

Blue Whale:
A cyber
nightmare



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PEARL DIVERS VOYAGE BEGINS

See Pages 4 & 5



Local Spotlight

BOY KILLS MOM

By Muna Al-Fuzai

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A teenager boy stabbed his Kuwaiti mother 90 times in Zahra a week ago. The crime shook many in the Kuwaiti society, and social media debated the motives of the boy. Forensics reports confirmed that the suspect stabbed his mother 90 times and mutilated her face.

We read about such stories of death and murder every day. But, there are cases that leave us in pain, especially those who kill family members, such as parents. These crimes, especially in small communities such as Kuwait, require officials not only to imprison the killer, but also identify their motives. The reasons that led to the sad end of a young mother must be known for awareness, caution and guidance for other families who might be facing similar situations.

The juvenile prosecution has ordered the detention of the 17-year-old, who admitted to his crime. The father of the murderer told the media that his son suffers from schizophrenia and is being treated at the psychiatric hospital.

This type of killing is known as parricide, which is the

In some US studies, family issues are at the top of the main motives for homicide

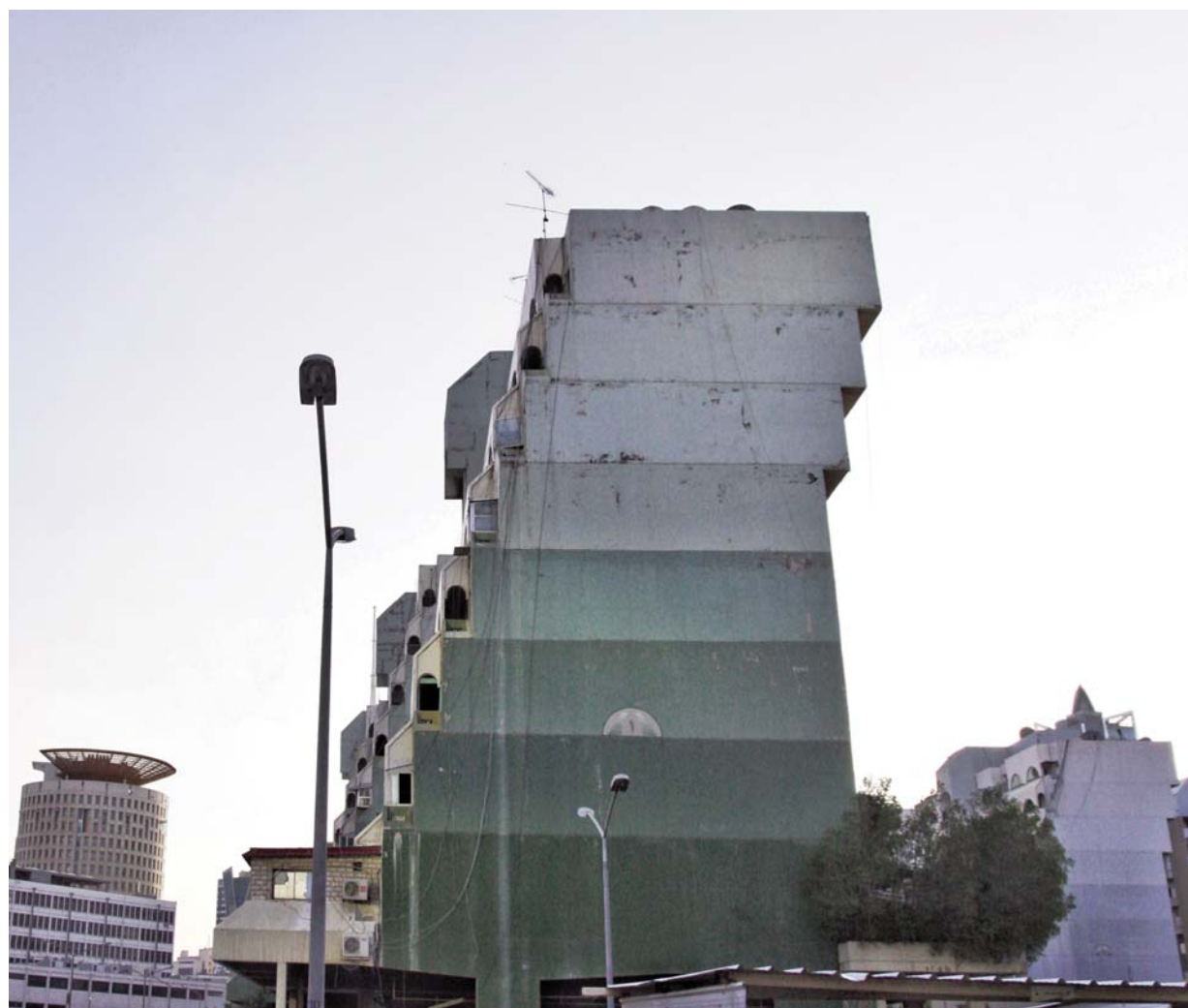
killing of a parent or a near relative. This new phenomenon is spreading in many countries of the world as part of the many manifestations of deviations nowadays. In some US studies, family issues are at the top of the main motives for homicide. These crimes are committed by three types of children - those who suffer from family pressure in childhood; those who suffer from mental impairment; and those who suffer from excessive socialization or isolation.

This type of crime does not receive sympathy in society. Social media witnessed heated debates - almost everyone was either angry at the cruelty of crime, as if the killing of non-relatives is permissible, while others tried to justify the crime over the fact that the killer was mentally ill and should've stayed in hospital.

The psychological status of the killer is often the first claim made to the public, but this is not justified, because people often wonder why they are roaming free outside the psychiatric hospital and medical supervision. Why didn't doctors prevent these dangerous persons from leaving the hospital, even if the parents tried to take them out? These are reasonable questions.

Such claims of mental illness are no longer confined to crimes among citizens, but even when a maid kills a sponsor or a child, this readymade answer seems to appear as a justification for the crime, and no one calls to look deeply into the actual and true motives. I wonder if psychological illnesses can be considered as good excuses for tolerance of murder. I know that the law has an opinion about such crimes, but here I am talking about people's feelings and sentiments when hearing about such vicious crimes. This crime will not be the last, and unless we focus on public awareness among families with mentally-ill members and doctors, as well as the law to start taking serious action, nothing will change.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A side view of one of the buildings in Al-Sawaber Complex in Kuwait City. — Photo by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

IN MY VIEW

TIPS FOR STUDYING ABROAD

By Salman Al-Mutawa

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So you're leaving your country and family behind and joining a new institution with thousands of new people and you have no idea what to expect. Join the club! Every year, almost 3,000 new Kuwaiti students go to study abroad in the United States alone. You're probably feeling a little confused and lost with all the new paperwork and jargon you've been hearing with your scholarship and school application. So, here's the deal - I'll break down exactly what you need to do during your first week in the new country, and in return I need you to...relax.

As soon as you land into your country of choice, you need to conquer PBA: Phone, bank account and apartment. It's PBF (flat) for my friends in the UK. Once you leave the airport, head straight to your hotel, ask for the nearest phone shop, and get yourself a new phone line - and heck, a new phone as well. You deserve it.

Just kidding, you probably don't.

Getting a phone from the country you're moving to is a good idea because phones you buy in the Middle East have different specs (usually UAE specs). Your phone, although unlocked, may not connect as fast as it should to the 4G LTE Internet, so your best bet is just buying a new phone. Also make sure you choose the cellphone provider with the largest cellular network - this will do wonders when you travel around.

Next is opening a bank account. This is simple. Google "bank" and find the bank with the largest amount of

branches in your area. In my case it was Bank of America. Walk in, and say the following words precisely: "Hello, I would like to open a bank account please." The rest is easy. There are two basic types of bank accounts - checking and savings. Open a checking account for now, then talk to your parents about a savings account once you're settled in. Make sure you bring your passport, documents and another form of ID.

Apartments are the most complex of the PBA - that being said, still relatively simple. Google "real estate agent (insert your city here)" and go into the nearest branch. Tell them you'd like to look for an apartment. They will send you an online list of apartments with different prices and layouts - choose the one you like!

Word of advice - for two-bedroom apartments, try to get one without adjacent bedrooms. This will guarantee you better sleep. Make sure you have three months' worth of rent money in your bank account before signing any paperwork, and don't freak out if you don't find an apartment right away. If you spend more than two weeks looking for an apartment and still haven't found anything, then you can freak out.

Hopefully, this short editorial was able to provide you with a simple guideline for your first week in school. By the way, referring to your university as "school" is actually much cooler than you think. In the next few weeks, I will be outlining many different aspects of college life and college "hacks" to give you an edge abroad, so stay tuned!



HEALTH MINISTER OPENS NEW UNITS AT JAHRA HOSPITAL



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr. Jamal Al-Harbi inaugurated the new specialized units at Jahra Hospital during a ceremony held yesterday. They include units for emergency, pediatrics trauma, gastroenterology, physiotherapy and others.
— Photos by Joseph Shagra



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Pearl Diving Trip kicks off 29th version with 'Dasha' ceremonies



The traditional 'Dasha' ceremonies of the 29th Pearl Diving Trip, meaning the start of journey and farewell of families, took place yesterday in Kuwait Marine Sports Club under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Under the motto 'One Gulf, one fate,' a total of 200 youngsters sailed off on board of 13 ships, four of them offered by His Highness the Amir, and the other nine offered by late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Choosing this motto for the trip reflects the deep-rooted relations among Gulf nations, and comes in support of His Highness the Amir efforts in mending rifts, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares said in a speech. Meanwhile, Board Chairman of the Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club Major General Fahad Al-Fahad said that the club has always been

keen in relating the diving trips to historic relations among Gulf countries.

The seventh diving trip organized by the club back in 1995 was held as part of the first GCC maritime festival, he said. Kuwait Marine Sports Club started organizing the pearl diving trips in 1986, as the first trip was launched with five ships offered by the Ministry of Information. Later, late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah offered seven newly-built ships to the club to encourage the youth to take part in such trips, as they revive the memories of ancestors' sacrifices toiled to offer a proper living to their families. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Young divers bid farewell to their families as they embark in the 29th Pearl Diving Trip yesterday.
— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Inside the work of a t-shirt designer

'From design to printing, the technical and artistic aspects of the graphic tee'



By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The clothing that you choose directly represents you, your choice, and the style that you prefer on a daily basis. For Nael Aboul-Huda, design isn't only about personality but art. The 40 year old designer has built a business around graphic tees, customizing t-shirts and designs to highlight the artistic and aesthetic aspects of a customer's personality.

Kuwait Times: How did you become a t-shirt designer?

Nael: I worked for 15 years as a designer for agencies. Being a designer means that often you leave your comfort zone and deal with t-shirts, logos, etc. I liked this kind of work, but I had the feeling that I was putting too much effort into somebody else's business. I wanted to work for something where I could put in all that effort to make people happy, having something well-designed, where I could oversee the quality of the products and offer special stuff. Since I love customizing gifts, I realized I could bring these two passions together. I became a t-shirt designer. Now, I'm seeing my dreams manifest.

I started my business with Arabic calligraphy t-shirts four years ago. I began working from home, later opened my shop. A friend's father gave me a Digital Heat Press Machine for T-Shirts so that was my first step towards achieving my dream. My brother Adel supports me with my dream and we've become partners. I started to learn how to use the machine and how to print T-Shirts using videos on YouTube as I had no idea about using these kinds of machines. The videos helped me and I started to work and learn more from my mistakes. My logo is ANBRO2, the A is for my brother Adel, N for Nael 'My name', and 'BRO2' represents two brothers.

KT: How is the market of customized t-shirts?

Nael: Many people still buy these kinds of t-shirts. Some people buy it because they can't find their size in the market whereas I can provide t-shirt for newborns up to 5X in American size. Some people want it as gifts and others want it to reflect their personality. My t-shirts are also good gifts for newborns with special designs printed on them.

KT: What are the most demanded designs?

Nael: People always order super hero t-shirts. We do not print anything related to religion, politics, nudity, or picture of women. I always deal with customers myself and refuse if someone brings me a picture of a woman; usually I don't accept unless he proves that he is related to her by marriage certificates or her civil ID.

KT: Copyright infringement and stolen artwork is a big issue for a lot of designers. Has this been a problem for you, and if so how do you handle it?

Nael: I always make sure to print photos and logos with free use or create custom designs.

KT: What was the toughest challenge you have ever faced?

Nael: My problem with my line of work is that I want to expand it but I believe that growing in business so fast may cause a painful fall. I prefer to be safe and start step by step. I do not want to rush it. The challenge that I face daily is my customers' satisfaction.

My clients know that they always get high quality products, that is why our slogan is "Made with love" because we always made our t-shirts with love and we are happy with the reaction of the customers when they admire the final result. The happiness of my customers is my goal. I always tell them if you don't like the final result I will refund the money and I will remake it. Even if I see a look in their face showing they don't like it I will change it.

KT: Tell us about your stock.

Nael: We offer t-shirts, mobile covers, cushions, key chains, mobile pop sockets and printed posters. The t-shirts are of very high quality and the cuts of my t-shirts are American. Sometimes I add more products to satisfy my customers. My products are within the range. If you order a customized summer t-shirt the price starts from KD 5 to 25. Hoodie shirts start from KD 12 and up. It depends on the size of the picture and how many pictures will be print. All the designs and production is based in my store in Hawally in Rehab complex. The customers

can also check our Instagram account ANBRO2 for more.

KT: Which is the hardest piece you worked on?

Nael: We do something call "weeding". After printing the picture we cut it by hand. The t-shirt's sticker has many details in the printed hair and is big in size, so it takes me four and half hours just to do the hair by hand. We care about the details to show the quality of the products.

KT: What kind of t-shirt printing do you use?

Nael: We have 4 types of t-shirts printing. The first kind is direct printing that prints the photo as it is. The second one is Vinyl Cutters that uses a machine to cut out designs on special solid color sheets of vinyl with high quality, durability, easily customize different shirts, great for small orders. I have to separate and cut out each color independently, doesn't work well for designs with complex patterns or designs that show a lot of background of the shirt inside the design. The third one is screen printing, creating screens pressed up against cloth to place paint onto shirts one color per screen. The fourth one is sublimation, which is great for full-printed t-shirts. I want the designs to last long. Good t-shirt designs are ethical production. I do not believe in low-cost, cheap-to-manufacture and cheap-to-sell. A fair society does not grow in such an environment.

KT: What can we expect from you in the future?

Nael: My future plan is to expand my work inside and outside Kuwait such as in Jordan, Dubai, Egypt and Lebanon. I want to buy new printing machines. Every year I go to the Dubai exhibition for printing machines, there are similar exhibitions in Germany as well. I will go for it soon to develop and be up-to-date with the new technology in this field. I study the plan of getting a machine that prints on food or drinks. The ink sure should be edible.





31 years in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

Adelina Adviento, 79, came to Kuwait in September 1986. Thirty one years later, she's seen the entire country change and develop. She's grown up, grown old having worked nearly her entire adult life in Kuwait. In an interview with Kuwait Times, Lina shares her story of how she came to live in Kuwait and what it meant when she finally left it to return to her native land.

Lina was born in 1932. Her mother passed away when she was a teenager and her father remarried after two months. Devastated, Lina decided to stay with her mother's sister in Bulacan (near Manila).

"I learned many things there and developed my interest in dressmaking by helping in the shop for readymade dresses. But for some reason I moved from one relative to another. Later I moved with my uncle where I helped him with his small restaurant. They encouraged me to take a vocational course of typing and stenography. So, I had the knowledge of typing which I eventually used in some jobs including here in Kuwait. I was able to help my family before I finally settle down (marriage) at the age of 25," she said.

After marrying, her husband worked abroad for several years. But when he gave up and lost interest of working overseas, Lina knew she had no choice. With young children at school and no other source of income, she had no option but to leave the Philippines for work.

"I told my husband that I will go abroad instead. He didn't like the idea, but opportunity to work abroad knocks once and so I grabbed it, I managed to send my children to private schools and also started a small furniture business. My goal was to raise my children into professionals because of the things I never accomplished," she said.

Lina took a role as a dress maker and

master cutter here. "Back in that time, we were happier. I felt we were treated with respect and dignity before, I felt that we are working just like them. I don't feel I am Filipino, we are all equal, we work just like locals," she said.

She lived and worked through the Invasion. "In those days, people from our embassy were visiting the shops and accommodations of OFWs. I had good employers; if it wasn't for the Iraqi Invasion, I would have owned the business as their partner." But after liberation, Lina's sponsor sold the shop and Lina suddenly had nowhere to go.

Labor struggle, taste of jail

When her visa expired, she told the new owner that she wanted to return to Philippines. But instead she found work elsewhere and planned to transfer. The new owner, however, refused to allow the transfer and wouldn't return her passport or pay her salary. Instead she was reported as a runaway. Knowing the truth, her previous sponsor helped her but she still spent time in jail waiting for the court case.

