via the uPlay service, consistent communication remains a problem. Even then, that's assuming you're not stuck with someone who won't stop quoting Galaxy Quest instead of remembering to keep your ship in low-detection mode in Klingon territory.

It didn't happen often in my time with Bridge Crew, but sometimes the stars did, in fact, align with the right kind of crew: cheerful without being overly silly, strong in their roles, intuitive enough to question an order without the bridge descending into chaos, and being just plain fun, amiable companions. And once that miracle is accomplished, you're left to contend with Bridge Crew as a game. And that game is, ultimately, a fairly milquetoast space shooter.

The big issue really comes down to the fact that experiencing the minutiae of running a Starfleet ship is such a thin, pedantic aspect of what makes Star Trek a fascinating

universe to play around in. It's always been strong character work and far-reaching sci-fi ideas and allegory that have elevated the dry space-navy material. There isn't nearly enough of the former here.

The single-player campaign has a story, one that's even a decent jumping-off point from the Abrams films (albeit one that's deeply reminiscent of Mass Effect: Andromeda), but you aren't making the truly hard decisions that define the best Starfleet captains, nor are you able to interact with your crew or even the ship outside of the bridge room in any meaningful way.

Even Trek's infamous no-win Kobayashi Maru scenario-playable here as part of the game's introductory chapter-ends up as little more than a mindless shootout while attempting to transport the doomed vessel's crew. The remainder of the campaign never really rises above that, content to be a game of traveling between systems, scanning areas and artifacts, transporting life forms, and fending off Klingon Birds of Prey from time to time. It's a game that crucially needs more interesting challenges that can't be solved with phasers.

It's still somewhat thrilling to inhabit the captain's chair on the bridge of a starship-at the bare minimum, Star Trek: Bridge Crew accomplishes that mission. When the game is at its best, the spirit of cooperation between various asymmetrical elements is encouraging-even special. In every other regard, however, Bridge Crew is forgettable the second you pull out of VR. —www.gamespot.com





PARIS: Conference attendees sit during the opening of the 9th International AIDS Society conference on HIV Science in Paris.—AFP

S AFRICAN GIRL, 9, IS THIRD CHILD WITH HIV REMISSION

PARIS: A South African girl has become only the third child to beat the AIDS virus into long-term remission—almost nine years and counting—after receiving a drug cocktail in infancy, researchers announced yesterday. The child was given a ten-month course of anti-AIDS medicine until she was one year old, then taken off the drugs as part of a medical trial. Eight years and nine months later, the virus is still dormant and the girl healthy without needing treatment, a research team reported at the International AIDS Society conference on HIV science in Paris.

"This new case strengthens our hope that by treating HIV-infected children for a brief period beginning in infancy, we may be able to spare them the burden of life-long therapy," said AIDS expert Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) which funded the study. Some scientists refer to sustained, drug-free remission as a "functional cure". Unlike a traditional cure, where the virus is eradicated, the patient still has HIV in their system but it is so weakened that it cannot replicate or spread to sexual partners.

Researchers hope that by treating people as soon as possible after infection, they can one day induce drug-free remission for sustained periods of time, perhaps for good. This has become a major focus of research amid fading hopes of finding a permanent cure. The virus has proven more sneaky than imagined—it has the ability to hide out in human cells and play dead for years, only to re-emerge and attack as soon as treatment is stopped. Anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment inhibits the virus, but doesn't kill it, and infected people have to take pills daily for life which are costly and have side-effects.

Relapse possible

A rare group of infected people—fewer than one percent—are able naturally to stop the virus replicating. They are known as "elite controllers", but the mechanism by which they keep the virus at bay remains a mystery. The girl does not have "elite controller" DNA, said the study authors. Among people taking virus-suppressing anti-retroviral drugs, only a few have attained drug-free remission. They include 14 adults in a French trial who were able to quit their medication after three years and stayed healthy.

A French woman aged 20, treated as a baby, has been healthy for 14 years since stopping her medication—the longest-known remission. In the United States, the so-called Mississippi Baby was in remission for 27 months after being given ART for the first 18 months of life, but the virus rebounded in a major let-down for researchers. Now there is the South African girl—the first case of remission in a child enrolled in a trial to test the effectiveness of early treatment, for a limited time.

"Relapse is a possibility in any case of remission," underlined study co-leader Ayo Violari of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. However, "the fact that remission has been for a long period suggests this is likely to be durable," she said. Researchers do not understand how the girl achieved remission when 410 other children in the trial did not. "We can't tell if her immune system would have controlled the virus on its own or if the treatment made a difference," said Sharon Lewin, a professor of medicine at the University of Melbourne. —AFP

RHINO POACHING DIPS SLIGHTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: The number of rhinos killed for their horns by poachers in South Africa dipped slightly in the first half of this year, but more than 500 were still slaughtered, the government announced yesterday. South Africa is battling a scourge of rhino poaching fuelled by insatiable demand for their horn in Asia. Most of the demand emanates from China and Vietnam, where the horn is coveted as a traditional medicine, an aphrodisiac or as a status symbol.

"A total of 529 rhino have been poached since January 2017, compared to 542 in the same period for 2016, representing a decrease of 13 rhinos," Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa told reporters. "These declining numbers do not mean we can proclaim victory (but) the downward trend is being established, which is cause for cautious optimism." The

famed Kruger National Park, which has suffered the brunt of the slaughter, has so far this year seen a 34 percent drop in numbers of rhinos killed.

But the poaching has shifted elsewhere with the minister reporting that the "number of rhino poached unfortunately increased in some other provinces". The number of rhinos killed climbed steeply in the past decade from just 13 in 2007 reaching a peak of 1,215 in 2014, according to the TRAFFIC wildlife trade monitoring group. In the last eight years alone, roughly a quarter of the world population of rhinos has been killed in South Africa, home to 80 percent of the remaining animals. Rhino horn is composed mainly of keratin, the same substance as in human nails. It is normally sold in powdered form as a supposed cure for cancer and other diseases.—AFP

LONE CLINIC IN NORTH SYRIA TACKLES WAR'S MENTAL TOLL

HORRORS OF WAR LEAVE SYRIA WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL SCARS

AZAZ, Syria: At an austere mental health clinic in northern Syria, male patients with shaved heads squat barefoot in a courtyard, some dressed in uniforms and others in T-shirts and tracksuit trousers. One man screams at those around him, while another laughs to himself. A third sings exuberantly, exposing bare gums missing teeth. The second floor houses female patients in patterned dresses and flowery headscarves. Some smile at visitors while others lie motionless on their beds. One woman is tied to her bed frame.

The horrors of Syria's six-year war have left the country's population with devastating psychological scars, but staff at the only mental health facility in Syria's opposition-held north are doing their best to treat those affected. Among the patients at the clinic in Azaz, northern Aleppo province, is a 17-year-old girl deeply scarred by the conflict. "She saw a small child that had been killed and was being eaten by animals," Dorar al-Sobh, one of two doctors at the facility, tells AFP.

"She was so shocked she lost her ability to speak. Now she can't sleep or eat... She avoids everyone." A male patient from the neighboring province of Raqa came back to his bombed-out home to find the lifeless bodies of his wife and six children. "He has difficulty sleeping... he gets flashbacks and nightmares," says Sobh, 46. Some cases predate Syria's conflict, but others—particularly of post-traumatic stress disorder—have been directly caused by the war. "Of course, we have seen an increase in cases, especially depression, PTSD and coping disorders," Sobh says.

'Tortured and beaten'

Nurse Mohammed Munzer recalls receiving patients who had been arrested at the peaceful protests in 2011 that kicked off Syria's uprising. "They were tortured and beaten, especially on the head. They started to have mental problems," the 35-year-old says. Others have developed anxieties related to the relentless bombing and violence that has killed more than 330,000 people. "There are people who can't handle the sound of airplanes," Munzer says.

The facility serves nearly 140 inpatients as well as others who come from outside for care. It was originally set up in Masaken Hanano district on the northeastern outskirts of Aleppo city. But it was forced to relocate when fighting broke out after rebels entered the city in 2012. "The hospital was hit in Masaken Hanano, wounding one of the



AZAZ, Syria: Syrian patients queue for food rations at a mental health clinic in the town of Azaz, near the border with Turkey.—AFP

nurses in his hand and handicapping him," facility administrator Mohyiddin Othman says. Many of the hospital's medical staff fled and left patients behind, some of them wandering the streets.

Local residents, alarmed by the situation, contacted a Turkish medical NGO that worked with local Syrian doctors to transfer the patients. By 2013, they had been moved first to a facility in western Aleppo province, and then to Azaz with help from charity group Physicians Across Continents. While Azaz has been periodically targeted by regime strikes, particularly in the early years after the patients were moved to the area, the new hospital has not been hit.

That has allowed medical staff to focus on their work, offering residents and outpatients medication, assessments and one-on-one treatment. At times they struggle to help those in need, such as a man who regularly visited Sobh to seek treatment for depression.

"I asked him once about suicide. He told me he didn't think about it," Sobh said. "Fifteen days later he shot himself."

Staff psychologically exhausted

The hospital also faces shortages of medicine. It receives occasional donations from the World Health Organization, but often relies on alterna-

tives bought on the local market or in neighboring Turkey. The challenges can feel overwhelming, the facility's staff say. "We are psychologically exhausted," says Sobh. "Sometimes our patients hit us or curse us... Sometimes we take vacations to distance ourselves from the atmosphere of the hospital for a few days."

The facility's basement is set aside for a kitchen and a cafeteria, where residents queue for food. Standing at tables or seated on the floor, they eat meals of stew and bread from metal bowls. The facility is sparsely furnished, with long rows of beds for patients and washing lines hung with blankets. In one room, a television is mounted on the wall, and patients sit together watching. The staff also do outreach in the community, hoping to tackle the stigma around mental health issues.

"We try to spread awareness in our surroundings, and through flyers and social media, to explain that people who have mental illnesses are like anyone else who is sick," says Munzer. Sobh says the growing need for mental health care has caused a subtle shift in local sentiment. "The presence of a treatment centre in this area is positive," he says. "The residents of the area accept it, and it's no longer a sign of weakness."—AFP

INJECT-ABLE AIDS DRUG MAY WORK AS WELL AS PILLS: STUDY

PARIS: A two-drug cocktail injected every month or two may be just as effective as a daily pill at keeping the AIDS virus under control, said a study yesterday that promised relief for millions. At present people have no option but to take lifelong, daily doses of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) which keeps the HIV virus under control, but does not kill it. People who forget to take their medication run the risk of the virus rebounding to make them ill, or developing resistance to the drugs they were using—which would require a more expensive replacement.

In an ongoing study, nearly 300 HIV-positive people were given an initial course of daily pills to bring the virus under control. Once this was achieved, some continued taking oral treatment as maintenance while the rest were shifted onto the prototype, injectable ARV, adminis-

tered every four or eight weeks. At 96 weeks, the virus was still subdued in 84 percent of the pill-taking group, 87 percent in the four-weekly injectable group, and 94 percent in the eight-weekly group.

The results were published in The Lancet medical journal to coincide with an HIV science conference in Paris of the International AIDS Society. In 2016, there were some 36.7 million people living with HIV of whom 19.5 million had access to ART, according to UNAIDS. The UN recommends ART for all HIV-positive people.

Next revolution

"The introduction of single-tablet medication represented a leap forward in ART dosing, and long-acting anti-retroviral injections may represent the next revolution in HIV therapy by providing an option that circumvents the



WASHINGTON: This file photo shows Dr Ray Martins, chief medical officer at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, DC, holding a handful of Truvada, the first pill recommended for HIV prevention in healthy people who are at high risk of getting HIV through unprotected sex, or who inject illicit drugs.—AFP

burden of daily dosing," said study co-author David Margo Ili of Viiv Healthcare, a pharmaceutical company involved in developing the injectable drug. "Adherence to medication remains an important challenge in HIV treatment."

Also involved in the study is

Janssen Sciences, a company in the Johnson & Johnson group.

Last week, the UN warned that countries must halt the rise of AIDS drug resistance to prevent a swell in new infections and deaths and spiraling treatment costs.—AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh honoring KFH Voluntary team

MAZIN SAAD AL-NAHEDH HONORS KFH VOLUNTARY TEAM

Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh honored KFH voluntary team in recognition of the exerted efforts during the Holy Month of Ramadan that had been culminated in successfully concluding the Ramadan campaign "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3." Present at the honoring ceremony were Group CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh, Group Chief Strategy Officer, Eng. Fahad Khaled Al-

Mukhaizeem, Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, and the voluntary team.