"My previous sponsor helped me with the assistance of the embassy and we won the case. The court ordered the new owner to pay my salary, compensate me and return my passport."

After that, Lina found a new job and continued working as before.

Tragic death

But then a few years ago, Lina's daughter suffered cardiac arrest and died. "I learnt a great lesson from this experience that we cannot be so sure about our lives."

I thank God for keeping me and sustaining me and my family for 31 years in Kuwait. The grace and love of God kept me going over the years of my life in this country," she concluded.

Now, I am at peace in my situation. I am leaving Kuwait, but I will never forget the lesson shared to me by Kuwait," she said

SOMEBODY CALL 112!



By Ramona Crasto

A police car passes by, and all of a sudden we go from 'at ease' to 'attention' mode. Though we're doing nothing wrong and they're our protectors, why is it that we are so scared of them? Being a policeman is a respectful, blue-collar job, and there isn't anything about them that should scare us, unless we are doing something illegal.

The relationship between the public and Kuwait's police is fraught with tension. Expats fear them. Many locals don't respect them. Few understand the pressures and challenges they face.

"We depend on cops to solve crime, but no one helps them out due to red tape. And when things go south, we blame them. Being a policeman is a cul-de-sac, stuck between a badge and a hard place," opines student Colin Lancy D'Cunha, 21.

Police are an integral and necessary part of any society. Ideally, they uphold and enforce the law and should be model citizens encouraging the best behavior by being living examples of it. In reality, cases of police abusing their powers or mistreating segments of society are daily headlines around the globe.

As a career choice, few parents want their kids to become police officers. In Kuwait, parents would rather their kids become CEOs and engineers than policemen.

"I would not want my child to become a police officer. Although policemen are paid well and the badge and uniform gives them a higher status, the journey towards obtaining the badge is very hard," explains Khalid Al-Kandari, a 30-year-old Kuwaiti. "The training process with the interior ministry changes a person completely, making him stoic and emotionless, and they tend to behave in the same strict way with their family as well. They don't have fixed holidays and need special approval to get married."

He added: "As a kid, I was very scared of them, but now I'm not. Some of the young policemen who get promoted tend to behave arrogantly with citizens, which in turn makes people angry and they start disrespecting all of them. Also, some policemen are influenced by wasta. They sometimes even use the power of their badge and uniform in the wrong way and take undue advantage of it."

Loss of respect for the authority of the police can be seen in numerous recent cases of citizens attacking police or refusing to obey their commands.

These instances of disrespect reflect a broader societal decline in respect for uniformed work not only in Kuwait but across the globe. The challenges that police face at the same time has grown, with greater levels of crime and violence.



Back in that time, we were happier. I felt we were treated with respect and dignity before, I felt that we are working just like them. I don't feel I am Filipino, we are all equal, we work just like locals.



BLUE WHALE: A CYBER NIGHTMARE



Raed Al-Roumi



Dr Khider Baroon



Dr Mohammad Al-Haddad

KUWAIT: In recent years, cyberspace has become the venue for several viral games and challenges, which promoted humanitarian causes and deeds; however, this world is not always rainbows and sunshine.

Blurring the fine line between fact and fiction, the nightmarish online game 'Blue Whale' made headlines worldwide due to the suicide of several teenagers after completing a set of 50 outrageous dares and challenges.

The notorious reputation of the game had spread like wildfire across the globe, leading several countries to issue warnings against this menace, which led to the death of some 130 individuals in 2015-16.

Brainwashing

On the subject, a number of security specialists and academics said that it was important for families and Kuwaiti society to spread awareness on the matter before the youngsters fall into this dangerous trap brainwashing as well as spreading hatred and negative thoughts are the biggest components of this dreaded online game, cyber security and electronic crimes advisor Raed Al-Roumi gave his general impression on the Blue Whale.

Roumi, who is also a retired Interior Ministry Colonel, added that this game took into consideration the vulnerability of the teenage psyche, making crazy acts such self-harm, as well as ridiculous and dangerous challenges seem fun and entertaining. One of the dares include the use of razors to draw a whale directly on the skin, which gave the game its namesake, said Roumi who indicated that after the Blue Whale reaches the end, it would ask the players to end their lives. If a child decided to pullout and end his or her participation, the game starts to issue threats against family and loved ones, which forces the players to carry on with this madness, he pointed out.

The good news that the person behind the game, a 21-year-old Russian and former psy-

chology student Philipp Budeikin, was arrested but the danger still remains because the game is out there and it is still a threat, said Roumi who called on parents to follow up on their children and make sure that they do not become victims.

Obsession

Professor at the Department of Psychology in Kuwait University (KU) Dr Khider Baroon said that the daring factor of the Blue Whale was one of the major attractions for teenagers, who become very obsessed with the game. Similar to what happens in video games, the Blue Whale has a set of challenges that encourages players to "go down the rabbit hole" in return for fake milestones and accomplishments, said Dr Baroon.

Society has a huge responsibility in protecting children from the Blue Whale, said the academic, stressing that parents should not push their kids away, leaving them with feelings of isolation and hopelessness. Promoting family values and getting closer to the young ones via different platforms is the most important weapon against this devilish online game, which offers only "damnation," affirmed Baroon.

On the same wavelength, fellow KU academic and Professor of Social Studies and Anthropology Dr Mohammad Al-Haddad said that the Blue Whale was successful in blending fiction with reality, indicating that the game was a classic case of how easy teenagers could become brainwashed.

Through such games, a person could manipulate players into doing almost anything and with the advent of life-imitating video games and online applications, the line between reality and fiction ceases to exist, said Dr Haddad. The idea of beating the Blue Whale is not farfetched, affirmed Dr Haddad, adding that social and family solidarity will stop the game from claiming more victims. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi is seen during the visit. —KUNA

NEW HEALTHCARE PLAN IN WORKS, SAYS MINISTER

KUWAIT: Patients will be granted immediate and urgent access to medical supplies through a new healthcare strategy, said Kuwait's Minister of Health on Wednesday. Dr Jamal Al-Harbi made the remarks after an impromptu visit to a local hospital, where he listened to grievances of patients over how exhaustive the process of obtaining medical aid can be. The minister highlighted the need to go back to the drawing board, saying a new healthcare plan will be unveiled after his scheduled meeting with officials from across the health spectrum. He pointed out that change was on the horizon, where all hospitals and medical centers would be fully equipped and ready to administer aid properly and efficiently. —KUNA



WASHINGTON: Thelma Kouzes; 'Mom' of Kuwaiti students, celebrates her 100th birthday. —KUNA

AMERICAN HOST-MOTHER OF KUWAITI STUDENTS TURNS 100

WASHINGTON: Thelma Kouzes, more commonly called 'Mom,' celebrated her 100th birthday on Wednesday with many gathering to reflect on her numerous achievements and fondest memories, including when she hosted Kuwaiti students. Between 1960 and 2004, she and her late husband Tom Kouzes hosted 174 international students from 34 different countries, many from Kuwait and the rest of the Middle East.

A former student from Kuwait, who stayed with Kouzes along with her brother, Sundus Al-Sharraf, knew 'Mom' since she was born. "We would come and visit throughout our lives then during the war we came here and went to school," said Sharraf.

"She is very caring and helped us do our homework and reports. She would be there to drop me at the metro and go to school." She continued, "I was always in touch with 'Mom' because she did a lot for us as a family. She helped us and supported us." Kouzes herself was once treated with a gift to travel to Kuwait. She said she was "treated like royalty." Today, she still has very fond memories of the country and her Kuwaiti students.

At her 100th birthday celebration, she was present-

ed with a document that was entered into the US congressional record by US House member Gerry Connolly. Connolly's wife, Cathy, read the note, which listed her list of lifelong accomplishments, including working for President Theodore Roosevelt, marching alongside Martin Luther King for civil rights, and commitment to international students by being elected a national mother.

Kouzes was born in 1917 in Iowa and proudly says she is a first-generation American, the daughter of immigrants whose parents came to the US from Denmark. After growing up during the Great Depressions, she moved to Washington DC in 1938 to work for Roosevelt. She became interested in civil rights after attending a racially-segregated religious service.

She was an active member of the American Field Service, UNICEF, the UN, and the American Cancer Society. She also helped to save the public schools in Virginia during desegregation and racial integration along with other mothers in Northern Virginia. She birthed two sons, has three grandchildren, and one great grandson. When asked if she had any words of wisdom Kouzes responded, "I have thousands of them." —KUNA

ONLY 135 INDIVIDUALS FAILED TO ENROLL IN MILITARY SERVICE SO FAR: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Some 135 failed to register in the military national service out of 2,704, said head of National Service at the Ministry of Defense Major General Ibrahim Al-Amiri. He added that the number is small compared with the actual number of those who registered on the website, which reached 1,407. He explained that those who did not complete the registration process could not be considered as violators as they did not reach the deadline given to them. The law includes a grace period not exceeding 60 days from issuing the new law, after which anyone who fails to register would be considered an "evader" of service, and will face legal actions, he pointed out.

The military official said the National Service took into consideration health and social conditions, reasons for travel and other matters that might hinder registration, confirming that the Commission received all inquiries regarding the National Service Act. Number of recruits who will reach legal age by the end of this year is estimated at 7,500, while number of those who will reach the legal age until next May is estimated at 13,000.

On May 10, 2017, General Staff of the



Head of National Service at the Ministry of Defense Major General Ibrahim Al-Amiri

Kuwaiti Army began implementing the National Military Service Law on male Kuwaitis who have reached the age of 18 years. The number of young men born on May 10, 1999 and beyond is expected to reach 13,217 by the end of 2017. It invited young Kuwaiti men to register in the Service through the website (www.kns.gov.kw) within 60 days, to fill in all the data, complete the registration procedures and submit official documents required to open the profile. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's head office building. —KUNA

KPC PLANS COMMERCIAL FIRM FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TRADING

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is considering the formation of an offshoot commercial firm, which trades in petroleum products, an official said on Wednesday. "The new company, if approved, will not exercise any kind of speculations" on international petroleum stocks, Acting Managing Director for global marketing Imad Al-Abdulkareem said in a statement. Instead, "the company will focus on maximizing the added value of KPC's hydrocarbons production and will add more flexibility to operations in the service of the corporation and its customers," he added.

KPC's commitment to the international pact, between OPEC and non-OPEC coun-

tries, to limit production has also led to a decrease in exports of Kuwaiti crude, he explained. The US market was the most affected by this output reduction, prompting KPC to agree a decrease of its contractual obligations with US customers this year. KPC usually coordinates amendments to its deals with customers, in the event of exceptional cases in the oil market, in a manner that is satisfactory to all sides, he revealed. OPEC and other oil-producing countries, including major producer Russia, recently agreed to extend a deal to limit output by 1.8 million barrels a day for a further nine months. The move aims to hasten the stability of global oil markets. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Moon jellyfish swim in a tank at Kuwait Aquarium. —KUNA

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DOHA: In this Thursday Jan 6, 2011 file photo, a traditional dhow floats in the Corniche Bay. — AP

QATAR HIRES FIRM FOUNDED BY TRUMP AIDE

A CHALLENGE TO SAUDI ARABIA'S MASSIVE LOBBYING EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON

DUBAI: Qatar has hired a Washington influence firm founded by President Donald Trump's former campaign manager and another specialized in digging up dirt on US politicians, signaling it wants to challenge Saudi Arabia's massive lobbying efforts in America's capital amid a diplomatic dispute among Arab nations. The Gulf rift already has seen slogan-plastered taxicabs in London, television attack ads in the United States and competing messages flooding the internet and state-linked media on both sides since the crisis began on June 5.

Hiring a firm associated with former Trump aide Corey Lewandowski shows Qatar wants access to a White House with close ties to Saudi Arabia. Lewandowski left the firm in May. But matching Saudi Arabia, which scored a diplomatic coup by hosting Trump's first overseas trip, could be a tough battle for Qatar, even if it does boast the world's highest per-capita income due to its natural gas deposits.

"The Qataris are belatedly working up to

the scale of the challenge they face," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University who lives in Seattle. "This whole crisis, now that it's kind of settled down into a prolonged confrontation or standoff, it's become almost a struggle to win the hearts and minds in D.C."

Qatar, in the midst of building stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, isn't afraid to spend its money. Since the crisis began, Qatar paid \$2.5 million to the law firm of former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to audit its efforts at stopping terrorism funding - one of the allegations levied by the Saudi-led quartet of nations.

According to documents newly filed to the U.S. Justice Department, Qatar has hired Avenue Strategies Global for \$150,000 a month to "provide research, government relations and strategic consulting services." The contract also says that activity "may include communications with members of Congress and Congressional staff, executive

branch officials, the media and other individuals."

Lewandowski founded Avenue Strategies just after the November election that put Trump in the White House. Lewandowski resigned from the firm in May, saying he was troubled by a firm-related project he hadn't sanctioned. Others tied to Avenue Strategies had started a firm of their own, pitching Eastern European clients with promises of access to Trump and high-ranking White House officials.

Embarrassing material

The firm, which includes a former chief of staff to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. Qatar also signed a three-month, \$1.1 million renewable contract with the opposition research firm Information Management Services, according to a Justice Department filing.

The firm, run by Jeff Klueter, a former researcher for the Democratic Congressional

Campaign Committee, did not respond to requests for comment. It advertises itself as doing so-called "oppo," which includes digging into political opponents' past and comments for incriminating or simply embarrassing material. Qatar did not respond to a request for comment about the lobbying contracts. But it may serve as recognition that while Qatar has had success in speaking with the State Department and the Pentagon, it needs to make inroads to the Trump White House, Ulrichsen said.

Despite hosting a major US military base, Qatar has been a target of Trump over its alleged funding of extremists, something Doha denies. Saudi Arabia enjoys close relations to Trump, as well as his son-in-law Jared Kushner. In Washington, Saudi Arabia spends millions of dollars on lobbying, including a most-recent push to oppose a law allowing Sept 11 victims' families to sue the ultraconservative Muslim nation in US courts. Its lobbying firms have been putting out memos on Qatar.—AP

FRANCE ANNOUNCES PLAN TO VET LIBYAN ASYLUM-SEEKERS

ORLANS, France: France will set up processing centers in Libya for asylum seekers trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean, President Emmanuel Macron announced yesterday. "The idea is to create hotspots to avoid people taking crazy risks when they are not all eligible for asylum. We'll go to them," Macron said during a visit to a refugee shelter in central France, adding the plan would be put in place "this summer", with or without other EU countries. However, officials in the French presidency cast doubt on whether the centers could be established that quickly, saying the security conditions were "not yet in place".

Lawless Libya is the main launch pad for African migrants trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean in rickety boats operated by smugglers that frequently sink. Macron's announcement came two days after he brokered talks in Paris. Between the leaders of the two rival authorities in the war-torn country, who committed to a conditional ceasefire and presenting the agreement where Macron said he hoped a return to stability in Libya would check the outflow of migrants. Since January, more than 100,000 people have made the perilous voyage across the water, according to the International Organization for Migration. Over 2,300 have drowned this year in the attempt.

The vast majority land in Italy-the EU country closest to North Africa which has complained of a lack of solidarity from its neighbors in dealing with the influx. Macron said he would send officials from the French asylum bureau to help out in Italy. "I am also ready to send some to Libya," he said, adding he was ready to go it alone, if necessary. Also "Other European countries are very reticent. We'll try to do it with Europe but we in France will do it," he insisted. The plan appeared to take the EU by surprise but European Commission spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said the bloc was "open to discussing with any and all of our member states" ways to improve the situation in the Mediterranean. France's new leader has taken an ambivalent line on migration, where during his campaign he was fulsome in his praise of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy but his government has taken a hard line with young migrants sleeping rough on the streets of the northern French port of Calais. Rights groups have complained that riot police routinely use tear gas and pepper spray to break up the migrants' camps. —AFP

DUBAI BANS POPULAR BUSINESS WEBSITE OVER 'FALSE NEWS'

DUBAI: Authorities in the United Arab Emirates have banned a leading business website and magazine for one month for allegedly publishing "false news" on failed real estate projects in Dubai. Arabian Business has withdrawn the report, entitled "51 Dubai projects under liquidation process" and posted an apology stating "the information published related to projects dating from 2010 and as such are now outdated". Dubai's media regulation office released a statement confirming the Arabian Business website had been "blocked and the distribution of its print edition halted for one month" starting from Wednesday night.

"The magazine committed violation of the rules and regulations of Dubai Creative Clusters Authority (DCCA) by publishing false news that was based on inaccurate information," the statement said. The DCAA is a government agency that oversees media in the city. The office is "mandated to promote Dubai as one of the world's most attractive cities for creative businesses," according to its website. Representatives of Arabian Business were not reachable for comment Thursday. On Friday the government's Dubai Media Office had denied there was any truth to the report, which it noted had been "copied by Qatari media".

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in May banned Qatari news giant Al-Jazeera, arguing that the channel and website promote hate speech and extremism. The UAE is part of a Saudi-led bloc that suspended diplomatic and trade relations with Qatar last month over allegations that Doha had ties to Iran and supported Islamist extremism; however, Qatar denies the accusations. Arabian Business is published by Dubai-based ITP Media Group, a Middle East publisher which also produces Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar and Esquire in the region. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Palestinians carry the director of Al-Aqsa mosque, Sheikh Omar Kiswani (C), on their shoulders as they shout slogans and wave a national flag, upon entering the Haram Al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, in the old city of Jerusalem. —AFP

PALESTINIANS TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM HOLY SITE

TWO-WEEK CRISIS THAT SPARKED DEADLY UNREST NEARS END

JERUSALEM: Palestinians were set to return to pray at a sensitive Jerusalem holy site yesterday after Israeli authorities removed controversial new security measures, potentially ending a nearly two-week crisis that sparked deadly unrest. Muslim authorities announced a boycott of the Haram al-Sharif compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, was to end yesterday afternoon after Israel removed remaining new security measures.

The compound includes the revered Al-Aqsa mosque and the golden-topped Dome of the Rock. Palestinians had boycotted it since the security measures were installed following a July 14 attack nearby that killed two policemen. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas joined calls for worshippers to return to the site.

"The prayers will happen, God willing, inside the Al-Aqsa mosque," Abbas told a press conference. Abbas announced a freeze on contacts with Israel last week over the dispute, including security coordination, and said yesterday a meeting would be held on whether to lift it. Midday prayers were again held outside the compound, with officials saying preparations had to be made for worshippers to return to it for afternoon prayers at around 4:30 pm (1330 GMT). Before the midday prayer, there were celebrations with hundreds of people clapping and singing. It became quiet later as the prayer time approached, with worshippers spreading out prayer mats on the ground.

Standoff nears end?

A tense standoff had been underway between Israel and Muslim worshippers at the holy site for nearly two weeks despite the

removal of metal detectors on Tuesday. Newly installed railings and scaffolding where cameras were previously mounted were also removed early yesterday.

Police said yesterday morning that all new security measures had now been removed. Muslims had refused to enter the compound and prayed in the streets outside after Israel installed the new security measures. Palestinians viewed the move as Israel asserting further control. Israeli authorities said the metal detectors were needed because the July 14 attackers smuggled guns into the compound and emerged from it to attack the officers.

Deadly unrest erupted in the days after the new measures were introduced, with clashes breaking out around the compound and in the occupied West Bank, leaving five Palestinians dead. A Palestinian also broke into a home in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank last week and stabbed four Israelis, killing three of them. There had been concerns that Friday's main weekly Muslim prayers—which typically draw thousands to Al-Aqsa—would lead to serious clashes between protesters and Israeli security forces if a resolution was not found.

Celebrations at site

In the pre-dawn hours of yesterday, crowds of Palestinians gathered at the entrance of the site to celebrate the removal of the remaining security installations, with whistling and constant horns from cars. Young men set off firecrackers as Israeli forces watched closely. Firas Abasi said he felt like crying over the "victory".

"For 12 days no one has slept, no one has done anything except the Al-Aqsa

mosque," he said. Following intensive international diplomacy and warnings of the potential for wider unrest, Israel removed the metal detectors early on Tuesday. Cameras installed after the attack on the police were also removed. But Israeli officials said previously they were to be replaced with "advanced technologies"—widely believed to be smart cameras with facial recognition technology.

The remaining installations and suspicions over what new measures Israel was planning had led Palestinian and Muslim leaders to continue to urge a boycott of the site, and worshippers had heeded their call. It was not immediately clear if Israel would stick to reported plans to install a smart camera system in Jerusalem's Old City. Cameras are already widespread inside its walls.

Jordan is the custodian of Muslim holy sites at the compound, and King Abdullah II had called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to remove the security measures. Information Minister Mohammad Al-Momani yesterday welcomed their removal, calling it an "essential step towards calm." The holy compound lies in east Jerusalem, seized by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community. The third-holiest site for Muslims and the most sacred for Jews, it is at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has served as a rallying cry for Palestinians. In 2000, a visit to the compound by then Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon helped ignite the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising.— AFP



Syrian children and youths gather on a street as they look at a US armored vehicle convoy pass on a road that links to Raqqa city. —AP

US-BACKED SYRIAN FIGHTERS NOW CONTROL ALMOST HALF OF IS CITY

FALL OF RAQQA WOULD BE HUGE LOSS FOR EXTREMISTS

RAQQA: US-backed Syrian fighters have captured almost half of the Islamic State group's de facto capital of Raqqa, but the push into the city in northern Syria has slowed due to stiff resistance and large amounts of explosives planted by the extremists, a spokeswoman for the fighters and monitors said yesterday. The assault on Raqqa by the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led fighting coalition, began June 6, backed by US-led coalition airstrikes and US troops advising the local forces.

Since then, the SDF has made steady advances from the eastern and western sides of the city, reaching the walled old quarter. The fall of Raqqa, IS' self-proclaimed capital, would be a huge loss for the extremist group, which earlier this month lost the Iraqi city of Mosul. Nisreen Abdullah, the Kurdish spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that the pace of the advance into Raqqa has slowed because of massive amounts of explosives laid by IS fighters.

Booby-trapped city

As the extremists become more surrounded, they have increased their suicide attacks against fighters of the SDF, she added. "Raqqa has become a booby-trapped city and this shows their (IS') weakness," said Abdullah, of the Women's Protection Units or YPJ, speaking from northern Syria. "They are also using civilians as human shields and this is slowing the push as well."

She said the Syrian Democratic Forces, which includes the Kurdish YPJ women fighters, now controls 45 percent of Raqqa. She added that since the offensive began, SDF fighters have fully captured

eight neighborhoods. Plumes of smoke could be seen behind buildings in Raqqa a day earlier as the coalition pounded IS targets in the city. Syrian children looked on as US armored vehicles drove by. One American soldier on a vehicle made the victory sign.

Mustafa Bali, who heads the SDF media center, confirmed yesterday that the group now has half of Raqqa and said the most important areas liberated in the past four days were the Nazlet Shehadeh and Panorama Square neighborhoods - both on the southwestern part of the city. But he said there are IS counterattacks, militant sleeper cells and tunnels in the area. "It was not easy, we have casualties and martyrs," he said, adding that the fighting was ongoing.

In the eastern front, where SDF forces breached IS defenses on the edge of the old city about a month ago, fighters have now reached the old citadel, an SDF commander in charge of one sector in the front told the AP. "As we move forward we find a tunnel every 100 meters," Jihad Khabat said. He said the enemy, "besieged and in distress," hides in deep and long tunnels under the city, from where they can hit Syrian fighters in daily counterattacks. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also said SDF fighters control half of Raqqa. The attacks on the city have claimed many casualties among the tens of thousands of civilians who are still trapped in areas controlled by IS.

Being Slaughtered Silently

The Observatory said 29 people, including eight children, were killed in

airstrikes on the city on Wednesday. The activist-operated Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently group said 36 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in airstrikes and shelling. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

In central Syria, fighting edged closer to the IS stronghold of Sukhna, the last major town held by IS in the Homs province, according to the Observatory and the government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media. SCMM said Syrian troops killed and wounded a number of IS fighters in battles near a mountain that overlooks the area. The Observatory said troops are now about 5 kilometers from Sukhna, which has been held by IS since the summer of 2015.

Near the border with Lebanon, a ceasefire went into effect between the militant Hezbollah group and Al-Qaeda-linked fighters yesterday morning as negotiations were underway to reach a deal that would eventually lead to the evacuation of Syrian fighters to the northwestern rebel-held province of Idlib.

The truce followed a six-day offensive by Hezbollah and Syrian troops who besieged al-Qaeda-linked fighters in a small border area. Senior Lebanese security official, Gen. Abbas Ibrahim, who is leading the negotiations, told reporters in Beirut that the details of the deal will remain secret, adding that fighters and their families who decide to leave for Idlib will do it under the supervision of Lebanese authorities. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said the deal will include the release of five members of the Shiite group who are held by insurgents in Syria. —AP

FAKE NEWS AND COVER-UPS: S AFRICA PROBES APARTHEID

PRETORIA: Police brutality, "fake news" propaganda and official cover-ups at the height of apartheid have been laid bare in a South African court probing the death of a communist activist 46 years ago. Ahmed Timol, a 29-year-old anti-apartheid volunteer, was arrested in Johannesburg in October 1971 and after five days in detention he died after plummeting from the city's police headquarters.

Officers at the time said he took his own life—a verdict endorsed by an inquest—but his family fought the ruling and campaigned hard to secure a review that finally began on June 26. A former officer in the feared security branch which held Timol and was involved in sabotaging anti-apartheid groups, has spoken out about his squad's brutal techniques in court.

"(I saw) a man's testicles being crushed like pepper," said Paul Erasmus, now 61, who joined the unit after Timol's death. "Electric shocks were used very widely... as all the detectives had little shock machines (adapted) from the old telephone system." Officers referred to the boxes as "Radio Moscow" because of the leftist leanings of many of the detainees, he said.

'Physical assault in custody'

Pathologist Shakeera Holland told the hearing in Pretoria that Timol's body, including his face, was covered in bruises and scratches. "Most of the bruises... were not consistent with a fall from a height," said Holland. "(He) sustained physical assault while in police custody." Erasmus told AFP he had personally beaten several detainees during his career.

Significantly for Timol's family, who are convinced he was pushed from the 10th floor window, Erasmus revealed that a brigadier known as "the sweeper" was responsible for covering up police crimes. "They'd sweep up the bits and sort it out," said Erasmus, who kept diaries of his 17 year-long service and admitted he was attracted to the work by "the James Bond secret agent thing". Stephanie Kemp, a communist anti-apartheid fighter, told the court that one of the party's pamphlets appeared to have been doctored following Timol's death to apparently endorse suicide in detention as a resistance tactic.

Erasmus also disclosed that the police investigations branch was headed by a man considered by his colleagues so brutal and anti-semitic that he was given the moniker "Little Hitler". He then told the court how he became an expert at forging struggle icon Desmond Tutu's signature, using it to reply to a wealthy US heiress who had offered him funds, declining the money. In his role in the police's psychological warfare unit, Erasmus said he also produced propaganda to persuade foreign leaders to cut ties to the banned African National Congress (ANC) party.

"People call it 'fake news' today. Sometimes to stir the pot, sometimes to create false impressions—but the heart of it was to sow disunity in the liberation movement," he said.

Erasmus appeared in court with wiry shoulder-length grey hair, carrying a dog-eared year book and wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket. His evidence has included some of the most significant disclosures about the apartheid system since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which concluded in 1998.

Erasmus, granted partial amnesty at the TRC, also revealed that he was involved in efforts to make another activist who died in police custody appear to have been suicidal. "We were told that Neil Aggett hung himself and told to prove he was suicidal from the day he was born," Erasmus said. A subsequent inquest found that the white anti-apartheid activist died by hanging and that police were not to blame. But human rights lawyer George Bizos argued at the time that his suicide was induced.

'History is on our side'

Marjorie Jobson of the Khulumani apartheid victim support group described the claim as a major development for the family of Aggett who died in 1982. The revelation visibly affected Jobson, who was in court, prompting her to describe the review as a "second wave of testimonies".

Bizos, also present for the review, said that criminal charges could still be brought against those implicated in the Timol case. "The people whose loved ones were killed by the regime want to come to terms with themselves," he said. "They want an acknowledgement that their lives counted." Bizos, one of Nelson Mandela's closest personal confidants, said that the review could have far-reaching consequences. —AFP

NOW TOGO LOOKS TO JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH

'TOGO'S BID IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC'

LOME: Diplomatic talks and visits by experts are gathering pace in Togo as the former French colony looks to follow another Francophone nation and join the Commonwealth. Rwanda joined the 52-member bloc in 2009, 14 years after Portuguese-speaking Mozambique became the first member never to have had a past link to Britain.

Togo, which is home to some seven million people, first began the process of applying for Commonwealth membership in 2014. In February and June this year, experts met members of institutions including the constitutional court, electoral commission and human rights body to evaluate Togo's bid. They also met members of political parties, civil society, women and youth groups to assess levels of democracy and development.

Foreign Minister Robert Dussey said after the latest visit: "Togo's bid is on the right track and we are optimistic for the next stage of the process. "Togo is a politically stable country where there is peace and democracy," he told AFP. "Geographically, our country is in a strategic position with enormous assets, including a deep water port... which opens up countries in the hinterland (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali)."

Togo is already part of the Economic Organisation of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Organisation of La Francophonie, bringing together French-speaking nations. Like Rwanda, Togo fell under German rule in 1884 when European nations carved up Africa, but Berlin lost both countries in 1916 during World War One. Belgian forces took Rwanda, while Togo was

divided into French and British zones. British Togoland chose in 1957 to become part of newborn independent Ghana and thus joined the Commonwealth six decades ago. Dussey said Commonwealth membership would help diversify Togo "by making new friends and moving a bit closer to old friends" such as Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Two visits in March and mid-July by Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair were seen in Togo as linked to the bid for Commonwealth membership. Sources close to the presidency said Blair and Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe discussed the issue earlier this month. But a Commonwealth spokesman said Blair is not involved in negotiations. A decision on membership is expected to be taken at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting in Britain next April, he added. Confirming Togo's bid in March, the body said that the decisions "are made by the 52 heads of governments, who have laid out clear criteria for any country wishing to join. "This includes an acceptance of Commonwealth fundamental values and principles, such as a commitment to democracy, the rule of law and independence of the judiciary, the protection of human rights, and equality of opportunity." Togo's political opposition and human rights campaigners have expressed concerns about the bid for membership.

"It's an inappropriate step. It's just a song and dance for the international community," said Eric Dupuy, spokesman for the main opposition National Alliance for Change Party.



BRUSSELS: This file photo taken on April 3, 2014 shows Togo's Foreign Minister Edo Robert Dussey arriving for the second day of 4th EU-Africa summit at the EU Headquarters in Brussels. Togo started in 2014 the membership process to enter the Commonwealth. — AFP

"We have other priorities, particularly constitutional and institutional reform... which the current regime refuses to implement. "These reforms will allow us to have transparent elections acceptable for everyone."

Togo's constitution was amended in 2002 but since then the opposition has been pressing for it to be revised further. In particular it wants the reintroduction of a 10-year limit on presidential mandates. It also wants two-round elections, a restructuring of the constitutional court and the independent national electoral commission, which organizes and oversees elections.

President Gnassingbe came to power in 2005 after the death of his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, whose dictatorial rule lasted 38 years. Gnassingbe won elections in 2005, 2010 and 2015, but the opposition rejected the results. Human rights groups say arbitrary arrests, detentions, torture and other ill-treatment are commonplace in Togo, as are impunity and restriction on free speech.

Some 500 people are said to have been killed in violence linked to the 2005 vote. Reporters Without Borders ranked Togo 88th in its press freedom index last year and said the government controlled information through dominant state media.

Amnesty International's Togo director, Aime Adi, said the human rights situation "remained fragile". "We still see the use of the army to police peaceful demonstrations with deaths of protesters... intimidation of opposition figures and banning activities of opposition parties," he said. — AFP



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WHY TWITTER WON'T BAN PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

CRITICS CLAIM HE HAS BROKEN TWITTER'S RULES MULTIPLE TIMES

NEW YORK: Twitter has made it clear that it won't ban Donald Trump from its service, whether the president follows its rules against harassment or not. That's no surprise: The president's tweets draw attention to the struggling service, even if tweets mocking reporters and rivals undercut Twitter's stated commitment to make the service a welcoming place. The company has been cracking down on accounts that violate its terms, and Trump's critics say he has broken Twitter's rules multiple times.

Calls to ban Trump from Twitter, largely by liberal activists, writers and Twitter users, sounded even before he became president. They were renewed recently when the president posted a mock video of him "body slamming" a man whose face was covered by CNN logo. Groups such as the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press condemned the video as a threat against journalists (a White House aide said at the time that the tweet should not be seen as a threat).

The case for trump

Twitter does ban harassment and hateful conduct, but there is a lot of wiggle room as to what constitutes such behavior. For instance, though it may be crude to tweet that a TV host was "bleeding badly from a face-lift," they are at best in a gray area when it comes to violating Twitter terms. When asked about Trump, Twitter says it doesn't comment on individual accounts.

But CEO Jack Dorsey told NBC in May that it's "really important to hear directly from leadership" to hold people accountable and have conversations out in the open, not behind closed doors. It also makes business sense: Trump's tweets are constantly in headlines, calling attention to Twitter and, ideally, getting more users to sign up.