KFH confirmed its leadership in achieving the corporate social responsibility, yet reiterates its firm belief in encouraging volunteerism, raising the awareness of philanthropy and charity, while boosting the community-oriented initiatives within society. KFH organized and participated in a wide

range of activities and events tailored to reach out across the community and within the institution.

The activities were internal at the level of employees and external to target several segments of the society and to confirm the bank's pioneering role in the social responsibility. KFH is keen on assuming its corporate social responsibility by focusing on the fields of health, education, sport and the youth in a

manner that reflects the bank's endeavors to reinforce communication with all segments of the society, yet to sponsor events and activities, and organize purposeful visits to increase awareness in many fields.

KFH has a proven track record of social responsibility programs. It focuses on improving interaction with the society in many occasions, mainly those of social nature, through the contribution fostering

volunteerism and philanthropy at many occasions. KFH's Ramadan program "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3" included a plethora of social events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives. KFH organized during its Ramadan campaign 2017 over 70 social and voluntary activities.



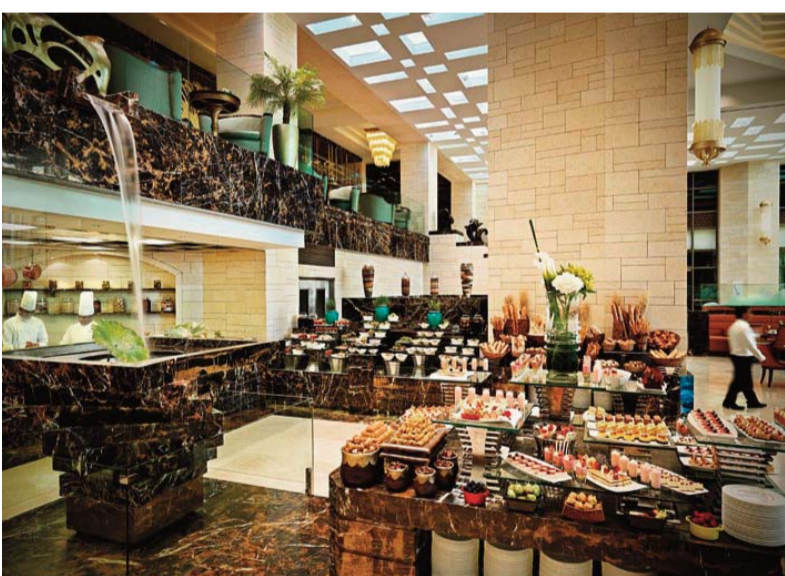
AL-BABTAIN COLLABORATES WITH INJAZ KUWAIT FOR 2017 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), in collaboration with INJAZ Kuwait recently welcomed its first batch of students to the 2017 Internship Program for Young Kuwaiti students. The dynamic four week course is designed to stimulate the minds of the next generations with in depth knowledge of each division of the company and accommodate them with the means to join as full time employees in the Al-Babtain Group. With growing demand for excellence and diversification in the job market, the Al-Babtain group remains committed to upholding the valuable

education of the future of Kuwait's leading performers. The program that will continue until August 10, 2017 integrated the students into areas of the group's Sales, Service, Customer management, Marketing and Human Resources for a wider and intricate understanding of internal operations. The two week training which allowed the interns to explore a world of theoretical and practical hands-on approach involved extensive visits to the respective divisions. This equipped them with a better understanding through thorough interactive sessions with the different division heads.

In addition, the program will further include seven individual development modules that have been designed to arm the ambitious with the core skills required to compete in a thriving business environment such as leadership in changing environments, time management, oral and written communication, problem solving, team dynamics, searching for a job and techniques to face interviews. The final phase will include a certificate of completion to all of the participants and an evaluation of each intern's performance that will determine their future employment opportu-

nities in the concerned operations. Abdul Mohsen Al-Babtain, Chief Human Resources Officer - Al-Babtain Group said, "It always brings joy to watch the rise of our driven youth as we forge ahead and equip each with new and improved international best practices. At Al-Babtain, we envisioned an entity of passion, integrity and commitment starting with Kuwait, over the years with the help of INJAZ Kuwait, we have been fortunate to offer students a bright and successful platform to embark on."



JUMEIRAH KUWAIT LAUNCHES SUMMER VACATION PACKAGES

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, offers exciting summer deals. The luxurious landmark offers as well a competitive room rate including service charge, complimentary buffet breakfast for two persons in the hotel's main restaurant Garden Cafe as well as other benefits such as complimentary access to the Kids' Clubs and swimming pools. For a taste of luxury and fine

dining at the hotel's award-winning restaurants, the special summer dining offer includes lunch or dinner at a special price, respectively and inclusive of soft drinks and water. In addition, Pepper, the hotel's signature steakhouse offers a special three-course sharing platter for two, while Salt restaurant is treating diners to a global journey with a set menu, available for two or four people, featur-

ing Asian and international cuisine. The award-winning Talise Spa has special offers on a range of rejuvenating summer treatments using exclusive products from Anne Semonin, Paris. For those looking to stretch out their stay, Talise Spa will also be hosting special yoga and Pilates sessions, including Full Moon yoga and yoga classes for children starting

from 2 years old. The Spa's fully-equipped fitness studio is also offering a host of fitness classes, which will allow guests to stay in shape during the summer. Children are catered for this summer too, with the hotel's Sinbad's Kids Club open from 10am-10pm and offering a packed schedule of focused activities, including arts and crafts, cinema time, tennis lessons and board games.

While families looking to beat the heat and have fun in the sun, Jet Ski hire, banana boat rides and parasailing are some of what the hotel has to offer. Luxury awaits. Sophistication, fun and fine food are on the menu. Take time out and stay different this summer. Rest assured your summer at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa will be a special one.





00:45 Animal Cops Philadelphia
01:40 Animal Cops Houston
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
04:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
05:02 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
05:49 Animal ER
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:15 Animal Cops Houston
09:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
12:50 Animal ER
13:45 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
14:40 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
17:25 Dog Rescuers
18:20 Guardians Of Rescue
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
21:05 Dog Rescuers
22:00 Guardians Of Rescue
22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
23:50 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall



00:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
04:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Evil Up Close
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Gangs Of Britain...
10:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
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 Gangs Of Britain...
21:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
22:00 Didn't Do It
23:00 The Body Detective



00:30 The Big Brain Theory
01:20 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
01:45 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
02:10 The Carbonaro Effect
02:35 The Carbonaro Effect
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:00 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 The Big Brain Theory
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bad Dog
12:00 Ultimate Survival
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Dirty Jobs
14:30 Doki
14:55 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
15:20 Bad Dog
16:10 The Big Brain Theory
17:00 The Next Great Magician
17:50 Now That's Funny
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Destroyed In Seconds
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 The Next Great Magician
22:00 World's Funniest
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival



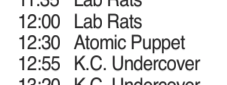
00:30 A Crime To Remember
01:20 Scene Of The Crime With Tony Harris
02:10 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
03:00 Murder Comes To Town
03:48 Nowhere To Hide
04:36 Nowhere To Hide
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 Nowhere To Hide
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 Blood Relatives
08:40 Blood Relatives
09:30 Blood Relatives
10:20 The Locator
11:10 Blood Relatives
12:00 Nowhere To Hide
12:50 Nowhere To Hide
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Nowhere To Hide
15:20 The Locator
15:45 The Locator
16:10 Hate In America
17:00 Id Kill For You
17:50 Id Kill For You
18:40 Id Kill For You
19:30 Id Kill For You
20:20 The Locator
20:45 The Locator
21:10 Id Kill For You
22:00 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence
22:50 Grave Secrets
23:40 Evil Lives Here



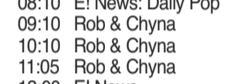
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35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



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:25 Disney11
06:50 Mech-X4
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Gravity Falls
08:05 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
10:15 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
10:40 Kickin' It
10:20 Kickin' It
11:10 Future-Worm!
11:35 Lab Rats
12:00 Lab Rats
12:30 Atomic Puppet
12:55 K.C. Undercover
13:20 K.C. Undercover
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
18:50 Supa Strikas
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Phineas And Ferb
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:20 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
01:10 The Warfighters
02:00 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 Duck Dynasty
07:15 Duck Dynasty
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Supa Strikas
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Time Team
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
13:24 Hunter Street
15:10 Fifth Gear
16:00 Storage Wars
16:25 Storage Wars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Sean Bean On Waterloo
18:30 The Warfighters
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
21:50 Alone
22:40 Swamp People
23:30 American Pickers



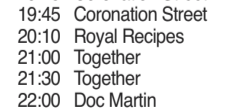
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopedoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopedoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
03:35 Loopedoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopedoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopedoo
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
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:35 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
09:40 Sofia The First: Once Upon A Princess
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
13:35 PJ Masks
14:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:40 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalivable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
16:05 Mickey's Pirate Adventure
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
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Sofia The First
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:25 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopedoo



00:00 Restaurant: Impossible
01:00 Mystery Dinners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
07:30 Barefoot Contessa
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Chopped Junior
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Royal Recipes
03:25 Broadchurch
04:20 Victoria
05:15 Seven Days With...
06:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
07:05 Royal Recipes
08:00 Broadchurch
09:00 Victoria
10:00 Seven Days With...
10:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:50 Royal Recipes
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:10 Royal Recipes
16:00 Together
16:30 Together
17:00 Doc Martin
18:15 Seven Days With...
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Royal Recipes
21:00 Together
22:00 Doc Martin
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



00:20 Man V. Lion
01:10 Snakes In The City
02:00 Cat Fight
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
03:45 World's Deadliest
04:40 Dangerous Encounters
05:35 Cat Fight
06:30 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
07:25 World's Deadliest
08:20 Dangerous Encounters
09:15 Boss Croc
10:10 Africa's Deadliest (2017)
11:05 Ultimate Predators GPU
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:50 Mother Croc
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
14:45 World's Deadliest
15:40 Dangerous Encounters

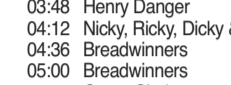


00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 History's Greatest Blunders
01:30 History's Greatest Blunders
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Cities Of The Underworld
04:30 Serial Killer Earth
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 The Universe
07:00 History's Greatest Blunders

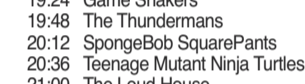
06:30 Kingdom Of The Apes: Battle Lines
07:30 Dragon Island
18:25 Ultimate Predators GPU
19:20 World's Deadliest
20:10 Dangerous Encounters
21:00 Kingdom Of The Apes: Battle Lines
21:50 Dragon Island
22:40 Ultimate Predators GPU
23:30 When Sharks Attack



00:12 Henry Danger
00:36 Get Blake
01:00 Sanjay And Craig
01:24 Rabbids Invasion
01:48 Breadwinners
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Game Shakers
05:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Paw Patrol
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Breadwinners
13:00 School Of Rock
13:24 Hunter Street
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 The Thundermans
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Lost In The West I
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:24 100 Things To Do Before High School
23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



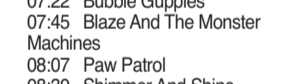
00:12 Henry Danger
00:36 Get Blake
01:00 Sanjay And Craig
01:24 Rabbids Invasion
01:48 Breadwinners
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
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15:00 Lost In The West I
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17:00 Regal Academy
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17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:24 100 Things To Do Before High School
23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



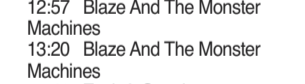
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00:45 Places We Go
01:10 Eat Street
01:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:35 Wineroads
03:00 Wineroads
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 Maximum Foodie
04:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:50 Eat Street
05:20 Eat Street
05:45 Great Escapes
06:15 Fusion Forager
07:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:05 Wineroads
08:30 Wineroads
09:00 Places We Go
09:25 Maximum Foodie
09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
10:20 Eat Street
10:50 Great Escapes
11:15 Fusion Forager
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Wineroads
14:00 Wineroads
14:30 Fish Of The Day
14:55 Maximum Foodie
15:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
15:50 Places We Go
16:20 Places We Go
16:45 Eat Street
17:15 Eat Street
17:40 Great Escapes
18:10 Andy And Ben Eat The World
18:35 Andy And Ben Eat The World
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce India
19:30 Places We Go
20:00 Places We Go
20:30 Eat Street
21:00 Eat Street
21:30 Great Escapes
22:00 Andy And Ben Eat The World
22:25 Andy And Ben Eat The World
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:50 Wineroads