For now, it doesn't appear to be helping. On Thursday, Twitter said its monthly average user base in the April-June quarter grew 5 percent from the previous year to 328 million, but it was unchanged from the previous quarter. Twitter's stock fell more than 9 percent to \$17.75 in pre-market trading Thursday after the numbers came out.

Twitter has never turned a profit. On Thursday, the San Francisco-based company reported a second-quarter loss of \$116 million, or 16 cents per share, compared with a loss of \$107 million, or 15 cents per share, a year earlier. Revenue declined 5 percent to \$574 million from \$602 million, inching past Wall Street's muted expectations.

Important tweets

Free speech advocates agree it's better for Trump to stay. Emma Llanso, director of the Center for Democracy & Technology's Free Expression Project, said Trump's tweets are "very clearly politically relevant speech" and are even being cited in court cases challenging the president's policies. For example, a US appeals court used Trump's tweets in June to block his travel ban on people from six predominantly Muslim countries.

Llanso said it's understandable why there has been "so much pressure" on social media platforms to crack down on harassment. Long before Trump was elected, users and online safety advocates called on Twitter to do something about



WASHINGTON: In this July 25, 2017, photo, US President Donald Trump sits in the Oval Office of the White House. — AP

abuse on its service. But when it comes to the president's out-sized presence on Twitter, she'd rather have a private company avoid deciding what should and shouldn't be allowed. Rather, she said, "we should be looking to the instruments of our democracy as the appropriate place to hold the president accountable."

Surviving the crackdown

Twitter appears to agree. Earlier this month, the company announced that it is now taking some action, including suspensions, on 10 times the number of abusive accounts than it did a year ago (though it did not give a number). Trump, of course, was not in trouble. In June, the president defended his use of social media, tweeting that the mainstream media doesn't want him to get his "honest and unfiltered message out." The White House did not immediately respond to a message for comment yesterday morning.

Twitter provides a platform for the president to interact with the world directly, without intermediaries such as the news media. But if it's important for people to hear directly from Trump, free speech advocates say, it's also important for Trump to listen - and to allow people to see his messages. His blocking of individual users on the service is the subject of a lawsuit. Comedian Dana Goldberg, who says she has been blocked by the president but is not part of the lawsuit, likened it to him "giving the State of the Union and blocking out the TV sets of people who voted for (Hillary) Clinton."

Her offense? Goldberg, who has about 7,680 followers compared with Trump's 34.6 million, said it was her tweet calling Trump "a sad man" after he wished Sen. John McCain well following a cancer diagnosis, despite deriding McCain's war record before. "The fact that I was blocked by the president of the United States, it's insane," she said. — AP

WHITE HOUSE AIDE BACKPEDALS AFTER CALLING FOR COLLEAGUE'S PROSECUTION

WASHINGTON: Feuding within Donald Trump's inner Circle appeared to burst on Twitter late Wednesday when one White House aide tagged another in a tweet, calling on the FBI to investigate the leak of his financial information. After details of his financial holdings were made public, White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci appeared to point the finger of blame at White House chief of staff Reince Priebus. "In light of the leak of my financial disclosure info which is a felony. I will be contacting @FBI and the @TheJusticeDept #swamp @Reince45," Scaramucci tweeted.

Scaramucci was appointed White House communications director just this week, but has quickly become a public face of the administration and powerful surrogate for the president. Earlier, Politico published details of Scaramucci's

finances—which are submitted to the government ethics office by all senior White House staff and released to anyone who requests them. He later deleted the tweet and denied calling for his colleague's prosecution.

Asked if he was accusing Priebus of leaking the financial disclosure, Scaramucci told AFP: "I am not." Scaramucci also tweeted that it was a "public notice to leakers" that all senior administration officials "are helping to end illegal leaks. @Reince45". Trump's White House has been beset by infighting; whereas different ideological factions leak damaging information about rivals in their war for dominance. Since coming to office Scaramucci has boasted of having a plan to deal with the leaks and staked his political future on rooting them out. — AP

'RACIAL TERROR' LAID BARE IN EXHIBITION

NEW YORK: A new exhibition is seeking to ignite a painful conversation in the United States about "racial terror" from the past by shedding light on the lynching of more than 4,000 African Americans. Inspired by post-Apartheid reconciliation efforts in South Africa, memorials to genocide in Rwanda and German rehabilitation after the Holocaust, where activists said US reconciliation on slavery and its aftermath is long overdue.

"The Legacy of Lynching: Confronting Racial Terror in America" opened on Wednesday and runs through September 3rd at the Brooklyn Museum in New York's most populous borough; home to a large African American population.

Furthermore, the exhibition showcases testimony from descendants of victims and contemporary African American art in response to racism, photographs and an interactive map showing where lynchings took place. The bulk of them is in the American South. There is a moving video about a family who traces a grandfather lynched in Shreveport, Louisiana for allegedly passing a note to a white woman.

More than 4,000 African American men, women and children were lynched in 20 states from 1877 to 1950; where according to research carried out by the Equal Justice Initiative, headed by internationally acclaimed Alabama lawyer Bryan Stevenson. They were often targeted for innocuous offenses, or on little or no evidence. White communities complicit in the violence and torture were never made accountable. More than six million blacks migrated North and West to escape.

Slavery and its legacy

"We've really done a poor job in this country in confronting this history of racial violence, this era of terrorism that so profoundly shaped America," Stevenson told AFP. "We really haven't talked about slavery and its legacy. We haven't talked at all about lynching. So I'm hoping this exhibit provokes a conversation that is long overdue and is necessary," he added. "We have unarmed African Americans being shot and killed by the police. There's a lot of tension, there's a lot of rage, there's a lot of frustration about our lack of progress in achieving racial equality. And I think a lot of that stems from our failure to deal honestly with the roots of that," he said.

'Need to intervene' Sara Softness, assistant curator, special projects at Brooklyn Museum, said the team mounted the exhibition with "the utmost care and sensitivity." "Perhaps we need to intervene," she told AFP. "Art at its very best has that power to make you question and to challenge certain notions, and in that way culture can really be a catalyst for change." The exhibition closes with a video rendering of the first national memorial to the victims, which the EJI plans to open in Montgomery, Alabama by May 2018.

There are hundreds of memorials that honor defenders of slavery, champions of racial segregation and white supremacy across the South; where Stevenson draws a direct line between lynching and the fact that black Americans today are disproportionately more likely to be sentenced to death, incarcerated or subjected to police violence. He calls the death penalty "the step-child of lynching." And states with the highest lynching rates are also those with the highest execution rates, he said.

Forty-two percent of those currently on death row are black. Blacks make up 34.5 percent of those executed in the United States since 1976, even though blacks make up only 13 percent of the population. The election of Donald Trump, whom targeted Muslims, Mexicans and other population groups on the campaign trail, makes change more urgent than ever, Stevenson said.

"We're not going to be a just society, we're not going to be an evolved society if we allow fear and anger to target and demonize groups based on that group's identity," he said. Stevenson has helped to win reversals, relief or release for more than 130 wrongly condemned death row prisoners, and won a ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. — AFP

VENEZUELA PREZ SLAMS 'INSOLENT' US SANCTIONS

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro branded US sanctions leveled at his regime on Wednesday as "insolent," as pressure piled up on him abroad and at home over his controversial plan to elect a new body to rewrite the constitution; where the US measures came as Venezuela's opposition began a two-day nationwide strike aimed at ousting the president through early elections.

The deadliness of four months of violent anti-Maduro protests was further confirmed with the death by gunfire of a 30-year-old man in a demonstration in the west of the country which was the latest in a death toll that has now hit 104. In Washington, the US Treasury unveiled a list of 13 current and former officials, including the interior minister, senior military brass, the president of the electoral council, and the finance chief of state oil company PDVSA, whose US assets would be frozen. The opposition and US moves are to force Maduro to give up his plan to have a 545-member "Constituent Assembly" elected on Sunday.

Critics say the body is a step towards a dictatorship, by bypassing or dissolving the opposition-held National Assembly. Maduro called the US punishment "illegal, insolent and unprecedented." And "Who do these imperialists in the United States think they are? The government of the world?" he said in a speech. But in his country, where there are widespread shortages of basic goods and soaring inflation, protesters are showing their discontent with Maduro's leadership. Organizers claimed 92-percent support for the walkout. "No more dictatorship!" read signs on road barricades in eastern Caracas.

Maduro defiance

Maduro accuses the US of fomenting the unrest against him and his government, with the help of the conservative opposition. The Venezuelan military has declared its loyalty to him; however, some 70 percent of Venezuelans are opposed to the Constituent Assembly according to polling firm Datanalisis. The hardening political struggle has deepened fears that months of street violence could worsen and the opposition has planned another major demonstration in the capital today. Thousands of Venezuelans loaded with heavy bags have crossed the border into Colombia this week, fleeing the unrest.

"The elections are on Sunday and we really don't know what will happen," said one, Maria de los Angeles Pichardo, who left with her husband and son. "To be safe, we prefer to cross." Ordinary Venezuelans remaining in their country believe ousting Maduro is their only hope for survival. "We keep getting worse and worse off, with long lines and shortages. I think I'll strike for 48 hours," said one Caracas resident, Maria Auxiliadora. Prominent opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez made a direct appeal to the military early Wednesday to withdraw its support from Maduro's plan, which he called a "constitutional fraud" aimed at eliminating democratic rule.

In announcing the US sanctions, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said America was "standing by the Venezuelan people in their quest to restore their country to a full and prosperous democracy." He warned that anybody elected to the Constituent Assembly could also be slapped with US sanctions. — AFP



CARACAS: Opposition demonstrators burn a tire during an anti-government protest. — AFP



NEW YORK: Transgender Army veteran Tanya Walker speaks to protesters in Times Square near a military recruitment center as they show their anger at US President Donald Trump's decision to reinstate a ban on transgender individuals from serving in the military. — AFP

TRUMP'S MILITARY TRANSGENDER BAN PROMPTS LGBT OUTRAGE

THEY NOW SEE HIM AS OPENLY HOSTILE

NEW YORK: Most LGBT-rights activists never believed Donald Trump's campaign promises to be their friend. But with his move Wednesday to ban transgender people from military service, on top of other actions and appointments, they now see him as openly hostile. Leaders of major advocacy groups depicted Trump's Twitter pronouncement as an appeal to the portion of his conservative base that opposes the recent civil-rights gains by the LGBT community.

"His administration will stop at nothing to implement its anti-LGBTQ ideology within our government - even if it means denying some of our bravest Americans the right to serve and protect our nation," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president of the LGBT-rights group GLAAD. Transgender service members have been able to serve openly since last year, after a move by then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter. Trump's vow to end that policy was the latest, and perhaps the most stinging, of a string of actions since his election that have dismayed supporters of LGBT rights. Some examples:

The administration rescinded federal guidance advising school districts to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their choice. It said state and local officials should decide the issue. Several of Trump's high-level appointees have solid records as opponents of LGBT-rights advances, including Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

New guidance

At Trump's direction, Sessions is developing new guidance on religious liberty for federal agencies that is expected to make it easier for people with religious objections to refuse to recognize LGBT rights. The Department of Justice on Wednesday filed an amicus brief in a case to which it's not a party, arguing that a federal civil-rights law doesn't cover sexual orientation. The case was filed in 2010, when a skydiving instructor sued his employer, saying he was fired for his sexual orientation in violation of the law.

Six members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS resigned, asserting that Trump "simply does not care" about combating HIV and AIDS as it continues to beset the LGBT community. The Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights group, depicted the Republican president's tweets Wednesday as a "heinous and disgusting" attack on transgender service members. "It is also the latest effort by Trump and Mike Pence to undo our progress and drag LGBTQ

people back into the closet by using our lives as political pawns," said the group's president, Chad Griffin.

Trump's pronouncement was hailed by some conservatives who have long complained that the military was undermining its effectiveness by allowing gays, lesbians and transgender people to serve openly. Opponents also have contended that the military should not bear the cost of any medical procedures related to gender transition.

"Our troops shouldn't be forced to endure hours of transgender sensitivity classes and politically correct distractions like this one," said Tony Perkins, a former Marine who heads the conservative Family Research Council. Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, denounced Trump's declaration as "simple bigotry."

"This attack has nothing to do with military readiness, reason or science," she said. "It is indefensible." Among those dismayed by Trump's tweets was Lt. Cmdr. Blake Dremann, a transgender man who's served in the Navy for 11 years and received his latest promotion after the policy change last year. "Trans service members are continuing to do our jobs," Dremann said. "People know who we are now and it becomes personal, especially when you've got families that are going to be affected by this."

'Pretty shocking'

Another active-duty transgender soldier, Army Capt. Jennifer Peace, said she was concerned how a possible ban would affect her, her family and other transgender service members. "My command has told me in the past the only thing that we should discriminate on is job performance, and I hope that military leadership will handle this issue the same way," Peace said in an email. Capt Jacob Eleazer, a transgender man who serves in the Kentucky Army National Guard, said he was stunned by Trump's action.

"Fired by tweet. It was honestly pretty shocking," said Eleazer, who took the day off from his job as a therapist in Lexington, Kentucky, to assess the situation. It's unclear whether Eleazer's career will be affected. Eleazer, 31, has been in the military since 2006.

In 2014, he told his superior officer he was transgender, and he got full support. Attorney Sasha Buchert, a transgender woman who works for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal, recalled feelings of fear and isolation while serving in the Marines in the 1980s, decades before her gender transition. — AP



KABUL: In this photograph taken on July 22, 2017, an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier walks past blast walls in front of the ruined Darul Aman palace. —AP

‘BORN FREE’: TORN KABUL PULLS DOWN CONCRETE BLAST WALLS

KABUL: The blast walls that cut through Kabul like ramparts are being pulled down, part of a counter-intuitive makeover by local officials who argue the move will give the city's war-weary residents a psychological boost. The government in early July began removing the maze of concrete barriers that have proliferated across the Afghan capital in the 16 years since the US invaded Afghanistan at the height of the Taliban's power.

The bid to remove the walls is illogical to some, coming as it does after attacks in Kabul have surged in recent years, making it one of the deadliest places in the country for civilians. But it is civilians who are driving the push, says Najibullah Alokazy, head of the project. "This problem was raised by the population, for them the city looks like a city at war," he said. "It will help to decrease the traffic and it will have its tangible effects on the view of the city."

The maze of concrete barricades-shaped like a wide-based inverted 'T' to provide protection from bomb blasts-shield the city's most prominent inhabitants, from government officials to foreign embassy staff. In just one of the 22 districts that make up the city of Kabul, there are more than 3,000 blast walls, according to Alokazy, while the compound that houses the NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan boasts more than 8,000.

But their spread has been poorly regulated, with many of Kabul's most high-profile residents, including former presidents and one-time warlords, building

concrete shields that stretch far into the road. "When a person became a member of the parliament, or the smallest agent of the government, they all had T-Walls to protect their houses," Mustafa Sharify, the head of Beeroj Logistics Services, a firm that installs the blast walls, told AFP.

Residents say the walls—which block views of once-wide streets and much loved landmarks—do not make them feel safe. In fact, they represent a threat. "It doesn't help security in the streets. It helps only for their house," said Kabul resident Yama Rayeen, gesturing towards one of the tall concrete barriers, which range in height from three to seven meters. "If you block the roads it creates a lot of problems: the more you create traffic congestion, the more you have people trapped in case of an explosion."

'Getting rid of the cages'

Such traffic congestion presents an opportunity for the Taliban and other militant groups, who have targeted Kabul's roads with devastating regularity. In late May, a truck bomb exploded during morning rush hour inside the city's diplomatic quarter, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds, in the most deadly attack to hit the country since 2001. While on Monday yet another bomb tore through early commuters, killing at least 26 people when it struck a bus full of government employees on their way to work.

The government plans to remove the blast walls that have been put up by

private citizens—many without permission—but those outside embassies and government buildings, high-value targets for the Taliban insurgency, will remain. Nine hundred walls have so far been removed, and officials say the process has gone smoothly.

Each section of wall weighs more than a tonne and a battalion of tractors, under police protection, have been deployed across the city to remove the walls. "We are very happy to get rid of these cages. We are born free, we don't accept restrictions," said shopkeeper Ghulam Daoud Ghamugusar, as he observed a blast wall being dismantled, a cup of sweet tea in hand. But while the government is tearing down the walls, the deteriorating security situation has prompted NATO to strengthen its own defenses, doubling the row of barriers that surround its Kabul headquarters.

The "green zone" — a restricted area bristling with barbed wire, that ordinary Afghans are barred from entering—is also expanding as the resurgent Taliban has repeatedly shown its ability to strike inside the capital. Since January more than 1,500 civilians have died across the country in attacks, with nearly one in five killed in Kabul, according to figures recently released by the United Nations. "It was a beautiful city," retired teacher Ahmad Jan told AFP wistfully, nostalgic for the days before blast walls and checkpoints. "You could go from the Ariana Square to the presidential palace without anyone stopping you. I can't imagine we'll ever go back to those days." —AFP

SENEGAL CRACKDOWN FAILS TO REMOVE CHILD BEGGARS

DAKAR: Dawn has barely broken as three of Senegal's estimated 50,000 child beggars dart through the capital's streets, hoping for a bag of sugar or a few coins to hand over to their teachers. Senegal's "talibes"—children as young as four sent to Islamic boarding schools by their parents, then forced to earn their keep by begging—are out in force every day in Dakar, despite a government crackdown on the practice.

Child specialists say a spike in numbers at dedicated reception centres left them struggling to house so many children as they sifted through individual cases, but business as usual has resumed in the months since. Mouhamed Lo, a medical assistant at the Yakaaru Guneye centre ("Kids' Hope" in the local Wolof language), spots the trio wandering the suburb of Guediawaye with begging bowls in hand, and approaches.

"They have been here since 6am, just after the first prayer of the day," he said, describing the rhythm of life for many young boys in this majority-Muslim west African nation. "The state does nothing for these children. I have been doing this job 15 years and nothing has changed," Lo added. Three times a week, Lo joins forces with a social worker to scout out these small groups of boys and warn them of the dangers of begging in a city of few pavements and notoriously terrible drivers.

Their task is immense: 30,000 of these children beg in Dakar alone, and abuses are common. Human Rights Watch has documented two deaths from abuse at the hands of teachers, five sexual abuse cases and 28 cases of beating and imprisonment in Senegal, all recorded since the crackdown began last year.

Religious tradition

Studying in an Islamic boarding school, or "daara", is a respected decision, especially among rural families. A son is sent away at a young age to learn from a "marabout", or teacher of the Koran. In reality most learn little of the Koran and less of anything else that might give them a head start in life, instead spending long hours begging with the threat of a beating if they fail to bring back enough food or money.

In July 2016 the government began rounding up the talibes and checking them for disease or signs of maltreatment at dedicated reception centers like Yakaaru Guneye. The staff struggled to cope with the influx. "It was really tough for us. We have gone over our capacity by taking in more than 150 children," said the centre's education specialist Seydina, who only gave his first name. The state, Seydina believes, put the cart before the horse in taking the children off the streets without providing extra support to treatment centers.

"The state has just cleaned up around the edges," the specialist added. Rights groups have said more than 1,000 children identified by the government as beggars ultimately ended up back at the same boarding schools with the same teachers.

They believe the lack of sanctions against teachers and schools means they are able to act with impunity, and have called on political candidates running in the current legislative elections to do more if elected. A bill drafted in 2013 after a horrific fire that killed nine talibes has yet to be adopted by parliament, they note.

Runaways

Yakaaru Guneye currently houses 33 children, Seydina told AFP, but the number fluctuates daily. Seydina had just completed a mediation between a 10-year-old talibe and a marabout who was allowed to leave accompanied by the child. "The teacher was very receptive. He has agreed to send the child back to his family in Casamance (southern Senegal)," Seydina said. "But if the teacher doesn't respect what has been said here, the child can run off again and come back to us," he added. —AFP



SIKKIM: This file photo taken on July 10, 2008 shows a Chinese soldier (L) next to an Indian soldier at the Nathu La border crossing between India and China in India's northeastern Sikkim state. —AFP

CHINA AND INDIA LOCKED IN HIGH-ALTITUDE BORDER ROW

HISTORIC MISTRUST BETWEEN THE ASIAN GIANTS

BEIJING: A border standoff between Chinese and Indian troops on a remote Himalayan plateau has heightened long-standing tensions while ensnaring a tiny kingdom, Bhutan, between the two nuclear-armed powers. The row has festered for more than a month as India and China refuse to back down in the distant but strategically key territory, reflecting the historic mistrust between the Asian giants.

The area is disputed between China and Bhutan but India's decision to jump into the fray reflects its concerns about Beijing's growing military might and ambitions in the region, analysts say. The border trouble began in mid-June when Chinese soldiers started to extend a road through the Doklam territory-known as "Donglang" in Chinese. India, a close ally of Bhutan, then deployed troops to stop the construction project, prompting Beijing to accuse India of trespassing on Chinese soil.

China, which warned this week that it would

step up its deployment, insists that India must withdraw its troops before any proper negotiation takes place. India says said both sides should withdraw their forces. "The solution to this issue is simple, which is that the Indian troops back out honestly," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said this week. While the deadlock may be breached during Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's visit to Beijing yesterday, there are no signs that either side is ready to back down.

"It's easier to shake a mountain than to shake the People's Liberation Army (PLA)," Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Wu Qian boasted at a press conference Monday. Sarath Chand, India's vice army chief, said on Tuesday: "China is expanding its influence across the Himalayas into our neighbourhood despite being an economy five times the size (of India), with such a large standing army... it is bound to be a threat for us in the years ahead."

Game of chicken at 'Chicken's Neck'

Mistrust is hundreds of years old and the pair fought a brief war in 1962 in India's border state of Arunachal Pradesh. "India views China's road-building as a threat because (the Chinese) have gone against the status quo of behavior in a disputed territory," Shen Dingli, vice dean of Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, told AFP. The road was being built close to the "Chicken's Neck," a narrow, essential strip of land connecting India's northeastern provinces with the rest of the country. But Beijing maintains that "Doklam has been part of China since ancient times," countering that Indian troops triggered the standoff by crossing a boundary established in an 1890 agreement with Britain.

Zhao Xiaozhuo, a senior Chinese colonel and an analyst at a PLA think tank, said it was "ridiculous" for India to view the road construction as a threat. —AFP

MODI BOOSTS GRIP ON POWER IN SCANDAL HIT INDIA STATE

NEW DELHI: A former arch-rival of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi aligned with the Hindu nationalist leader yesterday to form a new government in Bihar, one of the country's most populous states. The outspoken Nitish Kumar took the oath as Bihar's chief minister just hours after standing down in protest at corruption allegations against his last coalition partner.

The link up between Kumar's Janata Dal United party and the prime minister's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) further tightens Modi's grip on power ahead of national elections in 2019. Kumar had been considered a potential challenger to Modi for India's top job. The BJP, which this month easily won the presidential election for the first time, now rules 17 of India's 29 states either directly or in alliance with regional parties.

Bihar, with a population of 100 million people but impoverished and frequently scandal-tainted, has seen a titanic power struggle in recent years. In 2013 then-chief minister Kumar pulled his party out of a 17-year-old alliance with the BJP over Modi's appointment as party leader. He had called Modi a "fascist" and "Hitler" over his alleged anti-Muslim and hardline Hindu views.

After stepping down in 2014 as chief minister after a poor showing in elections, Kumar forged a "grand alliance" with another ex-rival and former chief minister, Lalu Prasad Yadav, to thwart Modi in the following year's state polls. The alliance, which also involved the Congress party, was seen as a possible prototype for a national bid to stop Modi getting reelection. Yadav's son Tejashwi Yadav became a deputy chief minister under the deal, but is now under investigation by federal investigators over an illegal land deal. He has denied the charges. His father was jailed and is banned from elected office over a separate 2013 fraud scandal.

After several calls for Tejashwi Yadav to stand down, Kumar resigned late Wednesday saying it was "impossible" to carry on. Kumar will face a floor test in two days to prove his new majority. "I promise that I will stay committed to the people of Bihar," Kumar told reporters after taking oath in state capital Patna. Modi congratulated Kumar for taking over as the chief minister, a day after he commended him for taking a stand against corruption.

Yadav's party said they would also stake a claim to form the government and accused Kumar of playing into a BJP trap. Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi accused Kumar of "cheating" the people and the alliance. —AFP

PAKISTAN ARRESTS HEAD OF VILLAGE OVER GIRL'S RAPE

RAJA PUR: Police yesterday arrested the head of a village council in central Pakistan for allegedly sanctioning the rape of a teenage girl, a police spokeswoman said. In multiple raids over two days, police also arrested 23 councilmen over the same case, according to the spokeswoman, Shabina Kareem.

The suspects all attended a July meeting in which council chief Saeed Patwari allegedly gave Mohammad Ashfaq permission to rape a 17-year-old girl to avenge the rape of his 13-year-old sister by another man, Omar Wadda. Such "honor" crimes are still common in some rural Pakistani areas. A village council in 2002 ordered the so-called "honor" gang rape of

Mukhtar Mai, a young woman who took her rapists to court.

That case gathered international prominence and she later opened a school for rural girls. In this latest case, a regional police chief and some other officers were fired for their belated response after the first rape took place in the village of Raja Pur, near the city of Multan, on July 16. The second rape followed two days later. "We will do justice with the both victims," said Shahbaz Sharif, the chief minister of Punjab province, during a visit to Multan.

Kareem, the police spokeswoman, said Ashfaq was still at large but Wadda has been arrested and charged with raping Ashfaq's sis-

ter. Residents in Raja Pur stepped forward with shocking details about the council meeting and how the case of the rape was common knowledge. Mohammad Bilal, a cousin of the 17-year-old rape victim, described how the council declined the family's request to turn to the police, instead seeking to do justice in line with traditions of the village and order the second rape. Bilal said some women from Wadda's family were present when the council met. Tahira Abdullah, a top human rights activist, condemned the rapes and said that what the council did was illegal. She demanded stern action against all who sanction such crimes. —AP



PYONGYANG: A young girl cleans steps as people bow before the statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il-Sung (L) and Kim Jong-Il (R) as the country marks 'Victory Day' at Mansu hill. —AFP

TEARS IN RAIN: N KOREA MARKS 'VICTORY DAY'

'WE MUST TEACH OUR DESCENDANTS TO TAKE REVENGE ON US'

PYONGYANG: In heavy rain, North Koreans put down their umbrellas to bow before the mausoleum of founder Kim Il Sung and his son yesterday as the country marked the end of the Korean War, which it calls Victory Day. There had been widespread speculation in US and South Korean intelligence circles that the North might choose to mark the anniversary with a fresh missile launch, following its first successful test earlier this month of an intercontinental ballistic missile that experts judged capable of reaching Alaska or Hawaii.

As of late yesterday, no such launch had materialized and, in Pyongyang, the day was given over to memorializing the ruling Kim dynasty as the defenders of the nation. "Our country is ever-victorious because we have the greatest leaders in the world," said Hong Yong-Dok, who was at the Kumsusan Palace with his granddaughters.

The Korean people had suffered at the hands of "US imperialists for ages, and even my parents were killed by them in the Korean war. So we must teach our descendants to take revenge on the US imperialists," he told AFP. July 27, 1953 marks the signing of the armistice between China, North Korea, and US-backed United Nations forces that had fought each other to a stalemate over three years.

Nonetheless the North - whose invasion of the South started the war, despite

its insistence that it was invaded by the United States - regards itself as having won what it calls the Fatherland Liberation War. The conflict left the peninsula devastated, with the South's capital Seoul changing hands four times. Korea has been divided ever since, with the now democratic South emerging from the wreckage to enjoy an economic boom that has propelled it to become Asia's fourth-largest economy.

In the absence of a peace treaty the two sides are technically still at war, and under the Kim family dynasty, now in its third generation in leader Kim Jong-Un, the North has embraced an "army first" policy. It has developed nuclear weapons, detonating five devices so far, and celebrated the recent ICBM test as a giant leap forward in its development of a credible delivery system to threaten the US mainland. The North occasionally times its missile firings to coincide with significant anniversaries, leading to habitual speculation of an imminent test before each one.

'Moved to tears'

Inside the Kumsusan Palace, a sprawling complex of colonnaded marble chambers and chandeliers, Kim and his son and successor Kim Jong-Il lie in state. Their embalmed bodies rest in glass coffins on biers in separate halls suffused with dim red light, soldiers standing guard in each corner as a steady stream

of visitors bows before them three times. "I was moved to tears when I met the great leaders," retired financial official Ri Sun-Gyong, 71, said afterwards, her voice trembling with emotion. "I always miss them."

Ordinary North Koreans normally only express officially-approved sentiments when talking to international media. Geopolitical tensions have mounted in recent months over the North's weapons ambitions, which have seen it subjected to multiple rounds of United Nations sanctions, and Washington was expected later yesterday to formally declare a ban on US citizens visiting the country. North Korean newspapers carried a commentary saying America's "final ruin" was "already sealed" and it had "only one way out" - "to withdraw the anachronistic hostile policy toward the DPRK and kneel and apologise before its army and people".

Despite his death in 1994, Kim Il-Sung remains Eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the North is officially known, while Kim Jong-Il - who died in 2011 - is Eternal General-Secretary of the ruling Workers' Party. Pyongyang resident Kim Un-Sil, 40, took her seven-year-old son to Mansu Hill in the centre of the city, where giant statues of the two men look out over the capital, to pay their respects. "I just wanted to tell my son, the new generation, that our Korean history is the history of victory," she said. —AFP

CHINA IS 'LANDLORD' TO HK, SAYS JUSTICE CHIEF

HONG KONG: Controversy over a new cross-border rail link which will see mainland laws enforced in a Hong Kong train station escalated yesterday after the justice chief likened China to the city's "landlord". It comes at a time when fears are worsening that Hong Kong's freedoms are under threat from an increasingly assertive Beijing.

There are already concerns that Chinese operatives are working undercover after the alleged abductions of a city bookseller and a reclusive mainland businessman. The high-speed rail line between Hong Kong and the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, 80 miles away, is due to open in 2018. Its Hong Kong terminus will be in the heart of the semi-autonomous city, on its famous harbourfront, not near the boundary with China that lies further north.

But the Beijing-friendly government wants to create a joint immigration point which would mean parts of the station, the platforms and the train cabins would fall under Chinese jurisdiction and would be patrolled by mainland officials. Critics say the plan is a clear breach of the city's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, which guarantees freedoms unseen on the mainland and prohibits its law enforcers operating in Hong Kong.

Pro-democracy camp

Justice secretary Rimsky Yuen stoked opponents by likening the arrangement to the relationship between a landlord and tenant. "The landlord has rented a house to me and then realized he didn't have enough space and asks me, can you rent a room to me? He has that right," he said on a radio talk show Wednesday. Yuen's comments alarmed the pro-democracy camp which has now formed a concern group.

"If China is our landlord, that means they could ask us to give back land any time," opposition lawmaker Tanya Chan told AFP yesterday. Barrister and former lawmaker Margaret Ng said there was no legal basis for the move to create what the government is calling a "mainland port area" on Hong Kong soil. The territory's boundaries are protected by its constitution, she said. "If you choose to carve out part of it and call it something else, then we lose our protection altogether," said Ng. —AFP

AVOID SOUTH PHILIPPINES: WESTERN GOVERNMENTS

MANILA: Western governments are warning their citizens against travelling to nearly all of the southern third of the Philippines, citing the rising threats of terror attacks and kidnappings by Islamist militants. Fresh alerts from Britain, Canada and Australia were released this week after President Rodrigo Duterte extended military rule across the southern region of Mindanao until the end of the year to combat the militants. The Canadian advisory on Monday warned against visiting any part of Mindanao except for Davao, the biggest city in the south. "There is a serious risk of terrorist attacks and kidnappings in this region," the Canadian government said.

It also cautioned that people should only visit Davao, where the bombing of a crowded night market last year claimed 15 lives, if it was essential. Mindanao comprises roughly a third of the Philippine territory and is home to 20 million people. The region has endured decades of conflict, with Muslim separatists and communists waging deadly rebellions, and a small group of Islamic militants known as the Abu Sayyaf running a lucrative kidnap-for-ransom operation from there.