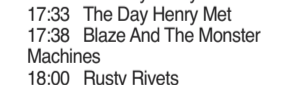
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00:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:51 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:42 Zack & Quack
02:04 Team Umizoomi
02:26 Olive The Ostrich
02:31 Olive The Ostrich
02:36 Paw Patrol
02:59 Little Charmers
03:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:45 Max & Ruby
04:08 Nella The Princess Knight
04:30 Shimmer And Shine
04:53 Dora And Friends
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:28 The Day Henry Met
05:33 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
07:22 Bubble Guppies
07:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:07 Paw Patrol
08:30 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
11:40 Shimmer And Shine
12:02 Max & Ruby
12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:42 Zack & Quack
14:03 Team Umizoomi
14:26 Olive The Ostrich
14:31 Olive The Ostrich
14:37 Paw Patrol
15:00 Little Charmers
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19:22 Bubble Guppies
19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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21:45 Rusty Rivets
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:21 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:43 Zack & Quack
22:54 Team Umizoomi
23:17 Shimmer And Shine



00:10 I Am Soldier
01:45 Momentum
03:35 Alien Outpost
05:20 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
07:40 The World Is Not Enough
09:50 Die Another Day
12:05 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
14:05 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
16:25 Hard Target 2
18:15 Life On The Line
20:00 Bad Company
22:00 Mad Max: Fury Road



01:40 Life After Beth
03:15 Outside Bed
05:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
06:45 Holiday Joy
08:20 Outside Bed
10:05 Three Men And A Little Lady
11:55 Holiday Joy
13:35 Twins
15:25 A Madea Christmas
17:10 With This Ring
18:45 Mr. Popper's Penguins
20:25 Hit By Lightning
22:00 Dance Floor
23:30 The Hooligan Factory



00:50 On My Way
02:45 Swing Kids
04:40 Healing
06:40 The Express
08:45 Charlots Of Fire
12:50 Words And Pictures
14:45 Swing Kids
14:45 East Side Sushi
16:40 Before I Disappear
20:40 Brooklyn
22:30 The Preppie Connection



01:05 Winnie The Pooh
02:15 Tom And Jerry: Back To Oz
03:40 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story
05:00 Hocus Pocus
06:15 The Heart Of The Oak
07:45 Memory Loss
09:10 Duktakes: The Movie
10:30 Last Wizard
11:45 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
13:10 Winnie The Pooh
14:20 Mamma Moo And Crow
15:45 Duktakes: The Movie
17:05 Robopants: Rebooted
18:35 Blue Elephant 2
20:15 Mamma Moo And Crow
21:35 Memory Loss
23:00 Last Wizard



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 Man Seeking Woman

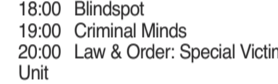
01:30 Man Seeking Woman
01:55 Better Things
02:20 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
04:50 George Lopez
05:15 Two And A Half Men
05:40 Speechless
06:05 Speechless
06:30 Mom
06:55 Community
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 George Lopez
10:15 Two And A Half Men
10:40 Mom
11:05 Community
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 Mom
15:15 Speechless
15:40 Speechless
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 Great News
19:30 Great News
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Seinfeld
21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 High Maintenance
22:30 High Maintenance
23:00 Better Things
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:40 Chicago Justice
01:30 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 Supergirl
04:10 Once Upon A Time
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
07:45 The Chew
08:30 Chicago Justice
09:20 Supergirl
10:10 Once Upon A Time
11:00 Blindspot
11:45 Chicago P.D.
12:30 The View
13:15 The Chew
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Once Upon A Time
17:00 Supergirl
18:00 Blindspot
19:00 Criminal Minds
20:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
21:00 Training Day
22:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
23:10 Blindspot
23:50 Grimm
23:50 Movies Family HD
00:20 Wall-E
02:05 Secretariat
04:10 Little Women
06:10 Minions
07:50 The Incredibles
09:50 Wall-E
11:40 Minions
13:15 Finding Nemo
15:00 Up
16:40 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
18:30 Storm Rider
20:15 Return To Oz
22:05 Finding Nemo
23:50 Up



00:40 Chicago Justice
01:30 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
02:20 Blindspot
03:20 Supergirl
04:10 Once Upon A Time
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 The View
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12:30 The View
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12:05 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
14:05 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
16:25 Hard Target 2
18:15 Life On The Line
20:00 Bad Company
22:00 Mad Max: Fury Road



00:03 Live At The Apollo
00:49 Rufus Hound: Being Rude
01:19 Chappelle's Show
02:12 Chappelle's Show
02:35 Important Things With Demitri Martin
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Lip Sync Battle
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Disaster Date
05:30 Catch A Contractor
06:20 Sweet Inc.
07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Disaster Date
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Lip Sync Battle
10:10 Ridiculousness
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Framwork
11:50 Lip Sync Battle
12:15 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
14:15 Lip Sync Battle
14:40 Ridiculousness
15:05 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Lip Sync Battle
17:20 Ridiculousness
17:45 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagef
18:10 Key And Peele
18:35 Impractical Jokers
18:59 Disaster Date
19:22 Key And Peele
19:46 Key And Peele
20:10 I Live With Models
20:33 The Half Hour
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Workaholics
22:00 South Park
22:25 South Park
22:50 Lip Sync Battle
23:15 Lip Sync Battle
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:50 On My Way
02:45 Swing Kids
04:40 Healing
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01:05 Winnie The Pooh
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06:15 The Heart Of The Oak
07:45 Memory Loss
09:10 Duktakes: The Movie
10:30 Last Wizard
11:45 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
13:10 Winnie The Pooh
14:20 Mamma Moo And Crow
15:45 Duktakes: The Movie
17:05 Robopants: Rebooted
18:35 Blue Elephant 2
20:15 Mamma Moo And Crow
21:35 Memory Loss
23:00 Last Wizard



02:00 The Finest Hours
04:00 Finding Forester
06:15 The Invention Of Lying
08:00 The Finest Hours

10:00 Man Of The House
11:40 Changeling
14:00 Gridiron Gang
16:05 Everest
18:10 Seventh Son
19:55 Concussion
22:00 Black Snake Moan

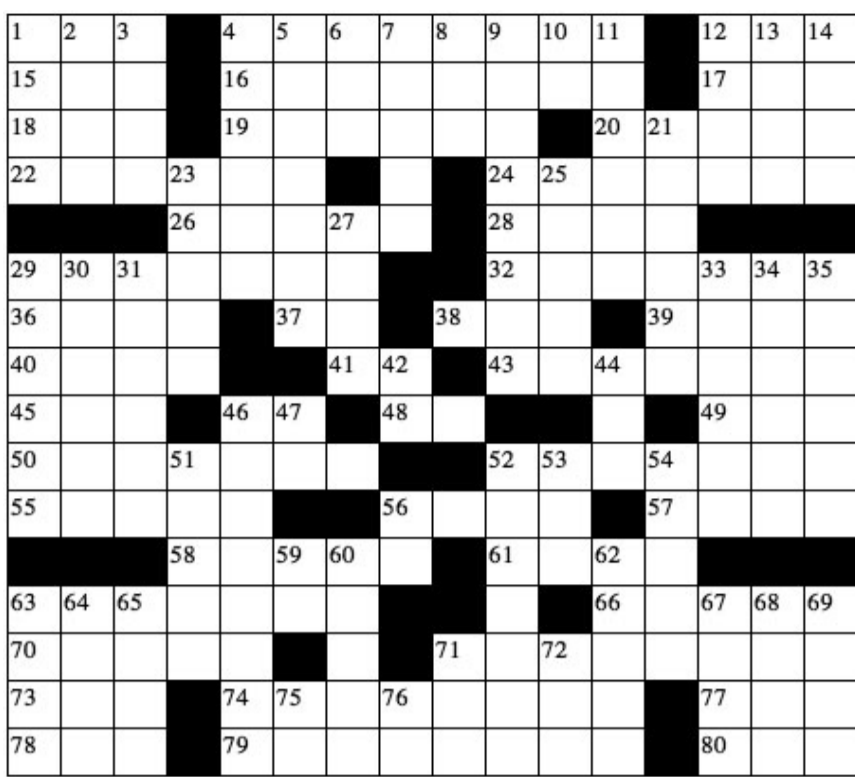


00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Future Firepower
02:10 Mega Builders
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Future Firepower
06:12 Mega Builders
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Prototype This
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Mega Builders
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Future Firepower
11:26 Prototype This
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega Builders
14:38 Prototype This
15:26 Future Firepower
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Mega Builders
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Man v Expert
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Builders
22:00 Man v Expert
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters



00:20 7 Little Johnstons
01:05 Fat Chance
01:50 Return To Amish
02:35 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
02:57 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Ultimate Shopper
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
06:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
07:07 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
07:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
07:52 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
08:15 Little People, Big World
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
11:40 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
12:02 Say Yes To The Dress: Canada
12:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:40 Little People, Big World
15:25 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
16:10 Love At First Swipe
16

CROSSWORD 1668



ACROSS

1. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
4. Relating to or characterized by atrophy.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
15. Step on it.
16. Assail again.
17. Worthless or oversimplified ideas.
18. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
19. (Arthurian legend) A nephew of Arthur and one of the knights of the Round Table.
20. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
22. A sweet filling made of prunes or apricots.
24. A young unmarried woman.
26. Having the same or similar characteristics.
28. Pass into a condition gradually, take on a specific property or attribute.
29. The wife or widow of a czar.
32. Annual and perennial herbs of damp habitats.
36. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
37. A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.
38. A healthy capacity for vigorous activity.
39. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
40. The dynasty that ruled much of Manchuria and northeastern China from 947 to 1125.
41. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
43. A handheld collapsible source of shade.
45. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
48. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
49. (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
50. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
55. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
57. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
58. A circumscribed inflammatory and often suppurating lesion on the skin or an internal mucous surface resulting in necrosis of tissue.
61. A French abbot.
63. Consider in detail and subject to an analysis in order to discover essential features or meaning.
66. (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
70. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
73. The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
74. A port city in northern Vietnam.
77. A machine-readable version of a standard dictionary.
78. Surface layer of ground containing a mat of grass and grass roots.
79. One of four subclasses or superorder of Monocotyledones.
80. Any of numerous hairy-bodied insects including social and solitary species.