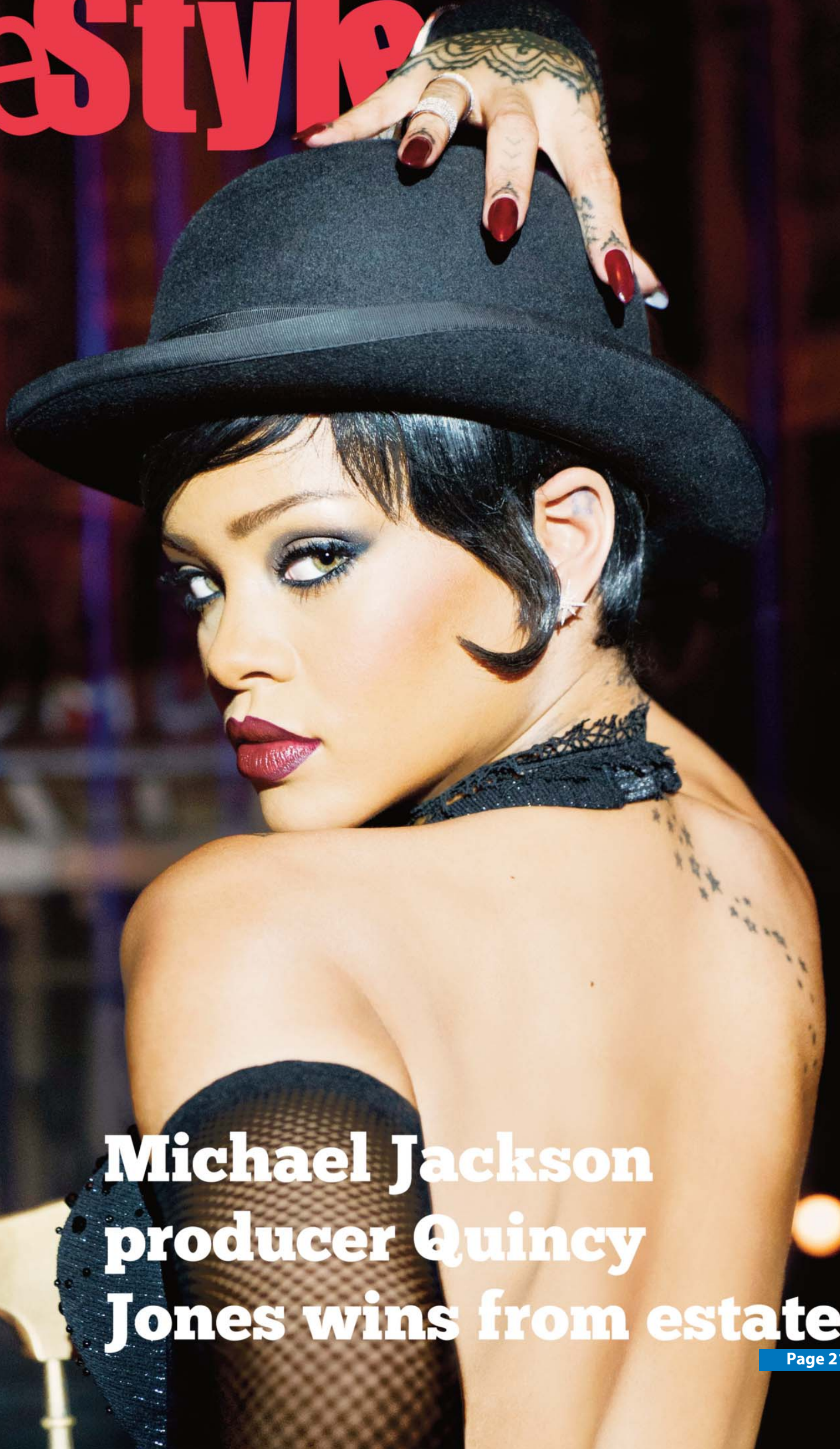
Western governments have long advised against travelling to parts of Mindanao, but the fresh alerts are more extensive as they warn against visiting almost the whole region. The new advisories reflect growing concerns that the Islamic State group's influence is rising in Mindanao. Gunmen who have pledged allegiance to IS occupied Marawi, the main Muslim city in the southern Philippines, in May and security forces have been unable to dislodge them despite fierce battles that have claimed more than 600 lives. —AFP

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

Lifestyle

Friday Times

www.kuwaittimes.net



This image released by STX Entertainment shows Rihanna, who portrays a burlesque dancer named Bubble, in Luc Besson's sci-fi epic, 'Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets,' in theaters on July 21. — AP

Michael Jackson producer Quincy Jones wins from estate

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Jolie admits to 'hardest time' after Pitt split



In this file photo Angelina Jolie arrives at the world premiere of "Kung Fu Panda 3," in Los Angeles. — AP

Angelina Jolie has opened up about her split from Brad Pitt, confessing to having "the hardest time" and claiming to have spent months as a homemaker, doing dishes and cleaning up dog poop. Jolie, 42, filed for divorce last September, citing irreconcilable differences. She accused her Oscar-winning ex of hitting their teenage son on a flight from France to Los Angeles, sparking tabloid gossip and an FBI probe. The 53-year-old was cleared by the FBI and social workers and wants joint legal and physical custody of Maddox, 15, Pax, 13, Zahara, 12, Shiloh, 11, and twins Vivienne and Knox, nine, while Jolie is demanding sole guardianship.

Jolie told Vanity Fair that "things got bad" in the summer of 2016. "It's just been the hardest time, and we're just kind of coming up for air," she told the magazine, shortly after moving into a \$25 million, six-bedroom, 10-bathroom home with her children in Los Angeles neighborhood Los Feliz. She sought to portray herself as focused on homemaking in the aftermath of the split despite a legendarily itinerant life which has seen her buy homes and travel with her children all over the world. "I'm just wanting to make the proper breakfast and keep the house. That's my passion. At the request of my kids, I'm taking cooking classes," she said. "I've been trying for nine months to be really good at just being a homemaker and picking up dog poop and cleaning dishes and reading bedtime stories. And I'm getting better at all three," she told the magazine.

Having joked to her youngest son Knox about pretending to be normal, Jolie recounted with pride that he replied: "Who wants to be normal? We're not normal. Let's never be normal." She also said she had been determined to shield the children. "I do not want my children to be worried about me. I think it's very important to cry in the shower and not in front of them." Pitt admitted in his first post-split interview in May that heavy drinking contributed to the breakdown of his marriage, and said he was now a teetotaler. He and Jolie had been a couple since 2004, and got married in 2014.

Jolie, who underwent a double mastectomy and removal of her ovaries in 2013 to prevent an aggressive form of cancer that killed her mother, grandmother and aunt, also told Vanity Fair that she had developed Bell's palsy. Acupuncture, she said, led to a full recovery. The actress won an Oscar in 2000 for portraying a young woman with psychiatric problems in "Girl, Interrupted". Her most recent project was to direct "First They Killed My Father" about the Cambodian genocide, a Netflix original. — AFP

George Clooney, Guillermo del Toro on Venice Film Fest slate

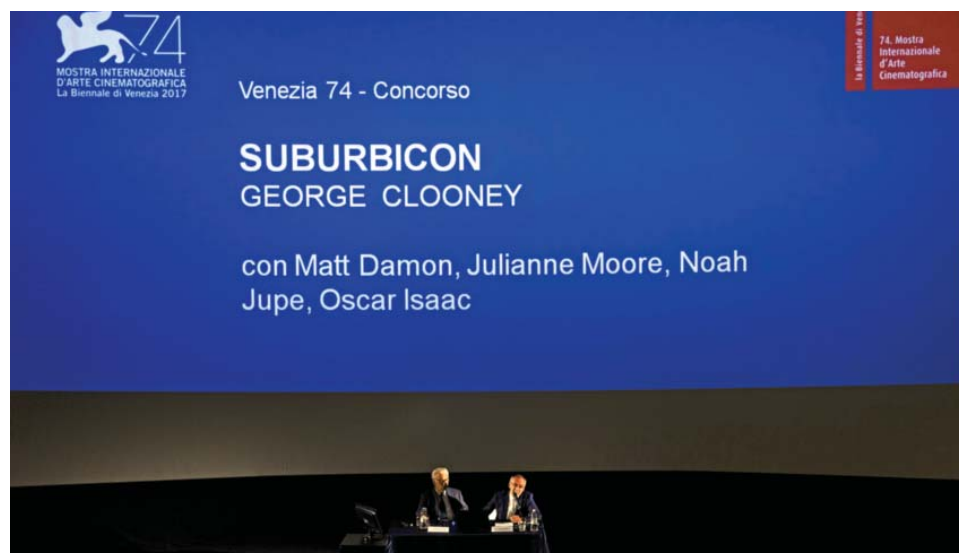
This year's Venice Film Festival will include a crime comedy by George Clooney, a Guillermo del Toro fantasy and a Darren Aronofsky thriller. Organizers of the world's oldest film festival announced a 21-film competition lineup yesterday that features the Clooney-directed "Suburbicon," the story of a home invasion gone wrong that stars Matt Damon and Julianne Moore, with a script by Joel and Ethan Coen. Venice's late-summer time slot - starting a few days ahead of the Toronto festival - has made it a major awards-season springboard. In recent years it has presented the world premieres of major Oscar winners including "Spotlight" and "La La Land."

This year's contenders for Venice's top Golden Lion award include del Toro's "The Shape of Water," starring Sally Hawkins as a woman who forges a relationship with a sea creature, and Aronofsky's secrecy-shrouded "Mother!" starring Jennifer Lawrence. The 74th Venice festival opens Aug. 30 in the canal-crossed Italian city with Alexander Payne's "Downsizing," about a man - Damon again - who decides to shrink himself. It closes Sept. 9 with Takeshi Kitano's gangster thriller "Outrage Coda." The winner of the Golden Lion and other prizes will be decided by a jury led this year by actress Annette Bening.

Films in competition include "Human Flow," a documentary about migration by Chinese artist Ai

Weiwei; "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" by Ireland's auteur of tragicomedy, Martin McDonagh; "The Third Murder," by Japan's Hirokazu Koreeda; and "Mektour, My Love: Canto Uno" by French-Tunisian director Abdellatif Kechiche, director of the Cannes winner "Blue is the Warmest Color." Competing directors are drawn from around the globe, with films from Australia's Warwick Thornton ("Sweet Country"), Israel's Samuel Maoz ("Foxtrot"), and Lebanon's Ziad Doueiri ("The Insult"). But only one director among the 21 is a woman - China's Vivian Qu, whose "Angels Wear White" centers on two girls assaulted by a man in a small seaside town.

Outside the main competition, high-interest entries include Fernando Leon de Aranoa's "Loving Pablo," starring Javier Bardem as Colombian drug baron Pablo Escobar, and Stephen Frears' reality-based historical drama "Victoria & Abdul," with Judi Dench as Britain's Queen Victoria and Ai Fazal as her Indian servant Abdul Karim. The streaming service Netflix, which has shaken up the business of making and distributing movies, will debut the miniseries "Our Souls at Night," a late-life romance starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. — AP



Director of the Venice Film Festival, Alberto Barbera, right, and Venice Biennale President Paolo Baratta unveil the list of participants into the 74th edition of the festival during a press conference in Rome yesterday. — AP

STEVEN SPIELBERG OPENS UP ABOUT LIFE, FILMMAKING IN HBO DOC

Steven Spielberg isn't afraid to talk about his flops. "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" is his least favorite film in that franchise, says documentarian Susan Lacy, who spent more than 30 hours interviewing the filmmaker for "Spielberg," premiering Oct 7 on HBO. Spielberg also acknowledges some mistakes in "1941," Lacy said Wednesday at the Television Critics Association's summer meeting. She said she only expected to have four interviews with the traditionally private filmmaker, but that they ended up meeting 17 times. "I can only guess that turning 70 is a turning point for many people," said Lacy, who created and produced the "American Masters" series on PBS for decades. Spielberg turned 70 in December.

She also spoke with Spielberg's parents and sister, as well as scores of his collaborators, including Daniel Day-Lewis, Matt Damon and Tom Cruise. The most compelling thing about Spielberg, both to his colleagues and to Lacy, is his deep knowledge of and enthusiasm for the medium, she said. "I could not believe how articulate he was about the process of making films and his process of making films, and how much fun he had talking about it," she said. "Every actor I interviewed - and I interviewed everybody... that's what they were most impressed with: How much he understands the process of filmmaking and how he sees ahead when he's shooting... There are very few filmmakers who have that skill, and it impressed everyone."

Lacy described her subject as both a populist and an artist, saying his early work reflects his life in the suburbs and as a child of divorce and his later movies pay homage to the classic Hollywood filmmakers he admired, such as William Wyler and John Ford. She said Spielberg never tried to influence her documentary's approach and that he didn't see the film until it was finished. When he called Lacy to say he liked it, she let out a two-year-old sigh of relief. "I didn't allow myself to go there: What happens if Steven Spielberg doesn't like the movie?" she said. "If I'd thought about that, I'd probably

have been frozen and immobilized and not able to do it." "Spielberg" focuses on his work as a director. Lacy said she doesn't get much into his philanthropic efforts or his various projects as a producer.



Steven Spielberg attends the Warner Bros "Ready Player One" panel on day three of Comic-Con International on Saturday in San Diego. — AP

The documentary's most valuable message for future filmmakers and other creative people, she said, is Spielberg's belief in himself. "Having a vision and sticking to it and not letting anybody get in the way of it is probably the best lesson you can learn from Steven Spielberg," Lacy said. "The decision to make 'Schindler's List,' a 3 1/2-hour black-and-white movie about the Holocaust, that didn't come out of any kind of focus group. That was a belief that it was something he needed to do." Spielberg won his first directing Oscar for the 1994 film, which was also named best picture. — AP

Ed Sheeran, Stormzy and Alt-J compete for Mercury Prize

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran was nominated yesterday for the prestigious Mercury Prize for his third album "Divide", going up against breakthrough grime star Stormzy and former winners Alt-J and The xx. "What these artists have in common is an infectious pleasure in music making and an arresting sense of urgency about the music they make," the jury said in a statement announcing the 12 shortlisted albums. "They delight in exploring musical possibilities and refusing to be pinned down by genre conventions".

Sheeran is in the running for his record-breaking third album "Divide," which topped the album charts in several countries including his native Britain, Australia and the United States. It also smashed Spotify records, drawing nearly 57 million listens on its first day of release. The previous record was held by The Weeknd's "Starboy", which drew 29 million streams on its release date. Despite having won several Grammys and Brit awards since he burst onto the scene with his debut album "+" in 2011, Sheeran has never won the Mercury Prize. Established in 1992, it recognises the top

album by a British or Irish artist. London-born grime star Stormzy was shortlisted for his debut album "Gang Signs & Prayer", which the jury described as "adventurous, rueful, outraged and soulful". The rapper said on Twitter that he was "over the moon" with his nomination. "I put my heart, my soul and my absolute everything into making this album," he wrote. The list also include former winners The xx for their third album "I see you" and Alt-J for "Relaxer". "We are stunned, humbled & ecstatic to be on the Mercury Prize list," Alt-J wrote on Twitter.

Kate Tempest, already shortlisted in 2014, made the cut once more with her new "Let Them Eat Chaos" album. In a Facebook post, she described herself as "honored and humbled" to be recognized. Indie guitar pop band Blossoms joined the list with their eponymous album and expressed "innumerable thank-yous" in a video posted on Twitter by band member Josh Dewhurst. Lesser known artists whose albums were nominated include Sampha, J Hus, Glass Animals, Loyle Carner, Dinosaur and The Big Moon. This year's winner will be announced at a September 14 show in London. — AFP



Ed Sheeran performs on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza in New York. — AP

Michael Jackson producer Quincy Jones wins from estate

Quincy Jones, the legendary producer behind Michael Jackson's top hits, on Wednesday won \$9.4 million in damages from the late superstar's estate over posthumous works. A jury in Los Angeles sided with the 84-year-old producer but gave him only part of the \$30 million he was seeking. Jones has arranged songs for some of the biggest names in music including Jackson, producing his "Thriller" in 1982 which remains the top-selling album of all time.

The producer filed suit over the use of songs in "This Is It"—a 2009 documentary about Jackson's rehearsals for a series of concerts in London that ultimately were never to be due to the star's sudden death—as well as two Cirque du Soleil circus shows. Jackson sued MJJ Productions Inc., one of the companies that runs the late King of Pop's estate, in 2013. Jones said he had no quarrel with Jackson personally but that he had reached contracts in 1978 and 1985 that gave him first priority to Jackson's music, including maintaining the right to be the first to mix original recordings.

"Although this judgment is not the full amount that I was seeking, I am very grateful that the jury decided in our favor in this matter," Jones said in a statement. "I view it not only as a victory for myself personally, but for artists' rights overall," he said. Defense lawyer Zia Modabber had rejected Jones' arguments, saying that the original recordings belonged to Jackson alone. "This is a grab for money that Mr. Jones isn't entitled



In this Feb 28, 1984 file photo, Michael Jackson, left, holds eight awards as he poses with Quincy Jones at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

to," Modabber said. Another lawyer for MJJ Productions, Howard Weitzman, earlier told music magazine Billboard that the estate would likely appeal if Jones won a major sum. Jackson's estate has been trying to monetize his legacy since his death but its success has been uneven, with the family notably giving up on preserving the late King of Pop's Neverland ranch. — AFP

Dylan O'Brien says acting helped recovery from set injuries

Dylan O'Brien says that sticking with his lead role in the action movie "American Assassin" helped him recover from a traumatic accident during filming of a "Maze Runner" sequel in March 2016. O'Brien told The Associated Press on Monday that being back on a set was a necessary step in his recovery. He said at times after the accident he felt like he wasn't going to be able to return to filming, but he didn't want to let acting go. "It really helped a lot, actually. It sort of became in a way that step that I needed in recovery to know I could do it again, I could still be on a set and things could be done in the right way, too, and things could be done safely in the way that they're supposed to be done," O'Brien said.