DOWN

1. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
2. Ulcerated chilblain on the heel.
3. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
4. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
5. Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions.
6. (used especially of commodities) In the natural unprocessed condition.
7. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in Missouri in the valleys of the Missouri and Osage rivers.
8. A unit of pressure.
9. The appendage to an object that is designed to be held in order to use or move it.
10. Being one more than one.
11. A loud harsh or strident noise.
12. Type genus of the Apidae.
13. A large bundle bound for storage or transport.
14. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
21. Small genus of tropical African perennial bulbous herbs with deciduous twining stems.
23. Roman scholar (116-27 BC).
25. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
27. God of love and erotic desire.
30. Prepared by cutting.
31. Type genus of the Alaudidae.
33. An archaic name for Easter or Passover.
34. Cause to move forward with force.
35. Make a more or less disguised reference to.
42. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
44. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
46. A genus of herbs and shrubs belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae.
47. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
51. Any plant of the genus Inula.
52. Edible fish (broadly including freshwater fish) or shellfish or roe etc.
53. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
54. A support that consists of a horizontal surface for holding objects.
56. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
59. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
60. Suggestive of the supernatural.
62. Water accumulated in the bilge of a ship.
64. Roman Emperor notorious for his monstrous vice and fantastic luxury (was said to have started a fire that destroyed much of Rome in 64) but the Empire remained prosperous during his rule (37-68).
65. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
67. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
68. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
69. Give over.
71. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
72. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
75. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
76. A small digital computer based on a microprocessor and designed to be used by one person at a time.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find that people are so busy today you won't be able to finish a sentence. Others may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking. Events could make it difficult for you to act. Your ideas may not find the support you need. This is a good time to back off and get a view of the day from a different perspective. Perhaps a break or an early lunch will provide the perfect opportunity to unwind and gain a focus. This afternoon points to your taking the initiative. Your special qualifications and your creativity are more likely to put you ahead of the pack, at work or home. You will receive a boost from your friends this afternoon. You could be looking forward to some form of sports or exercise with friends.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This month's ending brings energy to learn and expand your horizons and move forward. What wonderful choices you will have this next birth year. A junior college or university around your area will have a booklet they can send you to choose your class. Art teachers, business investment counselors or any type of travel agenda can each be achieved. What you have to discover is where you want your adventure to begin and what you want to develop in the earning of a living. Now is the time to set a few dates for your goals. This is a good day to make some phone calls, set some dates and plan your path. A few co-workers or friends may want to help you celebrate this evening. Someone is a good dancer! Happy birthday!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There could be difficulties to work through today. It is important during this time to effectively communicate your ideas to others, especially those who are ultrasensitive. You will become alert to any thinking that needs to be changed and eventually be pleased with your efforts as well as the outcome. By this afternoon those confusing energies will be gone. There is a massive social change going on in your community and much of it is very positive. You may find a whole new set of friends coming across your path and you may also gain a new interest in an unusual sort of entertainment. Money causes change and some of your new friends may encourage you in those changes. A new friend will lead you in a positive direction tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are riding a high now in terms of taking advantage of the cycles in your life. Good things are happening all around. This is the beginning of a series of years during which you should begin to consolidate and tie down the advances you have made in recent years. It may be best to begin to dig in and strengthen your current position rather than expand outward too much. Social and community endeavors may hold your attention this afternoon-there are more to come. You are interested, as many of us, in making the world a better place. Pick one subject and make it your job to create a public awareness campaign. Work on this the rest of the year and little by little you will see great progress. You will enjoy relaxing to music this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You and everyone you know seem to be in a good mood today and a sense of humor is not far behind. Some technical method or style of working may come to your attention that keeps you thinking about continued education. You may decide to check out the agenda at one of the community colleges in your area. You may be pleased at who is teaching these days. You may be called upon to teach or help others take a more independent approach to their life at this time. Your confidence is high and you can accomplish anything that is before you. This time in your life can have a profound effect on your psyche and may mark a time when your faith in a higher power, as well as in other people, will be most meaningful. Deep powers are being awakened.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time for serious thinking. A practical mind takes on a special importance at this time. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life-health, work and such-becomes a greater preoccupation. School and studies of all kinds could be in order. This is a time for perspiration in the idea department. Perhaps a little more education will get you the job that will allow you more freedom, travel or power. This may be a time during which you can get ahead by finding your limits and establishing some criteria that will enable you to move forward with your goals. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations this afternoon. Romance is very possible this evening. A candlelight dinner is in order.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is new energy available for professional endeavors now. This is a time of good fortune when things open up in a very natural way. New people in your life and new circumstances make it very easy to see which path you will want to claim for yours. Opportunities flourish and you may find yourself wanting and capable of doing most everything. You may be teaching young people today. You are not so egotistical as to believe that we should get away from the natural way of living our lives. You encourage young people to learn the old ways of navigation and communication so that they will never be without the ability to contact others or to find safety when they are lost at sea or land. You teach proper health practices and etiquette.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Things may seem magical in the way they work out today. This is a great time to organize and get things accomplished. This is a time when you have a greater appreciation for things of value. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance. Your thoughts and goals are very clear. Upcoming events need planning so that the cost is kept down. Unforeseen expenses could be hard to find. You may have to be firm with a family member who seems to think that money grows on trees! This evening there is some energy present that will help you to heal, or to just feel better. This could mean less pollen or not as hot a day, etc. Look back over your day-review.



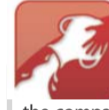
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

An emotionally charged drama will be experienced in the realm of law, politics, education, travel or religion. You could be most persuasive with others and may add a great deal of calming energies to an intense debate or disagreement. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular thoughts. You will enjoy the company of your loved ones this afternoon. Keep your positive attitude. You are feeling reflective and enjoy being with family members. Tonight when the subject of dinner comes around you may decide to cook a special dinner for everyone. If there are young people present, they could be in charge of some special side dish. This is a good opportunity to teach and to listen or to visit.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You can work effectively behind the scenes where distractions are minimal. Circumstances may require the use of your knowledge and persuasive communication skills. This could offer you your best opportunity to exercise your own personal power. Concentrate on ways in which to bring about a balance between responsibilities and relaxation. With your resourcefulness, today's obstacles can be converted into opportunities. You are good with numbers and could become most important in accounting. There will be increased opportunities to reach out to others through a social function this evening. Networking is an excellent way to get your ideas across to others and find avenues of success. Take a hint from a person you admire.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Communication skills are in demand-you may be requested to speak for the company or deal with the public. Your co-worker friends may become very close to you, almost like family. It is almost like an ongoing soap opera to hear about the next activity or event in your friend's life. Your emotions and the feelings of those around you may be very clear today. Gossip is easy to find, but you will encourage respect and refuse the gossip-thereby gaining appreciation from all. Many insights can be gleaned this afternoon from conversations regarding hypothetical situations. Don't be afraid to speak up when you see a situation that could bring about better business. A true maturity can be reached when you leave doubts about your abilities.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your directional abilities are in high focus. Others may slow you down from time to time by pulling you into conversations, but your mind is on whatever project you have set up for yourself. This could mean you are working at your job, but it could just as easily mean you are working in your garage or your garden. You and your loved one may decide to take up a new hobby or attend a class together-perhaps learning about herbs or drying flowers. Whatever the case, it will be something fun and decidedly different from your normal interests. There is a deepening of your love relationship this evening and you feel like having some special time alone with a special loved one. It is likely that more money will be coming your way soon.

Wordsearch Puzzle

More 1950's Songs

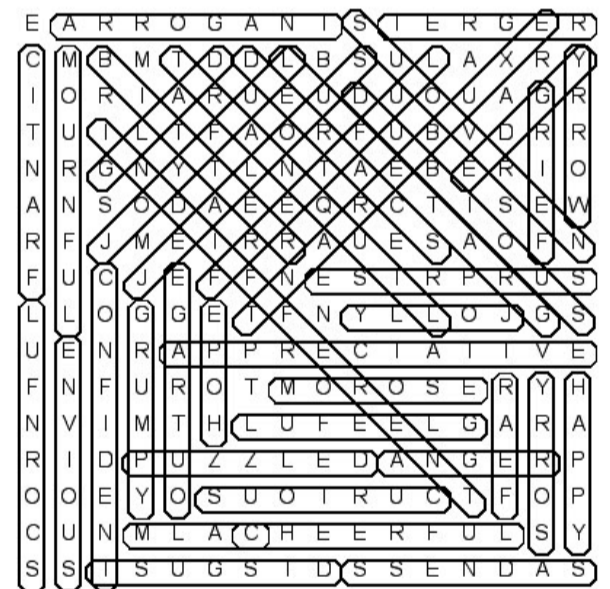
Find and circle all of the 1950's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1950's song.



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| ALL SHOOK UP | FLAMINGO | LUCILLE | SOUL ON FIRE |
| ALMOST GROWN AT THE HOP | GET A JOB | MAYBE | STAGGER LEE |
| BIRD DOG | GODNIGHT IRENE | MONEY HONEY | THE BELLS |
| BLUE MONDAY | I'M A MAN | MR SANDMAN | THE WIND |
| CHANCES ARE | I'M WALKIN' | PERSONALITY | TIPTINA |
| CHANTILLY LACE | JIM DANDY | REBEL ROUSER | TOM DOOLEY |
| CRY | JUKE | ROLLIN' STONE | TRY ME |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | LITTLE DARLIN' | SEA CRUISE | WHITE LIGHTNING |
| EL PASO | LOVELY AVENUE | SINCERELY | YOUNG BLOOD |
| | LOUIE LOUIE | SO WHAT | |

Yesterday's Solution

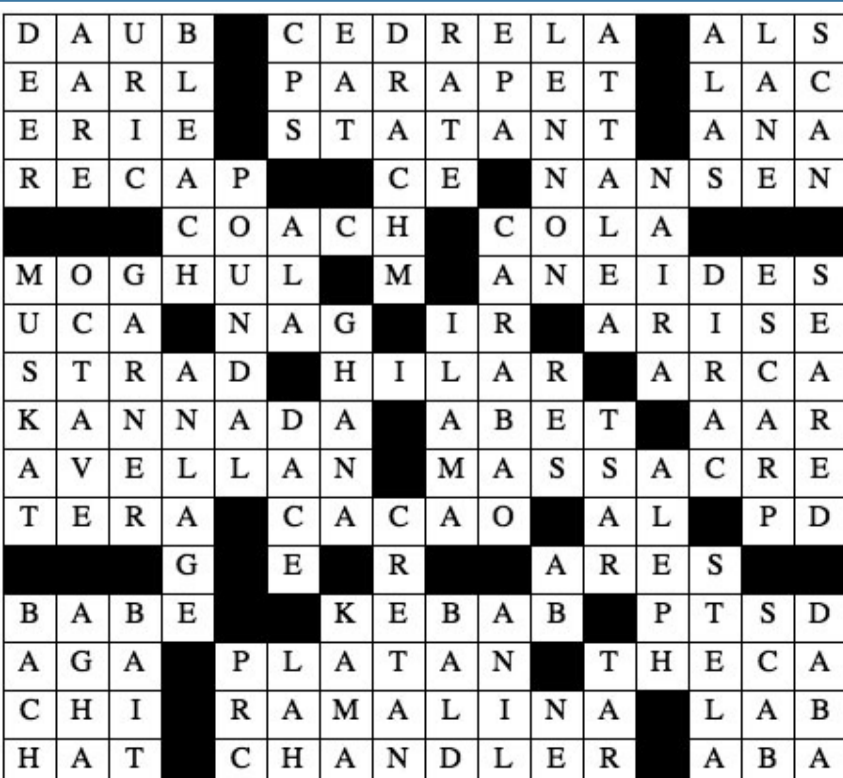
Moods & Emotions 3



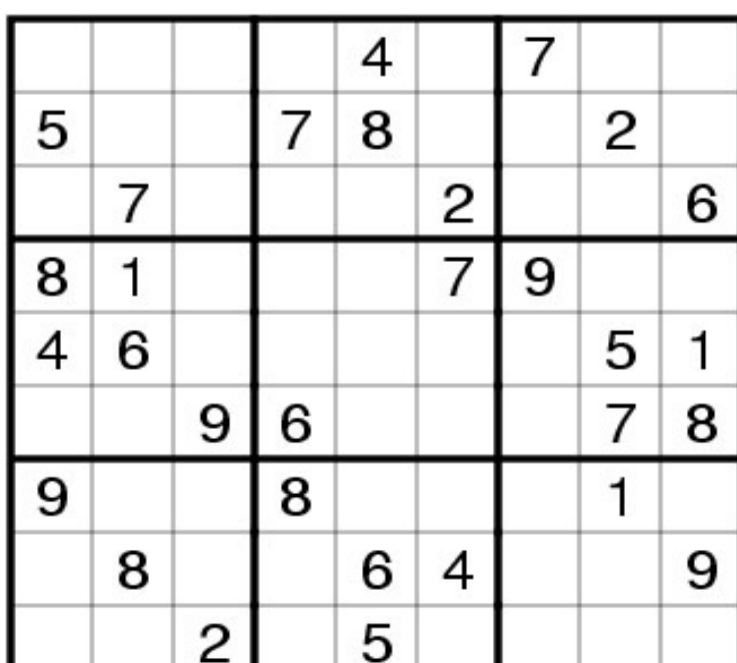
- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| ANGER | EDGY | GRUMPY | OUTRAGE |
| APPRECIATIVE | ENVIIOUS | HAPPY | PUZZLED |
| ARROGANT | EXUBERANT | HOPE | REGRET |
| BITTER | FEAR | INDIFFERENT | SCADNESS |
| CALM | FRANTIC | JEALOUS | SCARED |
| CHEERFUL | FRETFUL | JOLLY | SCORNFUL |
| CONFIDENT | GLAD | JOYFUL | SORRY |
| CURIOUS | GLEEFUL | MOROSE | SURPRISE |
| DISGUST | GRATEFUL | MOURNFUL | TRANQUIL |
| DUBIOUS | GRIEF | NERVOUS | WORRY |

The hidden word is: EMBARRASSMENT

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



CLASSIFIEDS



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www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (20/07/2017 TO 26/07/2017)

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	11:45 AM	LONDON HEIST	10:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	12:15 AM	CARS 3	1:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
CARS 3	2:00 PM	LONDON HEIST	12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	12:15 AM	CARS 3	3:50 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	4:00 PM	FANAR-2	12:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:05 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:40 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
CARS 3	6:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:25 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES
LONDON HEIST	8:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	4:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	3:50 PM	AL-KOUT4	11:35 AM	RAILROAD TIGERS
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	10:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	6:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:30 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	1:45 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS
LONDON HEIST	12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:35 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:20 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)	4:00 PM	LONDON HEIST
SHARQIA-2	12:15 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:05 AM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	6:45 PM	LONDON HEIST
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	FANAR-3	1:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:35 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	8:45 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:45 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	3:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D	3:25 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	10:45 PM	LONDON HEIST
DESPICABLE ME 3	7:45 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	5:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:20 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:45 AM	RAILROAD TIGERS
BABY DRIVER	10:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	8:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:25 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		
BABY DRIVER	12:15 AM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	11:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:10 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		
BABY DRIVER		RAILROAD TIGERS	1:15 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
SHARQIA-3	1:00 PM	RAILROAD TIGERS	1:15 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	1:45 PM	MARINA-1	1:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
DESPICABLE ME 3	3:45 PM	CARS 3	3:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	6:30 PM	CARS 3	5:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:15 PM	CARS 3	7:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	12:05 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR	9:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		LONDON HEIST	11:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
MUHALAB-1	12:20 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:20 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	11:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	2:00 PM	MARINA-2	11:45 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
FIDAA - Telugu	5:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	11:45 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	7:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	10:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3	6:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	12:05 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3	9:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:05 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
MUHALAB-2	11:45 AM	MARINA-3	12:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	2:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
CARS 3	4:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	3:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
CARS 3	7:00 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING	5:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	9:45 PM	BABY DRIVER	8:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES	12:30 AM	BABY DRIVER	10:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		BABY DRIVER	12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
MUHALAB-3	12:00 PM	BABY DRIVER	12:30 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
DESPICABLE ME 3	2:00 PM	AVENUES-1	12:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
DESPICABLE ME 3	4:00 PM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)	2:50 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
DESPICABLE ME 3	6:00 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	5:55 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
BABY DRIVER	8:15 PM	JAGGA JASOOS- Hindi	9:05 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
BABY DRIVER	10:30 PM	MUNNA MICHAEL- Hindi	11:55 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
BABY DRIVER	12:45 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)		WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
FANAR-1	12:30 PM	AVENUES-2	11:50 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	2:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX	1:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
DESPICABLE ME 3	4:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING -3D-4DX	4:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
LONDON HEIST	6:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES -3D-4DX	7:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR	8:30 PM	BABY DRIVER -2D-4DX	9:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				
TISBAH ALA KHAIR		BABY DRIVER -2D-4DX		WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES				

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY
 Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available on July 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908
24-7-2017

Sharing accommodation available in Farwaniya Block 6, street 107, near Metro Center. Contact: 66625901.
(C 5329)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Yasmin daughter of Asmatulla Kha holder of Indian Passport No. K8489188 and Civil ID No. 293011501371 has changed my name to Yasmin Asmatullah Khan, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents.
(C 5330) 21-7-2017

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:32
Shorook:	05:03
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:30
Maghrib:	18:46
Isha:	20:13



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 25/7/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 25/7/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	MEV	405	Beirut	11:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
RJA	642	Amman	00:45	JZR	1542	Cairo	13:25
KAC	102	London	00:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FEG	938	Sohag	13:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	SYR	342	Damascus	14:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	GFA	222	Dubai	15:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	02:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
THY	752	Istanbul	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	513	Tehran	16:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
AZQ	4565	GYD	03:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
QTR	1090	Doha	04:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
AAG	143	FJR	05:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	538	Jeddah	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	785	Doha	18:45
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	552	Alexandria	19:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	NIA	0162	Dubai	20:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	22:15
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	383	Delhi	22:35
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ICV	675	Hong Kong	22:55
JZR	239	Amman	12:25	PIA	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	1443	Doha	12:35	KAC	795	Madinah	23



Guns N' Roses excited for album

Guns N' Roses are "excited" about their new album. The 'Welcome to the Jungle' hitmakers have been rumored to be working on a follow-up to 2008's 'Chinese Democracy' and guitarist Richard Fortus says the group - which also currently comprises Axl Rose, Slash and Duff McKagen - are in the best place they've been in

since he joined in 2002. He told the *St Louis Dispatch* about the record: "Everyone is excited about it. There's a really magical thing now with the band. It feels like a new band. It feels like the best version since I joined, and it's the most fun for me. There's so much excitement around it." Before joining Guns N' Roses, the 50-year-old musician

had worked with the likes of Rihanna, Thin Lizzy, and The Psychedelic Furs and was on tour with Enrique Iglesias when he got a call from his friend, the group's then-bassist Tommy Stinson, about the possibility of landing his "dream" job. He recalled: "Enrique was huge, and it was great. 'We were doing three nights at Albert Hall in London. He was at the peak of his game, and the band was killer, but I didn't want to continue touring with Enrique. 'There's a big difference between pop music and playing in a rock band... I was eager to get into a rock band again. 'I was excited - I was always down to do anything with Tommy. And they were like a dream band. They flew me to LA and had a car waiting to take me to the audition. I hung out with Axl (Rose), talking and listening to music, then flew to Ireland to pick up the rest of the (Iglesias) tour.'

Rolling Stones back in the studio 'very shortly'

Keith Richards has confirmed The Rolling Stones will be back in the studio "very shortly". The 73-year-old guitarist revealed the 'Paint It Black' hitmakers - whose last album was 2005's 'A Bigger Bang' - will be working on original material and deciding which direction to take the band in. When asked if he was inspired to get back into the studio with the group, he replied: "Yes, we are - very, very shortly. 'Cutting some new stuff and considering where to take it next.' The British rockers - also made up of Sir Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood, and Charlie Watts - released 'Blue & Lonesome', an album of blues covers, in December last year and Keith hinted they are keen to make a follow up to the record. Speaking to *Ultimate Classic Rock*, he added: "I don't think we're going to sucker into that straight away. 'But it wouldn't take a twist of the arm to do some more of that. It's such fun to record, and there's plenty more where that came from. 'Blue & Lonesome' caught us a little bit by surprise in that we figured it was something we had to do, but we didn't expect the response." Keith has previously admitted the group didn't ever intend to create a blues album but the project spiralled after they enjoyed recording the first few tracks. He said: "The reason we hit into the blues stuff was we were in a new studio and in new rooms, it



always takes a while to adjust to sounds. "So I said to Ronnie [Wood] and Mick [Jagger], 'Let's just hit into the blues; something we're all familiar with to get the sound together. It came together so

quickly and so well, suddenly Mick said, 'Well in that case, let's do this Howlin' Wolf song', and one led to another and before we knew it we had an album without any intention of doing it."

Captain Marvel to be set in early 90s

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige has revealed that 'Captain Marvel' will be set in the early 1990s. The 44-year-old film producer used his appearance at San Diego Comic-Con to spill that directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck's Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero adventure will show Carol Danvers and her titular alter ego, played by Brie Larson, fighting enemies almost three decades ago. Feige says the reason for the time setting is that it's an era that hasn't been explored in the MCU and also it was an era in which he had a lot of "fun". He said: "There is an unexplored period of the Marvel Cinematic Universe that we wanted to showcase. Almost anything else is a spoiler other than to say that the 90s would be a fun period to make a superhero movie in. I graduated high school in 1991 and the thought that I'm now making a period



piece is unbelievable. How old am I now? It's just gonna be a lot of fun." At Comic-Con it was also revealed that the main villains in the movie will be the Skrulls, an extraterrestrial race of shape shifters hellbent on invading and conquering Earth. 'Captain Marvel' will also star Samuel L. Jackson as super-spy Nick Fury.



Nadine Coyle signs to Virgin EMI

Nadine Coyle has signed to Virgin EMI. The Girls Aloud singer says it is a "dream come true" to have signed a solo deal with the label and she is looking forward to performing again. She said: "I'm so excited to be releasing music again. I'm nervous but really happy to be sharing them finally. It's a dream come true to sign a solo deal with a label that's as brilliant as Virgin EMI. The team really share my vision for the album and I can't wait to start performing again." And the 32-year-old singer knows she has "a lot to prove" with her comeback. A source added to *The Sun* newspaper: "Nadine knows she has a lot to prove. The music industry has changed and Nadine wants support from streaming sites like Spotify and Apple Music. So signing a big deal with Virgin EMI makes perfect sense." It comes after a source teased Nadine was keen to make a comeback. The insider said at the time: "Nadine has spent the last few years soul-searching and finally feels ready to have another crack at her solo career. She has been working with Brian and can't wait to show people her material. There has even been talk of a Girls Aloud track on the album." In 2015, it was claimed Nadine has landed a record deal and was moving from Los Angeles to the UK so she could make her comeback. A source shared: "Nadine is incredibly focused. She's selling her LA restaurant and laying roots in the UK. She's still a household name and wants to cash in on her singing abilities rather than turn to reality TV."

Jada Pinkett Smith wants Girls Trip sequel

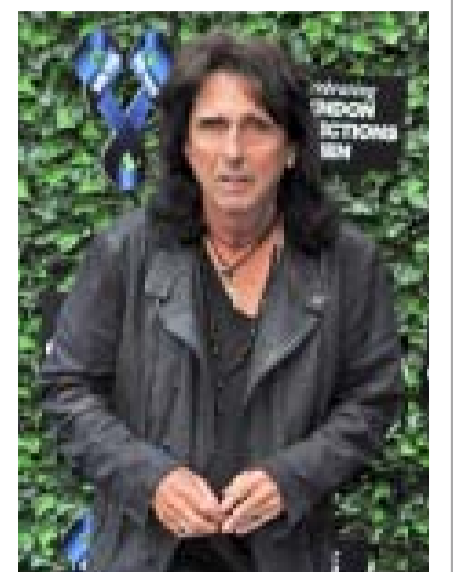
Jada Pinkett Smith is confident a sequel to her new comedy 'Girls Trip' will be made. The Hangover-esque film about four female friends who go on a weekend away together to a New Orleans music festival has reviewed well and banked over \$30 million in its opening weekend at the box office. Jada is sure that Universal Pictures will reunite the cast, which as well as herself includes Regina Hall, Queen Latifah and Tiffany Haddish, for another outing of outrageous antics. In an interview on UK TV show 'Lorraine', she said: "We've talked about doing a sequel, so we'll see if it happens, but I think with the success of the movie it will happen ... It's just done \$30 million at the weekend, so I'm so proud. They're saying that we've taken rated R comedies out of their slump so it's a nice moment for us for sure. "The movie has a lot of heart and great messages about



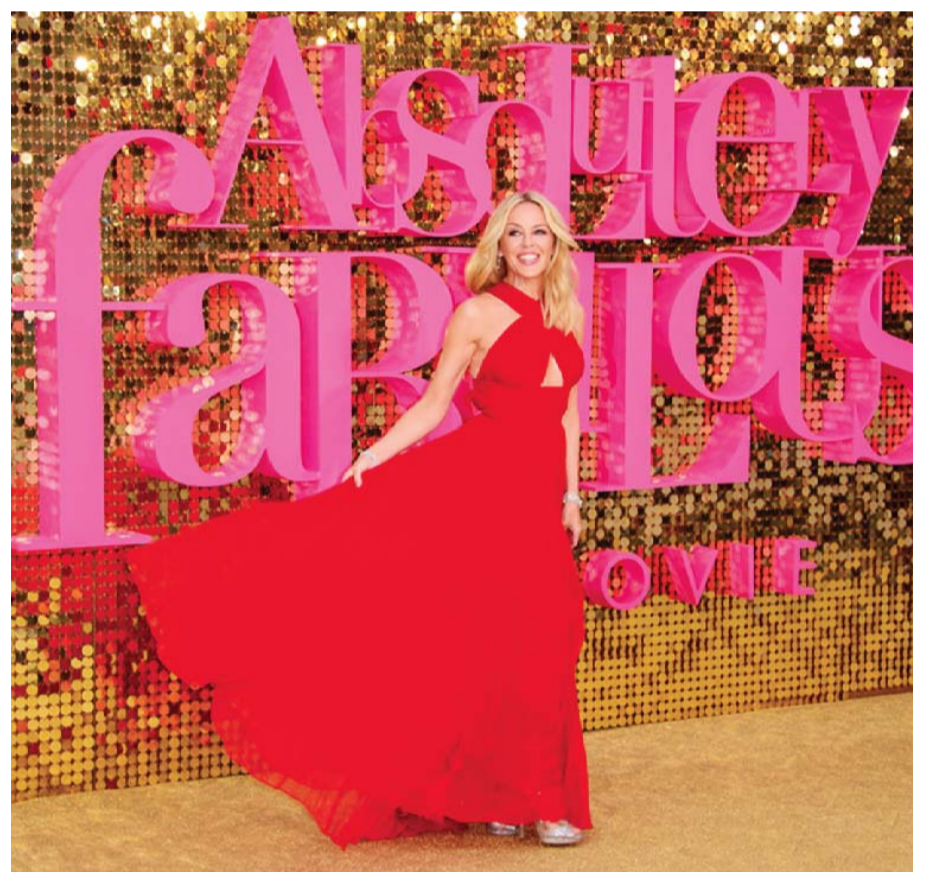
empowerment and living your truth so you get a little bit of everything." Jada, 45, believes the secret to the success of the movie is that the four main stars and the rest of the cast had so much fun during shooting and that spirit of fun and camaraderie comes through on the big screen. She added: "Making the movie was a girls' trip we really had a special bond and I think that audiences can feel that. — Bang Showbiz