"American Assassin" involved numerous stunts and fight scenes. "I didn't want to let go. It would have been hard to say you know, 'Ah, forget it. I'm not going to be able to make it.' Which I did genuinely feel for the longest time. But I just - I decided that it was probably going to be best for me mentally actually to do it." He declined to discuss his injuries sustained or what he remembered about the accident while filming a sequence involving two vehicles in British Columbia, Canada. But he said the shock of the accident helped him to understand his character in "American Assassin," who becomes a CIA counter-terrorism operative after his fiancée is killed by terrorists.

"Going through any sort of trauma like that, funny enough, I felt like I was more informed about the aftermath of an incident like the one my character goes through than I ever could've been," O'Brien, 25, said. "So I kind of then ended up having a lot of pride in sort of diving into that, portraying that." Co-star Sanaa Lathan says she could see how O'Brien used his own experience in his performance. "He's been through a lot," she said. "I was really impressed with how he brought that depth and that pain to this character. I really believed it. ... I haven't talked to him about this, but it probably



In this file photo, Dylan O'Brien appears at the "Teen Wolf" panel on during Comic-Con International in San Diego. — AP

was a cathartic form of therapy too, to just get it out."

Several details

The "Teen Wolf" star has remained largely out of view and hasn't publicly discussed the accident or extent of his injuries, which were serious enough to halt production on the film, subtitled "The Death Cure," for nearly a year. A report prepared by the occupational safety agency WorkSafe BC said O'Brien's accident happened after a change was made to an action sequence involving two vehicles that were not connected. It stated that drivers would have to keep the two vehicles close enough together to make the stunt work, and that O'Brien was harnessed to one vehicle while physically riding on the back of another. Several details about the accident were redacted, and the report did not detail O'Brien's injuries.

WorkSafe BC stated that a meeting was not held after filming plans were changed. The agency later determined that the production had complied with its recommendations, which included that appropriate rehearsals should be performed and certain high-risk sequences should be done by qualified stunt people. Last week, O'Brien made his eighth and final appearance with his "Teen Wolf" co-stars at San Diego's massive Comic-Con. "It's always kind of weird, man - it's great though. It's a great weird. Comic-Con has always cracked me up," O'Brien said. "American Assassin" hits theatres in September. — AP



Actress Cara Delevingne, right, and actor Dane Dehaan pose with Rihanna, left, during the European film premiere of "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" in London, Monday. — AP



A combination of pictures created in London shows football shirts at an exhibition entitled 'The Art of the Football Shirt' at a gallery in east London. — AFP photos



(From left top) Football shirts from Arsenal from 1991, from a Japanese club, a Netherlands shirt, an Arsenal shirt; (from left, bottom) a 1998 Mexico shirt, a 1992 Manchester United away shirt, a 1989 - 1991 Liverpool away shirt and a Germany shirt from 1994 - 1995, form part of 'The Art of the Football Shirt' exhibition in east London.



(From left) Football shirts from Juventus, Italy from the 80s, A C Milan, England away shirt from 1966, Celtic and Netherlands from 1988, form part of 'The Art of the Football Shirt' exhibition in east London.

Football shirts reappraised as design classics 'The Art of the Football Shirt'



An Arsenal away football shirt from 1991 called the 'bruised banana' forms part of 'The Art of the Football Shirt' exhibition.



(From left) A football shirt from Italy, from the 80s, an England away shirt from 1966 and a Netherlands shirt from 1988 form part of 'The Art of the Football Shirt' exhibition.

Football shirts are not just symbols of team allegiance: the colors, designs and styles are being reappraised as icons of sartorial cool at an exhibition in London. "The Art of the Football Shirt" takes visitors through 180 different football shirts, from instantly recognizable classics to strange strips that pushed the boundaries, and jerseys that crossed over into fashion, music and politics. It shows how plain shirts gradually gave way to a tidal wave of graphic design experiments, with art school graduates let loose to play with shapes, patterns and colors.

Curator Neal Heard, who owns 70 shirts in the collection, said kits were now jumping out beyond the sport once again. "These things are fashion items now," he told AFP. "I call it the 'basketball-isation' of football-it's becoming more about lifestyle and less about the tribal resonance of a team's shirts." He compared modern football jerseys to New York Yankees caps-a symbol worn by many people without any allegiance to, or even knowledge of, the baseball side. "Shirts and football are going more that way. The teams are seeing themselves as brands," said Heard, citing Italian side Juventus's newly-introduced J-shaped logo. He also said popular football computer games were spreading a love of the kits among youngsters. "Kids know their teams and colors and see the players wearing them as lifestyle heroes," said Heard, a 48-year-old sportswear consultant who penned "The Football Shirts Book: The Connoisseur's Guide".

Icons and design explosion

The exhibition includes an iconic XI chosen for their legendary football status, but breaks down the collection into sections such as streetwear, music, politics and graphic design, rather than eras, countries or club and international shirts. The iconic XI includes classics such as England's red 1966 away shirt, the bright yellow 1970 Brazil jersey, AC Milan's red-and-black stripes, Celtic's green-and-white hoops and the black-and-white stripes of Juventus. It also includes, from 1988, the Netherlands' Marco van Basten/Ruud Gullit era patterned orange shirt, and the white West Germany top featuring a tricolor band of the national flag's black, red and yellow-two Adidas shirts that triggered the 1990s graphic design explosion. Heard said the early 1990s period was

dominated by art school graduates left free to experiment, including taking the patterns created by shining light through an ashtray onto a photocopier.

"The genie was out of the bottle. One of the iconic ones would be the Arsenal 'bruised banana'. That was a touchstone for that time. But all the big boys were doing it," said the Newport County fan. Dutch collector Jesse Rabbeljee, who provided the other 110 shirts, added: "Around 1988 to 1990 things started to evolve-and in the 1990s it got completely mad. 'I didn't like them. But recently they have been growing on me.'" The 43-year-old said those designs were returning. "Now were in a 'retro-new' style: using the old patterns and styles from the 80s and 90s and bringing it back with a new touch. It won't take long to go back to crazy kits again," he told AFP.

Reggae, war and tiger skins

Rabbeljee, who works with children with behavioral problems, started his collection in 1999 with a yellow and green Nantes jersey like the one Bob Marley once wore, found in a thrift store in the United States. One section of the exhibition looks at how football shirts have crossed over into the music scene, including the Nantes colors worn by Marley, the Manchester City shirts sported by Oasis and the sky-blue England third kit featured in the England/New Order 1990 World Cup song "World In Motion". Curious strips include Hull City's tiger print shirts; Fiorentina's 1992 change jersey, withdrawn after apparently inadvertent swastikas were found on it; and Stockport County's Argentina-style strip, pulled when Britain went to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Spanish side Cultural Leonesa's 2013 cocktail jacket and bow tie top is featured, along with a Breton-striped France change jersey by designer Jean-Paul Gaultier. The free exhibition, running from Wednesday to Thursday, is part of the Jacket Required menswear trade show at the Old Truman Brewery. — AFP

Tablescaping: Adding some garden beauty to the dining room

Tablescaping is an art form that brings nature into the dining room, providing a feast for the eyes. You can cut your own garden flowers and greenery to make a centerpiece for your table - and then keep on getting creative. "Adding nature to your table will enliven your guests' experience as they take their place for a meal," said Tobey Nelson, owner of Tobey Nelson Events and Design in Clinton, Washington. "A table that is embellished with beautiful natural elements can turn a pleasant dinner into a special occasion."

"Add a few stems of lovely greenery such as ferns or hosta to smaller vases along or around the table," she suggested. "Place a sprig of an herb such as rosemary or a blossom on a napkin or plate to bring your tablescape alive." Maybe you have small pots of succulents or herbs on your patio? Incorporate them too, Nelson said. "Sometimes a creative idea for the garden works nicely on a table setting, too. Think sweet little teacups planted with succulents, or small terra cotta pots with little herb plants," she said. "These work well to beautify your table and make cute patio decorations through the summer - or great little gifts for your guests."

No need to relegate cutting flowers to their own patch in the garden, she continued. "Weave them into your landscape. Plant a few cosmos



Photo provided by Dean Fosdick taken at the Biltmore Estate near Asheville, NC, shows a dining room table set for a dinner party. — AP Photos

between shrubs," she said. "Peonies, a popular garden plant, are great as cut flowers, and their foliage is beautiful in a vase. Lots of vines are great in arrangements." Tablescaping with plants from your own garden adds a personal touch to the dining experience. "A lot of times you can personalize by using native flowers that emphasize the area in which you live," said Kaleb Norman James, who owns a wedding and floral design company in Kirkland, Washington.

"Or something that a bride and bridegroom can display at their wedding dinner that they're proud of - flowers that tie in to who they are, where they've been or what they've done." Even the smallest details count. "I love to look into the elements that may be overlooked," James said. Rarely does he use a plain white napkin, for instance: "Look for color or patterns or some type of decorative element like a flower."

Tablescaping is more than a floral center-



This photo taken at the Comforts of Whidbey vineyard near Langley, Wash, shows a tablescaping model that integrates natural elements with dinnerware, drinkware and other accessories.

piece, he said. "It's tying in a lot of different pieces. The flatware, glassware, linens, table numbers and place cards that fit a theme. 'Try to add some additional custom things on top of that,' James said. 'Fruit or something depicting the season. Little trays with grapes flowing onto the table. Or berries in silver compotes or bowls.' In winter, add candles, geodes and crystals for a glamorous touch, he said. — AP



In this photograph Pakistani woman Jamshed Jahan Ara, 76, who migrated to Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947 at the age of six years, speaks to AFP at her residence in the Pakistani port city of Karachi. — AFP photos



Jamshed Jahan Ara showing Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, the first Pakistani prime minister along with her paternal uncle after giving an interview to AFP.



Visitors looking at photographs and newspaper clippings at the Partition Museum in Amritsar.

Historians race to preserve dying memories of Partition

Sitting in her Karachi home, Jamshed Jahan Ara looks straight into the camera as she explains in a trembling voice how her family fled India during Partition in 1947. Just six years old when she boarded an overcrowded train bound for the newly-created Muslim state of Pakistan, Ara recalls watching armed Sikhs approach-then hearing her father tell her brother to kill the women of the family if the convoy was attacked. "One is my wife, another is my sister and one is my daughter," she recalls him saying. "So, dear, be a man. I can't shoot them. You must kill all three and we will fight (the Sikhs) till the last before we surrender."

"I asked, 'Why would Neeam kill me. I have done nothing wrong,'" the 76-year-old tells the camera, emotion flooding her face as she remembered her father's reply: "A bullet is better (than being captured)". On both sides of the border that divided the subcontinent 70 years ago, historians are racing to record the accounts of the last living witnesses to one of the largest, deadliest human migrations of all time. In August 1947 the British Raj was dismantled, creating a newly independent India-though with chunks of its western and eastern regions hurriedly amputated to create Pakistan.

Partition etched a deep fissure in the region and threw millions of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs on the road to their new homeland. Six thousand kilometers of new borders were drawn in just five weeks. Fifteen million people uprooted. Entire villages massacred. Tens of thousands of women kidnapped and raped. Possibly as many as two million lives lost. But behind those statistics are the stories of the men and women who lived through that historic moment, the legacy of which still defines relations in South Asia.

In Pakistan's southern metropolis of Karachi, students and volunteers are transcribing fragments of oral history collected across the country by the Citizen Archives of Pakistan. "History for the longest amount of time has been limited to the people who were the rulers or the winners but history has a larger scope. It has individuals who get affected. It has cultures that get affected," said Aliya Tayyabi, director of the archives.

Race against time

Sukhwant Kaur, 78, had always struggled to find the words to explain her family's terrifying escape to the Indian side of the border. Sitting in her home in Amritsar in north India, the grandmother can still recall with startling clarity the horrors she witnessed as a child of eight. A mother asking her son to drown her in a river. A small pond with corpses floating in it that was the

only place to find water. A woman cutting the umbilical cord of her newborn child with the only thing she could find-a stick of sugar cane.

"I feel much lighter inside having dared to explain all this," said Kaur. It is stories like Kaur's that, for several years now, organizations on both sides of the border including the Citizen Archives of Pakistan, the Amritsar Partition Museum and the 1947 Partition Archive have been hurrying to record and digitize. "That generation is leaving us," said Mallika Ahluwalia, director of the newly created Partition Museum. "There's this real sense of urgency." The projects are also seeking to transform that volatile period into more than just a chapter in a school textbook.

In Punjab, which saw some of the worst violence of 1947, the Partition Museum enlisted the help of a dozen high school students from Amritsar. Few families living around Amritsar, just 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Pakistan, escaped Partition untouched. The teenagers were told to find three stories from the period from amongst their relatives. "While interviewing them, images were forming in front of my eyes. It was a painful experience, I almost felt the pain that they were going through at that time," said 16-year-old student Aniket Bhatia. Fellow student Rahat Sandhu burst into tears as she heard the story of a survivor whose baby sister was abandoned on the side of the road because no one could carry her. "He cried, and I cried too," said Sandhu. "The kind of energy they put into their words, the kind of bond we shared for that time, for 15 minutes, is inexplicable."

'Your bias breaks'

But within the tales of desperate decisions and senseless brutality emerge stories of love and hope. "So many people who made it across, made it across because of the kindness of a friend, of a neighbor, of somebody who worked with them and in many cases even a stranger," said Ahluwalia of the Partition Museum. Survivors' accounts also offer objectivity from those who suffered most, says Aleena Mashhood of the Oral History Project-an increasingly valuable perspective as time goes on.

"They say something like, that wasn't us Muslims who suffered, it was also the Hindus who suffered," she said. "Your bias breaks." In Amritsar's Partition Museum, where the wounds that still define the region are preserved, the last room is perhaps aptly named "The gallery of Hope". — AFP

ADD 'CRUMB' TO A PEACE PIE AND PUMP UP THE EXCITEMENT LEVEL

Classic peach pies rank high among top summer treats, but in general, the best way to make someone even more excited about a fruit pie is to add the word "crumb" to the name. There's something about those sweet, crunchy-chewy morsels of streusel-y goodness that no one can resist. This version sticks to the classic flavor of cinnamon, but for a subtle, unique variation, try replacing it with ground cardamom.

What's even better is that a crumb topping means only one pie crust to roll out. If you'd like, you can use store-bought, but we like the tender flakiness of a freshly made dough. Whatever you choose, line the pie plate before you peel the peaches. This gives

it some time to rest in the refrigerator, which will help prevent shrinking. When it comes to the peaches, set yourself up for success. You might be tempted to choose a firm peach, to make peeling and slicing easier. But under-ripe peaches are actually a nightmare to peel, and even after boiling, you will struggle to separate the skin from the flesh. Culinary Institute of America chef Genevieve Meli advises you pick fruit with a "sweet, ripe aroma" and it "should be plump and firm but not hard, and free of bruises." Once boiled, the skin will peel off effortlessly.

If you're lucky enough to find ripe freestone peaches, snatch them up. Otherwise, slicing peaches from the pits can be tough.

The easiest way to slice a peach and prevent a big bowl of mush is to cut the peach into four segments, around the pit. Then slice those segments. You can use a paring knife to trim any remaining flesh from around the pit, or just gnaw it off like the rest of us.

Working with fresh fruit always means some variability in the consistency of your filling, and peach pies are especially notorious for runny innards. With enough time to cool, this pie should thicken enough to slice and serve. But if your peaches were extra juicy (lucky!), don't be frustrated. Even a runny pie is better than no pie, especially topped with a scoop of ice cream.

PEACH CRUMB PIE

Ingredients

Servings: 10 (Makes one 9-inch pie)
Total time: 3 hours 15 minutes (Active time: 30 minutes)
One single-crust prepared pie dough
Brown Sugar and Oat Crumble (recipe follows)

3 pounds peaches

1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1/4 cup cornstarch
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375 F and set the rack in the lowest position. Line the bottom of a pie pan with pie dough. Refrigerate while you prepare the crumble and filling. Prepare Brown Sugar and Oat Crumble. Set aside. Bring a medium pot of water to a boil. In a medium bowl, prepare an ice bath. Lightly cut an X on top of

each peach. Gently lower half of the peaches into the boiling water with a slotted spoon and submerge for 30 to 60 seconds. Remove them with a slotted spoon and immediately submerge in the ice bath. Repeat with the remaining peaches. Transfer the blanched peaches to a cutting board. When they are cool enough to handle, remove the skins with a paring knife or peeler. Pit the peaches and cut them into 1/3-inch slices.

In a medium bowl, combine the peaches, sugar, lemon juice, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt. Toss to combine. Immediately transfer the mixture to the prepared bottom crust. Top with the crumble. Place the pie on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until the filling is bubbly and thick, 45 to 50 minutes. Remove the pie from the oven and place it on a cooling rack. Let cool for 2 to 3 hours. The filling will continue to thicken and set as the pie cools.