Alice Cooper finds Warhol print

Alice Cooper discovered a forgotten Andy Warhol print "rolled up in a tube" after it spent 40 years in a storage locker. The 'School's Out' singer had kept the red Little Electric Chair silkscreen - a gift from his former girlfriend Cindy Lang - with a number of his old stage artefacts but was urged to dig it out four years ago when art dealer Ruth Bloom told the rocker's manager Shep Gordon how much one of the artist's pieces had recently sold for at auction, and he urged his client to find the print. Shep said: "Alice's mother remembered it going into storage. So we went and found it rolled up in a tube." It was then suggested Alice hang the print at home but, as another piece from the collection previously sold for \$11.6 million, the 69-year-old singer wasn't keen to have something with such a high value in his house and returned it to storage. The picture cannot be verified because it is unsigned, but Warhol expert Richard Polsky has seen the print and is "100%" certain it is genuine. And Alice is now considering hanging it in his home when he comes off tour at the end of the year. Shep told *The Guardian* newspaper: "Truthfully, at the time no one thought it had any real value." "Andy Warhol was not 'Andy Warhol' back then. And it was all a swirl of drugs and drinking. But you should have seen Alice's face when Richard Polsky's estimate came in. His jaw dropped and he looked at me. 'Are you serious? I own that!' While Alice thinks he had a conversation with the late artist, who he befriended in the early 1970s, about the piece, he was drinking



so heavily at the time, he can't be certain his memory is reliable. Shep said: "It was back in 72 and Alice had moved to New York with his girlfriend Cindy Lang. "Andy was kind of a groupie, and so was Alice. They loved famous people. So they started a relationship, and they loved to hang out... "As I recall, Cindy came to me for \$2,500 for the painting. At the time Alice is making two albums a year and touring the rest of the time. It was a rock'n'roll time, none of us thought about anything. He ends up going into an insane asylum for his drinking and then leaves New York for LA. "Alice says he remembers having a conversation with Warhol about the picture. He thinks the conversation was real, but he couldn't put his hand on a Bible and say that it was."



Kylie Minogue 'turns to a country sound on new album'

Kylie Minogue is moving towards a country music sound on her comeback album. The 49-year-old star has been recording in Nashville with top country writers and producers, and Kylie is reportedly exploring a noticeably different sound on her new album. A source told *The Sun* newspaper: "Kylie is exploring all different types of options at the moment. "She's always appreciated the country sound and potentially mixing the genre with her classic pop sound is an exciting prospect." The Australian star, who is best known for her catchy pop tunes, has recently been in the studio with Grammy-winning producer Nathan Chapman, who has previously worked with the likes of Taylor Swift and Shania Twain. Last month, meanwhile, it was reported that Kylie would open

up about her split from Joshua Sasse on her new album. The 'Spinning Around' hitmaker called time on her romance with Joshua in February and it's been suggested that fans can expect to hear exactly what went wrong when the star releases her upcoming record. A source previously said: "Kylie's album will give fans fly-on-the-wall access to what happened between her and Josh. "She has gone into serious detail on some of the songs and it has helped her make sense of everything. "It was obviously a very tough time but throwing herself into music has been an amazing help. "It looks like her album could be her most political yet too, with talk of tracks covering issues like LGBT rights. "Kylie just wants to make an album that will start conversations."

Louis Tomlinson's 'awkward' Bebe meet

Louis Tomlinson has admitted it was "a little bit awkward" when he met Bebe Rexha for the first time. The 25-year-old star teamed up with the US singer/songwriter for the video of his latest solo single 'Back to You' and despite a slightly uncomfortable opening, the pair had a "really nice" day. He said: "I met her at the video shoot and it was one of those where she was in the middle of a shot, pulled out, did the introductions and whatever. "It was a little bit awkward as it always is in those situations, but as the day went on it was really nice." Louis' latest song features lyrics such as "I call you you never even answer/ I tell myself I'm done with wicked games", but he insists the track is nothing to do with girlfriend Eleanor Calder, who he recently rekindled his romance with. Speaking on ITV morning show 'Lorraine', he added: "Of course there are some personal things I relate to and that always contributes to lyrics. "What was nice to me about this song is ... the rest of the album is really honest. A little bit vulnerable at times but really honest. "It was nice to have something on the album that isn't as directly related to me. "It is coincidental, definitely ... but I would never



describe Eleanor as that person in that relationship because that relationship is really intense. "Maybe they're not right for each other, maybe they are, and that isn't Eleanor." Louis - who has 18-month-old son Freddie with ex Briana Jungwirth - split from fashion blogger Eleanor in 2015 after three years together but they reconnected earlier this year, following his break-up with Danielle Campbell.

Linkin Park says can never replace late singer

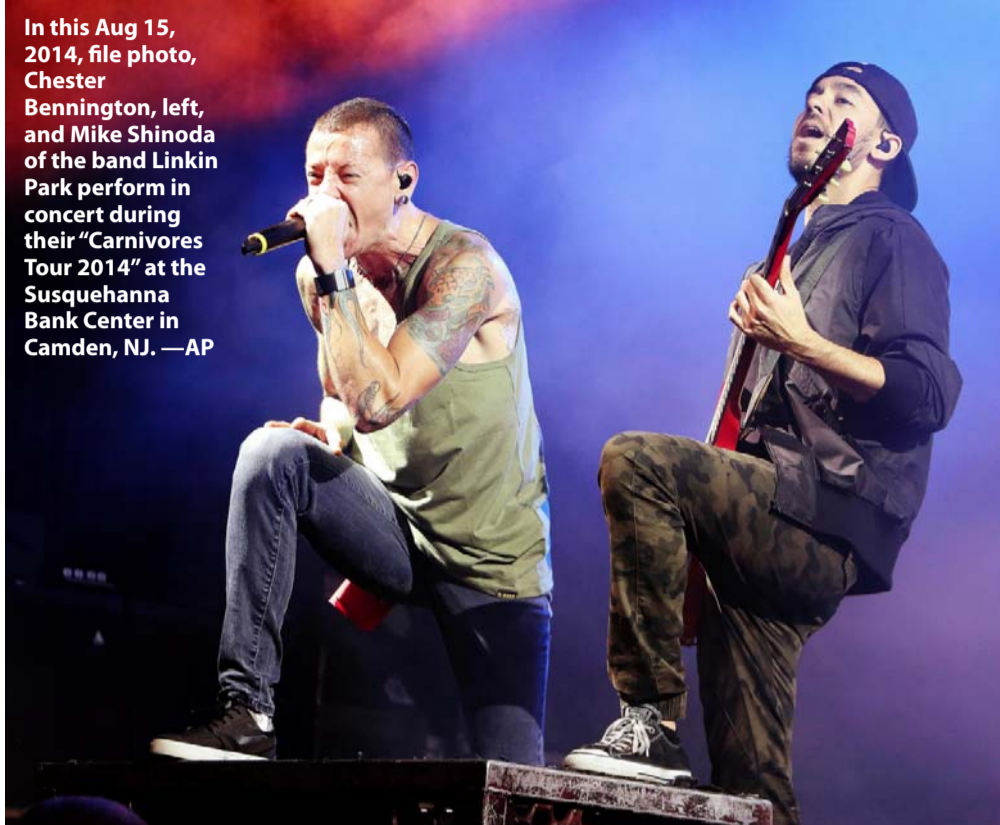
Linkin Park said yesterday it could never replace singer Chester Bennington after his suicide as the band acknowledged that his "demons" had fed his music. After three days of shocked silence since Bennington hanged himself, the chart-topping California metal band hailed the "outpouring of love and support" and said Linkin Park's future was uncertain. "Your absence leaves a void that can never be filled—a boisterous, funny, ambitious, creative, kind, generous voice in the room is missing," the band said in a statement.



In this May 16, 2015 file photo, Chester Bennington, left, performs during the MMR-BQ Music Festival 2015 at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, NJ. — AP

"We're trying to remind ourselves that the demons who took you away from us were always part of the deal. After all, it was the way you sang about those demons that made everyone fall in love with you in the first place. You fearlessly put them on display, and in doing so, brought us together and taught us to be more

In this Aug 15, 2014, file photo, Chester Bennington, left, and Mike Shinoda of the band Linkin Park perform in concert during their "Carnivores Tour 2014" at the Susquehanna Bank Center in Camden, NJ. — AP



human. You had the biggest heart, and managed to wear it on your sleeve." Bennington, 41, had been open about his struggles to overcome drug and alcohol abuse and low self-image, caused in part by being molested as a child.

The Arizona-born singer brought his raw rage into Linkin Park, which blended metal with pop song structure and rapping by guitarist and songwriter Mike Shinoda. A coroner's report confirmed that Bennington committed suicide. An employee at his Los Angeles home found him hanging by a belt Thursday morning—which would have been the birthday of his friend Chris

Cornell of Soundgarden, another celebrated rock singer who recently killed himself. Linkin Park had been due to start a tour a week later. In the statement, the band said that Bennington had been speaking about future plans together.

"While we don't know what path our future may take, we know that each of our lives was made better by you. Thank you for that gift. We love you, and miss you so much," the statement said. Linkin Park over the weekend set up a website dedicated to Bennington with tributes by fans and information for suicidal people who need help. — AFP

'It Can Happen Anywhere': Pussy Riot plans prison theater

The frontwoman of Russian punk provocateurs Pussy Riot is planning to recreate her prison ordeal through an immersive theatrical piece with a message to audiences—it can happen to you. Nadezhda Tolokonnikova announced that the project, "Inside Pussy Riot," would open with a six-week run later this year in London, with an interactive set in which audiences live through the rockers' experience. An outspoken critic of President Vladimir Putin, Tolokonnikova said she developed the piece out of fear that more people will be targeted for their political views amid a rise of "authoritarian and right-wing misogynist tendencies" around the world in which she includes the election of US President Donald Trump.

"It was really important to communicate to people that what happened with us can happen with anybody. We wanted to show people in their own skin what it means to be a prisoner," she told AFP by telephone. Tolokonnikova and bandmate Maria Alyokhina were prosecuted after sneaking into a cathedral near the Kremlin in 2012 and performing for less than a minute—a "punk prayer" against Putin. The two were imprisoned for nearly two years on a conviction for hooliganism. Serving in a former Soviet-era gulag, Tolokonnikova protested prison conditions by going on a nine-day hunger strike, requiring medical intervention.

In position to speak out

"I did understand when I was in prison that I am more privileged in a way, because I have the opportunity to tell what's going on there. So now I'm trying to keep doing this work," Tolokonnikova said. Tolokonnikova announced a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to support the production, which she said would feature new Pussy Riot songs and videos and use actors to recreate the band's odyssey. She is collaborating with London theater company Les Enfants Terribles, known for sets in which audiences enter and choose their own paths. The group previously created an interactive version of children's classic "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

Bandmate Alyokhina has also turned to theater, earlier this year in the United States premiering the piece "Revolution" that looks at the intellectual underpinnings of Pussy Riot's rebellion, set to digital hardcore rock. Tolokonnikova said that she and Alyokhina were attending each other's performances and still worked together on human rights advocacy but were pursuing different artistic directions.

Hopeful for Russia

Tolokonnikova, who cites leftist intellectual Noam Chomsky as an influence, links the surge of right-wing populism to the rise of oligarchs and the failure of mainstream political discourse to show

alternatives. Tolokonnikova counts herself as an enthusiastic supporter of Alexei Navalny, an outspoken critic of corruption in Russia who has vowed to run in next year's presidential election. She said that 2018 looked like "a very promising year" and pointed to the thousands of people who took to the streets on June 12 after a protest call by Navalny.

But Putin won a landslide victory in the last election in 2012 and has consolidated power over nearly two decades in direct or indirect power. Navalny was recently jailed for organizing unauthorized protests and election authorities



This file photo shows Russian activist Nadezhda Tolokonnikova of Russian feminist punk rock protest group, Pussy Riot, addressing the crowd from on top of a Russian military vehicle at The Park stage on the first official day of the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts on Worthy Farm near the village of Pilton in Somerset, South West England. — AFP

say an earlier sentence makes him ineligible to run. Still, Tolokonnikova insisted that Russian authorities "cannot really shut him up." She likened him to Bernie Sanders in the United States and Jeremy Corbyn in Britain, two campaigners whose focus on inequality has won them avid followings among young people. Meeting while in prison with inmates of diverse backgrounds, Tolokonnikova became convinced that opposition to Putin was more widespread than portrayed in state-controlled media. "They are not blind. They see that corruption is eroding basic economic and civil society and media institutions in Russia and they want to see the end of it," she said. "I understood from conversations that the Russian people are waiting for the moment when they can go to the streets," she said. — AFP



In this Feb 25, 2017 image made from video, Betsy Crapps, left, and her daughter, Katherine Crapps, pose for a photo before the Mom Prom at St Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton Township, Mich. — AP photos

Mom Prom charity-minded retro-parties spread across country



Wonder Woman sequel gets title

Wonder Woman has a few reasons to celebrate. As of Sunday, the superhero picture is now the highest-grossing film of the summer with \$398 million from North American theaters, and the sequel is official. Warner Bros. is not saying much about the inevitable follow-up to the smash hit, but the studio did flash a title card with the words "Wonder Woman II" during its Comic-Con presentation Saturday.

But that was the extent of the "Wonder Woman II" talk at the fan convention. There is no official word on whether or not Patty Jenkins will return to direct, who is penning the script or even when the film might hit theaters. Not even Gal Gadot mentioned it during the Comic-Con "Justice League" panel. — AP

For a decade now, women have donned their old prom and bridesmaid dresses — even wedding dresses — for an evening of charitable revelry in suburban Detroit. And the idea is catching on. As the annual retro-shindig known as the Mom Prom gained attention, founder Betsy Crapps started getting more calls and emails from women interested in holding similar events. "My dream was to have women raise money for charity and have a great time with their girlfriends," Crapps said during this year's installment at her church in Canton Township.

That dream has come true. The 47-year-old mother of three estimates about 80 Mom Proms will be held this year nationwide. Among them is Melanie Collins' fourth Mom Prom on April 1 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with proceeds going to Assistance in Health Care, which helps cancer patients in financial distress. The cost is \$35 per ticket. "If someone wants to put on an expensive gown and pay \$300 for a dinner at a gala, there is no shortage of charities to oblige. Mom Prom is priced low, allowing anyone to attend," Collins said.



Image made from video, Deana Michalak smiles after being named queen of the Mom Prom at St Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton Township, Mich.



Image made from video, Traci Hofmann shows off the "Tackiest Dress" award she won at the Mom Prom held at St Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton Township, Mich.

Crapps owns the "Mom Prom" trademark but doesn't charge for hosting one. She asks that proceeds go to charity and for would-be organizers to contact her so she can keep track of the events. Mom Prom "fosters a lovely feeling of sisterhood among attendees," said Gail Veitch, who helped bring the concept to Saratoga Springs, New York, where four proms have resulted in donations of nearly \$50,000 to women's or children's charities. Crapps estimates the Canton Mom Prom, where attendee numbers are limited because of available space in the church's basement, have raised several thousand dollars a year for St Vincent De Paul and other charities. Marie Lally's Mom Prom will take place April 22 in South Lyon, Michigan. The 41-year-old paralegal said it's an easy draw. "I have so many friends that are like, 'Let's go dancing.' Where do you go dancing when you get to be, like, a mom," she said. — AP

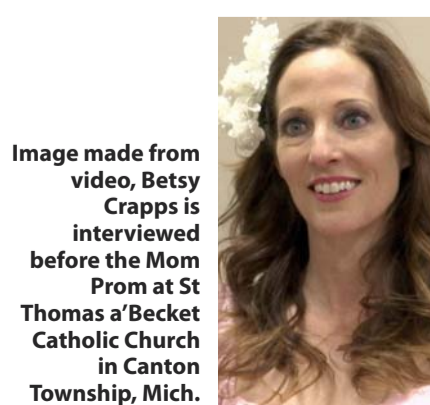


Image made from video, Betsy Crapps is interviewed before the Mom Prom at St Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton Township, Mich.

Grab taken from a handout video released by Robert Carmona-Borjas showing Venezuelan violinist Wully Arteaga, who gained fame for playing at many of Venezuela's opposition marches, being assisted after he was injured during a protest in Caracas. — AFP photos



Amid chaos of Venezuela street demos, a lone violinist plays

As tear gas chokes the air and water cannons gush in the streets, a skinny young man wearing the red, blue and yellow of Venezuela's flag stands bravely amid the chaos and plays the violin. That is 23-year-old Wully Arteaga doing his bit-contributing music to the nearly daily street rallies rocking the country as the opposition tries to force President Nicolas Maduro from power. Arteaga, who was badly injured in the face Saturday at a demonstration, has become a sort of fixture at the rallies—a powerful symbol of everyday people's anger with a leader they blame for a severe economic crisis.

As bedlam erupts around him, Arteaga stands and plays the national anthem or traditional Venezuelan music. Big time performers abroad like pop star Shakira have taken notice and expressed support for Arteaga. On Saturday, Arteaga was seen with blood pouring from cuts on the left side of his face. He said later he had been struck with buckshot. "They are not going to frighten me," Arteaga said in a video he posted on Twitter from a hospital bed, with big swollen lips and bandages on his face. "We are going to keep fighting." Then he picked up his violin and played a little. On social media, people went nuts with praise for him.

'I know I am nobody'

The musician became an icon of the protest movement on May 8 when he was pictured calmly weaving through tear gas with his violin on his shoulder, playing a classic Venezuelan folk song called "Alma Llanera." Immortalized in photographs from

that performance, he said he meant it as a message of peace. Arteaga learned to play with an award-winning Venezuelan network of youth orchestras created for kids from underprivileged areas. Arteaga shot to fame when he performed at the funeral of an 18-year-old musician, Armando Canzales, who died of a gunshot wound May 3 at a protest rally in Caracas.



Handout picture released by Robert Carmona-Borjas showing Venezuelan violinist Wully Arteaga, who gained fame for playing at many of Venezuela's opposition marches, lying in a hospital bed in Caracas after he was injured during a protest.

Buckingham Palace exhibit marks 20 years since Diana's death



A display to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, a recreation of the desk where Princess Diana worked in her sitting room at Kensington Palace, on display at Buckingham Palace in London. — AP photos



Items on a recreation of the desk where Princess Diana worked in her sitting room at Kensington Palace, on display at Buckingham Palace.

London's Buckingham Palace has unveiled an intimate tribute to Diana, the Princess of Wales, marking the 20th anniversary of her death. In one of the palace's state rooms, curators have carefully recreated a desk the princess worked at in her sitting room at Kensington Palace, complete with family photos, cherished items and music cassettes. She wrote letters here, read briefings and took care of other correspondence. Many of the items shown on and around the desk were selected by her sons, William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry.

"It was chosen to reflect an aspect of Diana, Princess of Wales' official duties. So the work that she would undertake at her desk before and after engagements," said curator Sally Goodsir. "So, we've really tried to recreate her desk as it was in her sitting room at Kensington Palace. And using objects that she had upon her desk and from memories that



A display to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, a box of tape cassettes near the desk where Princess Diana worked in her sitting room at Kensington Palace.

her sons, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry have of her." The desk features a leather frame which contains photographs of family and friends. There's also a case of cassette tapes and a radio reflecting her love of music, along with her ballet shoes, which hung on the door of her sitting room at Kensington Palace.

"Some of the pieces on display really reflect the princess' personal interests," said Goodsir. "These include her ballet shoes, she was well-known as a lover of dance, and then also her set of cassette tapes, popular music such as Elton John and George Michael, but also pieces from classical repertoire, including Pavarotti." Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris on Aug 31, 1997. "It will be an important anniversary at the end of August, marking the 20th anniversary of her death," said Goodsir. The tribute to Diana is part of Buckingham Palace's annual summer opening, which also includes the exhibit "Royal Gifts," a special display of over 200 gifts presented to Queen Elizabeth II during her 65-year reign. The gifts include a Bafta (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award presented to the queen in 2013 for her patronage of the film and television industries. Some items were presented to the queen during state visits and overseas tours, such as a model of a warrior presented in 1974 from Papua New Guinea, and a portrait of the queen made with woven banana leaves, given to her in Rwanda in 2006.

"I've tried to display objects from as many countries as possible and really showcase national craftsmanship," explained Goodsir. Other items reflect the queen's interests, such as a bronze model of a riding horse she once owned and a porcelain model of her as a young princess on horseback.



Also on display are a bag of salt presented to her in the British Virgin Islands and a flag worn by an astronaut during a spacewalk outside the International Space Station in 2016. The palace's 25th annual summer opening runs from July 22 to Oct 1. — AP

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Pasadena's art, gardens and history make a good LA side trip



Photo shows the entrance to The Huntington Library Art Collections & Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, Calif.



Photos shows Urth Caffe in Old Pasadena, a 22-block historical area housing hundreds of shops, galleries, restaurants and bars in Pasadena, Calif.

Pasadena is located 15 miles (24 km) northwest of Los Angeles, at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. Incorporated in 1886, this city of 140,000 retains much of its 19th century charm. But as home to the California Institute of Technology and NASA's unmanned space effort, it's no stranger to modernity. Whether you have a day or more to

Angeles area, and is home to one of the finest collections of British portraiture in the world. Its collection includes Thomas Gainsborough's "Blue Boy," a 1455 copy of the Gutenberg Bible, a rare manuscript of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tale" and a signed letter from Abraham Lincoln to Ulysses S. Grant. The complex has 12 gardens featuring 15,000 plants and flowers displayed in ecosystems ranging from deserts to jungles. There also is a children's garden and one showcasing the work of master Chinese craftsmen from Suzhou. Open daily 10 am - 5 pm. Closed Tuesdays.

Norton Simon museum of art
This private museum was founded in 1922 by the industrialist Norton Simon, who collected European masterpieces from the Renaissance to the 20th century, as well as

Asian art spanning 2,000 years. It is considered one of the world's finest small art museums, gaining praise for its renovations by famed architect Frank Gehry. Among the 12,000 pieces in the collection are works by Rembrandt, Rodin, van Gogh, Degas, Picasso and Matisse. Open daily except Tuesday, plus evening hours Friday-Sunday.

Jet Propulsion Lab
You'd don't have to be a fan of "The Big Bang Theory" to take a tour of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. This center, operated by the California Institute of Technology (where "Big Bang"'s Sheldon and are Leonard are physicists), manages 19 spacecraft, including the Curiosity rover on Mars. Public tours, featuring the flight mission control room, are available twice weekly at 1 pm. The tours fill up months in advance.



In this file photo, school children look from a viewing gallery at NASA engineers working on the rover Curiosity at the Mars Science Laboratory, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.



This photo shows the Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain in South Pasadena, Calif. — AP photos

spend, here are few world-class destinations to consider visiting that will give you a taste of the past, present and the future within a compact 23-mile (37-km) radius.

Huntington library art collections & botanical gardens
The Huntington is considered one of the top cultural attractions in the greater Los

Old Pasadena
One of three main shopping and entertainment districts in Pasadena, this 22-block historical area still retains many of its 19th century roots, thanks to historic preservation. It was designated a National Register Historic District in 1983, and remains full of Victorian, Mission Revival and Art Deco buildings that give off a European vibe with its pedestrian-friendly streets and historic alleys.

The 200 shops house retail chains like the Gap, Anthropologie and Forever 21, art galleries, boutiques and antique stores. There are 100 restaurants, diners, coffee shops and bars. Travel just 2 miles to South Pasadena and grab a shake or malt at the Fair Oaks Pharmacy and Soda Fountain, built in 1915 along the westernmost stop of Route 66.

The Langham Huntington
This historic hotel originally opened in 1907 and was redesigned seven years later by Rose Bowl architect Myron Hunt. It added the first Olympic-sized swimming pool in

Southern California in the mid-1920s and is now famous for its lovely wooden Picture Bridge, used as a backdrop in movies and TV shows including "90210" and "Scandal." Non-guests can take the daily historical tour at 2 p.m., stroll among the 23 acres (9 hectares) of landscaping or partake in a traditional British tea served on Wedgwood china. Tea service starts at \$42.

The Gamble House
The Gamble House was designed as a winter residence in 1908 by architects Greene & Greene for David Berry Gamble, a second-generation member of the Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble Co. family, and his wife Mary. It is renowned as an outstanding example of American Arts and Crafts style architecture. The house was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1978, and is now owned by the City of Pasadena and operated by the University of Southern California. One-hour docent-led tours held Thursday-Sunday. — AP



In this file photo, the Norton Simon Museum is seen in Pasadena, Calif.



Alberto Reyes, son of Cleto Reyes founder of the iconic Mexican boxing gloves factory which bears his name, poses in front of a wall packed with autographed gloves at Reyes Industries headquarters in Mexico City. — AFP photos



A staffer of Reyes Industries works finishing protective training headgear in Mexico City.

Mexico artisans handcraft gloves for boxing legends

'They use them because they feel safe, and know they're going to score a knockout'

In a boxing world often dominated by promoters, self-promoters and glitz — exhibit A, Mayweather vs McGregor — Alberto Reyes likes to do things the old-fashioned way: his company still makes gloves by hand, just as it did for Muhammad Ali. The Mexican craftsman is the owner of Cleto Reyes boxing gloves, a family firm founded by his late father in the 1940s whose clients have included such legends as Ali, Manny Pacquiao and even the fictional Rocky Balboa.

Reyes likes to tell the story of the best publicity his company ever received, when it made the gloves for one of Ali's last fights: his 1978 match to reclaim his heavyweight title from Leon Spinks. It was the kind of free advertising that is hard to imagine in this age of mega-bouts like next month's "Money Fight" between boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr and mixed martial artist Conor McGregor. "They had a contract with a different company to supply the gloves, but Ali said, 'I don't fight if it's not with Cleto gloves,'" Reyes, 65, said in his Mexico City office.

The fight promoters agreed to let Ali use his favorite gloves, on one condition, Reyes said: he had to put tape over the label. But once inside the ring, the fighter known as "The Greatest" asked his trainer, Angelo Dundee, to take off the tape. The photo of a sweat-drenched Ali fending off a punishing swing from Spinks the name "Cleto Reyes" visibly stamped on his glove was published around the world after the former champ, then aged 36, seized back the heavyweight title belt from his 25-year-old opponent.



Protective training headgear and boxing gloves are pictured at Reyes Industries headquarters in Mexico City.



A worker shapes and tests boxing gloves at Reyes Industries in Mexico City.



World Boxing Council belts made at Reyes Industries, are displayed at the company's headquarters.



Two boys take a rest in the ring during a training session at a popular gym the outskirts of Mexico City.



Boxing gloves hang on a ring at a popular gym.



Boxing gloves and speed bags are displayed at Reyes Industries headquarters.

The hands behind the fists

That particular pair of gloves was made by longtime Cleto Reyes employee Ruben Albarran, today aged 64. "It was one of the first pairs I made," he told AFP at one of the company's two factories on the outskirts of Mexico City. "When I saw the fight, I was so excited for the company. Then I saw the picture in the newspaper." Albarran grew up with dreams of becoming a boxer himself, but when he was 15 years old, his father told him he was crazy, he said.

So he went for the next best thing, in his eyes: a job making gloves at Cleto Reyes. It is nearly the same story as that of Alberto Reyes's father, Cleto Reyes himself. As a young man in the 1930s, he idolized Mexico's then-emerging box-

ers like Juan Zurita and Rodolfo Casanova. In those days, amateurs were allowed to get in the ring and try their luck and Reyes, whose day job was making baseball gear at a local factory, did just that. "He lasted three rounds," said his son. "The trainers told him, 'Go to the gym, learn how to hold your hands. You've got potential and you're brave.'"

Reyes was traumatized for life. But he used his experience stitching baseball gear to patch up his damaged gloves after that fight. Soon he was making his own gloves and gained the notice of his idol Zurita, who used Cleto Reyes gloves in a 1945 championship bout against American boxer Ike Williams. Word spread from one boxer to another that Cleto Reyes made an exceptional



Reyes Industries' staffers work at the company's headquarters in Mexico city.

pair of gloves. And the list of famous clients grew: Joe Louis, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis, Oscar De La Hoya... even Sylvester Stallone as "Rocky."

Pride and craft

Alberto Reyes says the company has never paid a fighter to wear its gloves. "They use them because they feel safe, because they know they're going to score a knockout," he said. The firm's artisans start by selecting the best-quality leather. Then they painstakingly cut it, sew it and stuff it with foam and horsehair.

It is an old-school exercise in craft, using old-fashioned sewing machines. A professional

pair of Cleto Reyes gloves costs 1,380 pesos (\$75). "They're comfortable on the hands, which take less damage," said top-tier trainer Ignacio Beristain, who has coached Mexican champions including Juan Manuel Marquez and Ricardo Lopez.

Cleto Reyes gloves are a source of pride in Mexico. The factory walls are covered with pictures of presidents, celebrities and boxing legends wearing them. Public health officials have recently unveiled a new campaign to fight breast cancer—donning bright pink pairs of Cleto Reyes gloves. "It's a pleasure to work for a company that is internationally recognized," said Albarran, who now stitches one of the firm's other products: punching bags. — AFP



Iron molds used to produce different shapes and sizes of boxing gloves.



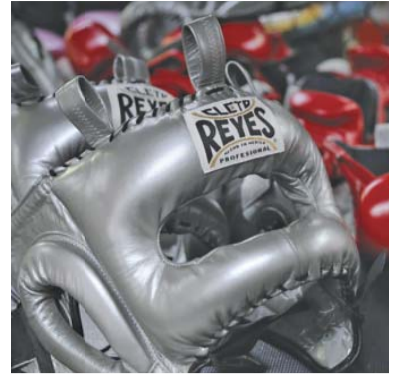
A worker cuts the leather pieces of a speed bag at Reyes Industries headquarters.

Lifestyle

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Mexico artisans
handcraft
gloves for
boxing legends

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An elderly Palestinian man walks through the Old City of the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday. — AFP

The 'Sharknado' phenomenon: Making America bait again

With its airborne sharks, over-the-top gore and endless cheesy cameos from fading stars it ought to have flopped-but the viral "Sharknado" franchise shows no signs of losing its bite. A fifth film in five years, "Sharknado 5: Global Swarming," is due for release on August 6, building on social media buzz that has turned the series into one of the most popular ever made for television. An unabashed homage to the B-movies of Hollywood's Golden Age, the franchise stars "Beverly Hills 90210" alum Ian Ziering and Tara Reid from the "American Pie" films as husband and wife Fin and April Shepard.

Wherever they go, the hapless couple end up doing battle with giant, monstrous

viewership of 3.9 million, the largest audience ever for Syfy, a unit of NBC Universal. By the time "Sharknado 4: The 4th Awakens" came around, the series had enough cultural cachet to attract fan favorites like David Hasselhoff, Steve Guttenberg, Jackie Collins and Lou Ferrigno. The series was also becoming known for some odd appearances-sometimes way too long to be described as cameos-by the likes of right wing political commentator Ann Coulter and "Game of Thrones" author George R.R. Martin.

In the meantime the movies have spawned a cottage industry of merchandise, from action figures, comics and video games to the book "How to Survive a Sharknado

"another piece of dreary detritus", yet it still pulled in almost three million viewers, buoyed by social media. Reid in particular, with 380,000 Twitter followers and another 192,000 on Instagram, has been a prize asset for the franchise. "Sharknado" prompted 318,000 tweets during its debut airing-in an era when social media engagement is as important for TV executives as eyeballs glued to the screen. "Sharknado 2" became the most social movie on TV ever, with 581,000 tweets around ten times as many as for "America's Got Talent," that summer's most popular TV series among Americans.

In "Sharknado 5," which has the tagline "Make America Bait Again," Reid and Ziering are joined by Olivia Newton-John and the Italian model Fabio, who graced the covers of numerous romance novels in the 1980s. Syfy debuted a new trailer at Comic-Con showing Fin and April trying to save their son, who's trapped in a sharknado churning up the world. The movie was a truly interna-



This file photo shows a Sharknado parade during Comic-Con International in San Diego, California. — AFP photos

great whites that have been sucked into the air in freak storms and deposited on unsuspecting populations. "Each movie we get to do a different genre. The last movie was a superhero movie. We got to do 'White House Down' with sharks and a space movie in three," Anthony C Ferrante, who has directed all five installments, told a panel at San Diego Comic-Con at the weekend.

"So this one was an international 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' James Bond movie, and it allowed us to do things we never thought we could accomplish." The franchise got off to a slow start, with "Sharknado" only managing 1.4 million viewers during its first run. But repeats and all-important social media buzz made it into a cult classic.

Odd appearances

Its third airing pulled in 2.1 million viewers, the most-watched repeat of an original movie in the Syfy channel's history. "Sharknado 2: The Second One" attracted a

and Other Unnatural Disasters" by Andrew Shaffer. No one was more surprised by the sudden popularity of the series than its stars. "I remember it was first called 'Dark Skies.' To have that on your resume, it sounds like a good movie," Reid told fans at Comic-Con, many decked out in "Sharknado" costumes and t-shirts. "Then they told me it was called 'Sharknado' and I was like, 'You've got to be kidding me. I'll never work again.'" Zierling, meanwhile, said he ordered his agent to get him off the project and joked that he had even considered changing his name so the movie wouldn't appear on his Internet Movie Database entry. The films have varied in their fortunes with the critics, the first attracting an approval rating of 82 percent on reviews collation website "Rotten Tomatoes."

Social media buzz

"Sharknado 4" managed just 17 percent and was described by The Daily Beast as



This file photo shows an Elvis impersonator performing on stilts promoting the movie Sharknado during Comic-Con International 2016 in San Diego, California.

tional production, shooting in the UK, Australia and Bulgaria.

Playing themselves are British Olympic swimmer Tom Daley, "Fantastic Beasts" star Dan Fogler and NBC News anchor Jeff Rossen. "The studios have two to two-and-a-half years to do a movie.

We've done five of these in five years," said Ferrante. "We started shooting this movie in January and we literally delivered it last night. We went to five countries but we also did in an impressive amount of time-the way only 'Sharknado' can." — AFP

Bizarre News

Chessington World of Adventures Resort welcomes twin skunks

Chessington World of Adventures Resort has welcomed twin skunks. The popular tourist site has seen the arrival of two five-month-old animals named Flash and Storm at their zoo. And zookeeper's at the venue decided to mark the occasion with a similar photo-shoot to that of Beyoncé, who welcomed her twins Sir and Rumi into the world last



Woman attempts to sneak dog into night club

A woman tried to sneak her dog into a nightclub with her as she wanted the pair to spend New Years Eve together. The clubber quipped with her furry pooch at the Spy Nightclub in Ireland) and hid her beloved pet under her jacket, but became unstuck when the bouncers noticed her intentions. Diarmuid McCleary, a photographer who captured the moment on his camera and later posted the shot on social media, told the Irish Mirror newspaper: "The girl tried to hide the dog in her jacket but was caught by security "She wanted to spend New Years Eve with the dog but her dreams were crushed!" I don't know who the girl actually is I turned around and just seen her being stopped at the door [of Spy Nightclub].



month and shared a photograph of her cradling the new additions to her family in a multi-coloured robe on social media to break the news. Gemma Anscomb decided to dress up in a vibrant, printed gown as she held the five month old skunks in her arms. Flash and Storm are currently being trained with staff at Chessington World of Adventures Resort to get them used to the environment before they can be viewed by the public later in the year.

Bride rants about mother-in-law inviting herself to honeymoon

A furious bride has taken to the internet to rant about her mother-in-law who invited herself on the newly-weds' honeymoon. The newly-hitched woman posted on mumsnet.com under the name 'WintersHereJon' in which she asked fellow users for their advice about her current situation. She wrote: "She's posted on Facebook that she's booked a holiday to the same chuffing resort she knew we were looking at. Worse than that, the dates overlap so she'd be there for the first few days of our honeymoon. She's making out like it was a pure accident but I really don't feel that it is." And the stressed woman, who is planning to visit the Caribbean with her husband next year for their getaway trip, added that her mother-in-law had always "expressed a dislike of long haul holidays and "would never go on one."



Elderly man told to remove mooning gnomes

A council has ordered an elderly man to remove his mooning gnomes due to health and safety. Laurence Perry, 77, placed the two garden ornaments outside his home in Wistaston near Nantwich, Cheshire, but received a letter saying the miniature statues with their trousers down can cause a "distraction" to motorists, the Mirror Online has reported. Speaking about the incident, Laurence said: "I feel very disappointed. My daughter bought them for Father's Day as a bit of fun as she knows I like a laugh. "I've worked with others for four years to turn a piece of land which had been left overgrown, covered in broken bottles and bricks, into a more attractive area."