Brown Sugar and Oat Crumble Ingredients

1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats
1/3 cup light brown sugar, packed

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, cold, cut into 1/2-inch cubes.

Preparation

In a medium bowl, combine the flour, oats, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Add the butter to the flour mixture, tossing to coat. Cut the fat into the mixture using your fingertips, a pastry blender, or two forks until the mixture looks like coarse irregular crumbs. Distribute the crumble evenly over the pie or tart and bake as directed. If not using immediately, store the crumble in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Chef's Note

If making the crumble in a food processor, stir in the oats by hand after pulsing in the butter to avoid chopping the oats.



Crispy Shrimp Tacos are baked, not fried

By Sara Moulton

From taco trucks to Mexican restaurants, tacos are just about everywhere these days. And why not? A taco is exactly as handy, versatile and filling as a sandwich, and crunchy to boot. Lots of folks dream of making these fried corn tortillas at home, but some pull up short at the prospect of having to deep-fry them. The solution? Don't fry them. Baking will bring tacos to crispy perfection and allow you to shape them into shells in the process.

That said, I discovered while developing this recipe for

Crispy Shrimp Tacos with Cole Slaw and Chipotle Cream that not all corn tortillas are created equal. Some are thick-ish and some are thin-ish. Some are drier and some are moister. Given that there's no way of predicting these qualities in the brands you buy at the store, you just need to pay attention to the tortillas as they bake and adjust accordingly. Some brands will require more time than others to become crispy.

Before being baked, the tortillas need to be steamed a bit so they don't crack when you shape them. Then you brush them very lightly on both sides with oil (or with vegetable oil spray, if you prefer), drape them directly over a bar of the oven

rack and bake them until crispy. (See recipe for details.)

I recommend baking them in two batches of four tortillas each because when you open the oven to shape them, the oven temperature drops. If you're shaping all eight at once, the temperature will drop a lot and the tortillas will take forever to crisp. The shells can be made ahead and parked in a bowl at room temperature. Then you can turn to the preparation of whichever fillings you want. (Here I propose coleslaw, grilled shrimp and chipotle cream.) When the dinner bell chimes, just set out all the fixings and let people dig in for themselves.



Crispy Shrimp Tacos with Cole Slaw and Chipotle Cream

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 4

Eight 6-inch corn tortillas

3 tablespoons vegetable oil, plus extra for brushing the tortillas

1/4 cup mayonnaise (low-fat if you prefer)

1/4 cup Greek yogurt or sour cream

1 teaspoon minced chipotle in adobo sauce

1/2 teaspoon adobo sauce from the can

1 tablespoon plus 2 1/2 teaspoons fresh lime juice

3 cups finely shredded cabbage

1 cup coarsely shredded carrots

1 cup thin strips red bell pepper (about 1-inch long)

1 pound medium shrimp (31/35), peeled and deveined

1 firm ripe avocado, cut into cubes

1/2 cup cilantro leaves

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 375 F. Wrap 4 tortillas in foil and heat them on the middle shelf of the oven until they are pliable, about 5 minutes (or wrap them in a moist towel and microwave them for 30 seconds). Remove them from the foil, brush them lightly on both sides with the oil and carefully (so as not to burn yourself) drape each tortilla over a metal bar on the middle rack of the oven so that the sides of the tortillas are hanging down and bake them for 5 minutes. Open the oven, and using tongs, lift up the tortillas, spread them open a bit by pulling the two sides apart (they will still be pliable), and bake them on the rack for another 3 to 5 minutes or until they are crispy all over. Prep and bake the remaining 4 tortillas following the same procedure.

Meanwhile in a small bowl combine the mayonnaise, yogurt, chipotle, adobo sauce and 1 teaspoon of the lime juice

and stir well. Add salt to taste and about 1 tablespoon water or enough to make the sauce pourable. In a medium bowl combine the cabbage, carrots, red pepper, remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons lime juice, 1 tablespoon of the vegetable oil and salt to taste and toss well. Preheat the grill to medium. In a medium bowl toss the shrimp with the remaining 2 tablespoons oil and salt. Thread the shrimp onto skewers (preferably double skewers) and grill them, turning them once for 2 to 3 minutes total or until just cooked through. Transfer to a serving bowl. To serve: Put all of the components of the tacos - the shrimp, coleslaw, avocado, chipotle cream and cilantro - onto a serving platter and let your guests build their own tacos. — AP

A Conversation of Ice and Fire: Diving into the world of Game of Thrones

THE END BEGINS



Episode II

By Aakash and Vishal Bakaya

What better way to celebrate 'Game of Thrones', the world's biggest cultural phenomenon than by sitting down and criticizing it with my brother. My elder brother Vishal and I are both mega fans of 'Song of Ice and Fire' and we'll be taking a look at each episode this season and provide a run-down and re-cap of all the major and minor moments. Episode 2 'Stormborn' was an overall improvement over the previous episode but it still had a few issues. Let's dive right in.

Battle plans and confrontations

A: Starting with the intro, we find Daenerys looking rather unsettled to be back 'home'. Let's talk a bit about what worked with the scenes here and especially the long withheld confrontation between Dany and Varys - they sure had a lot to talk about. What do you think worked and what could have been done better?

V: We've been talking about this conversation for some time as it's been a bit awkward that they haven't addressed the issue of Varys' past allegiances yet. Firstly, full credit to Conleth Hill for carrying this scene, he definitely looked like someone who has experience dealing with royalty. What worked for me was the fact that the common folk were brought up once again and it gave the dialogue a bit more depth to it.

A: The dialogue was indeed a step up in quality but I still found it peppered with a few shortcomings. Like when Varys brings up the small folk, Dany should have mentioned her own troubled upbringing with the fact that she and her brother never had a home and

were exiles until they met Illyrio. Speaking about Illyrio, he was shown in the first season plotting with Varys and he and Tyrion even used his house in the 5th season so they are definitely still allies of sorts. Conveniently ignoring what part he had to play really stuck out for me. Also the way Dany quite coldly ends the conversation by threatening to 'burn Varys alive' felt a bit ominous with regards to Dany's psyche - what side of the Targaryen coin will she end up on?

V: I don't think there's much to that line honestly. I think any of the show's monarchs would say something similar and it doesn't make her sound like her father. She actually seemed pretty rational and pragmatic during the conversation.

A: Getting to the war council, I thought Tyrion's strategy to split their forces and launch an attack on Casterly Rock is completely illogical no matter how you look at it. It's quite unclear at the moment where they are heading with this but this 'diversion' stinks of padding to me.



V: Dany seems to be siding with Tyrion on this because she feels that he knows King's Landing and Cersei better and agrees that an attack on Casterly Rock will garner an immediate reaction from her. Even though I do see Yara's point of simply laying a direct siege on the capital, it might not stack the odds too heavily in their favour.

The she-wolf of Winterfell

A: After what seems like an eternity, we finally get Arya coming back (somewhat) to her element back in Westeros with her reunions with Hot-Pie and her lost direwolf Nymeria. I'm generally happy with both the scenes, they handled them quite well even though I felt they lacked the emotional impact they could have had. Initially, Arya seemed to speak to Hot-Pie with mild annoyance and only opened up to him once he told her about Jon. The Nymeria reunion was a much more important scene in comparison. This reunion has been dreamt about by both show and book fans but the lack of built-up hampered it to me quite a bit. Also her ending the meeting with 'that's not you' was much too vague and the fact that it needed an explanation outside the show proves that. I'm sure you liked that particular scene better.

V: I really liked seeing Hot-Pie again, it seems like he's at least grown somewhat since we've last met him. I don't see how Arya was acting all that strange to be honest. She's just come from killing an entire household so I doubt she'll be so friendly even to an old acquaintance like Hot Pie. Regarding the Nymeria scene, it worked for me even without any build up in the previous seasons.

A: By build-up, I'm referring to the fact that they don't even have a single conversation about wolf packs or an enormous dire wolf roaming the Riverlands. This could have possibly created some prior excitement towards the reunion.

V: I found the lack of foreshadowing the best thing about the scene, it really came out of nowhere for me. Out of all the prior reunions we've had on the show, they really did this one justice. From the previous dire wolves we meet on the show, at most only Grey Wind looked huge. Here they actually took the trouble to make Nymeria look like this massive, intimidating and mythical creature you always envisioned the dire wolves to be. They also nailed her expression and you could almost read her thoughts and you can see the strain on her face to understand the situation. It was very well executed.

Curing diseases in the Citadel

A: Last week we spoke about how Sam remains one of the show's highpoints in terms of characterisation. That remains true still in



this episode with him attempting to do right by his old Lord Commander. But the impression of the Citadel as a location is starting to wane on me. It's starting to become more of a plot device for Jorah's sickness and Sam's studies.

V: He at least seems to be studying some medicine now unlike whatever activities he was doing in the last episode. The chemistry with him and the Arch Maester also seems to be growing so there's more development there. I also liked Sam bringing up Jeor Mormont and using that as a drive to try to do the impossible and cure Jorah. I don't get your issue with it being a plot-device though.

A: Basically using locations as plot devices is a sign of lazy writing. Take Dany in the last episode for example. They had this long montage showing how important it was for her to be back home in Dragonstone and in the very next episode she asks Tyrion how long they have to stay in this horrible place and wishes to leave as soon as possible. It reduces the location to plain scenery at that point. Instead of having the location bring about some character development, it's just there to move their plot forward. Similarly, the Citadel is starting to feel more like a hospital rather than this ancient cathedral of knowledge and history.

V: I agree it's starting to feel more like a hospital but remember it's only been two episodes. I doubt we'll have more background to it or Oldtown and how important it ends up being for the story as a whole is

still to be determined but I hope it has some because the potential is definitely there. If it ends up existing solely to cure Jorah and help Sam 'discover' Dragon-glass deposits, it will be quite disappointing.

Euron crashes the party

A: Let us get to the episode's conclusion along with what we taught about the episode overall. So we finally got our first major battle sequence, a few named characters died and team Daenerys was dealt a major blow. It's been a while since things haven't completely gone her way. The battle itself seemed very rushed. Pretty much every shot was too dark to make out what exactly was happening and everything seemed to stop when a Sandsnake was shown. Euron was also given a dash of Victarion (his brother only seen in the books) and I guess we can at least appreciate that aspect of the character.

V: This entire sequence was the weakest point of the episode for me. Yara's 'experience' of being a naval commander is taken apart almost immediately - how did she let Euron crash into her ship so easily?

A: Let's say she was distracted.

V: More like really dumb. She got taken over without even putting up a fight and everything seemed much too convenient for Euron. The scene was indeed technically all over the place but Euron himself was a major improvement in the character department. They are trying to make him both really unpredictable and adaptable at the same

time which is something we haven't seen much of in the show.

A: Something else we haven't seen much lately is Alfie Allen's performance as Theon. His screen-time seems to have decreased episode-by-episode and it was great to see him acting his face off at the end.

V: His performance was amazing but I don't get the general reaction to what he did. I kept hoping he was going to jump the ship and he ends up doing something totally sensible which was exactly that. His life presently and in the future is going to have much more value so I'm glad he didn't needlessly throw his life away just to show he was brave.

A: Finally in closing - our thoughts on the second episode as a whole. It was a slight improvement over the season opener. Bryan Cogman (long time show writer) has a knack of conveniently bridging the gaps from previous episodes while laying down the tracks for future ones. In that way he succeeded once again. Apart from the final battle, it was slower but more poignant but it's great to see GOT slow down at times and give us a bit more character development.

V: It was a major improvement over the first episode. They showed flashes of the show's high points from earlier seasons and even though they didn't get it perfect here, it's still encouraging to see them go in this direction. There was more character drama, better dialogue and more emotional call backs - I hope they keep focusing on those aspects.



Friday Times

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017

Travel

First time

France

Where to go and what to do

The sun rises behind
the Eiffel Tower



Chateau de Chambord represents regality on an epic scale.

France is the world's top tourist destination and for good reason. There's a lot packed into just one country - artistic and architectural masterpieces, remarkable museums and natural landscapes, and a history harking back far beyond the Romans. Top it off with fine wine, food and a culinary culture that permeates through every city and small town, and the only hard part is deciding where to go first.

Paris

France's chic, sexy capital has to be experienced at least once. Mix picture-postcard icons with simple Parisian moments and you'll truly fall in love with the city. Scale the Eiffel Tower then walk or cycle along the Seine, or cruise down it on a bateau-mouche (bateaux-mouches.fr). Venerate Notre Dame then grab a post-cathedral cafe at Cafe Saint-Regis, ice-cream at Berthillon or super juice at literary cafe of mythical bookshop Shakespeare & Company. Hit the Louvre then collapse on a bench with a Pierre Herme macaron in the Tuileries or Palais Royal gardens. Delve into hilltop Montmartre with a local Paris Greeter (greeters.paris). Escape to posh leafy Versailles and come back blown away by France's most famous chateau.

Loire Valley

Stunning chateaux are scattered around the lush Loire Valley. Stand in awe of the Renaissance supertanker of a castle Chateau de Chambord, and graceful Chateau de Chenonceau astride the Cher River. Chateau de Blois with its whistle-stop tour of French architecture, and classical Chateau de Cheverny where the spectacle of the dogs having dinner steals the show, is the perfect one-day combo. In summer put the gardens at Chateau de Villandry and Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau after dark on your hit list. Base yourself in Tours, Blois or Amboise; hire a bike to pedal along the Loire riverbanks at least once; and try to catch a son-et-lumière (sound-and-light) show.

French Riviera

This strip of seashore on the big blue Med has it all - hence half the world crowding it out in summer.



Villefranche-sur-Mer shimmers along the Cote d'Azur.



Take a tour of vineyards and a Champagne house, toasting your trip with a glass of the real stuff.

The seaside town of Nice is the queen of the Riviera with its cutting-edge art museums, belle Époque architecture, pebble beaches and legendary promenade. Glitzy day trips trail film stars in Cannes, Formula One drivers in Monaco, and hobnobbing celebs ‘n socialites in St-Tropez. Sensational coastal views make the drive along the three coastal roads from Nice to Menton an absolute must. Otherwise, grab your hiking boots and stride out in the fiery Massif de l’Esterel for brilliant red-rock mountain scenery.

Provence

Check all devices are fully charged: the extraordinary light and landscape in this part of France’s south demands constant snapping and sharing. Start with Marseille, a millennia-old port with striking museums such as the MuCEM and coastline straight off a film set. Inland, zoom in on glorious Roman amphitheatres and aqueducts in Nimes, Orange and at the Pont du Gard. Drive past lavender fields and cherry orchards to hilltop villages and food markets in the bucolic Luberon and Vaucluse regions. No lens is large enough for the peak of Mont Ventoux (a cyclist’s paradise) or the Gorges du Verdon, Europe’s deep-

est canyon with 800m sheer-drop cliffs and startling emerald green water, no filter required.

Champagne

This sparkling viticulture region in northern France is all class. Where else can you sip Champers in centuries-old cellars and taste your way through vineyards and medieval villages straight out of a Renoir painting? Stay in Reims (pronounced something similar to ‘rance’) or ...pernay to visit Pommery, Mumm, Moët & Chandon and other big-name Champagne houses. In Reims, pick a clear day to scale the tower of the cathedral where dozens of French kings were crowned. From both towns, scenic Champagne driving routes thrust motorists into the heart of this intoxicating region.

Brittany & Normandy

A wind-buffed part of northern France, Brittany & Normandy was created especially for outdoor fiends and history buffs with sensational seafood, cliff-top walks, a craggy coastline and ancient sights steeped in lore and legend. Top billing is Mont St-Michel, a magical mysterious abbey-island, best

approached barefoot across the sand. Or grab a bicycle and toot your horn at the Carnac megaliths strewn along Brittany’s southern coast (wear a windbreaker). Normandy’s time-travel masterpiece is the Bayeux tapestry but it’s the heart-wrenching D-Day beaches and WWII war cemeteries nearby that will really take you back to a moment in history.

French Alps

The French Alps is one massive outdoor playground, which pumps during the ski season (December to April) when insanely challenging slopes and trails entice adrenalin junkies from everywhere. Europe’s highest peak, Mont Blanc, prevails and party town Chamonix is the place to get up close to its might and majesty - the mountain panorama from the top of the Aiguille du Midi cable car is the best there is, whatever the season. If small and chic is more your style then strap on the skis in Megeve or St-Gervais. To let rip after dark over hardcore après-ski head to Val d’Isere or Meribel and Courchevel in Les Trois Vallees.

WHAT TO PACK

- Walking shoes
- French phrasebook
- Lonely Planet’s Paris City Guides App
- Adaptor for France’s two-pin plugs
- Raincoat and umbrella (particularly for Paris and northern climes)
- Sunscreen and mosquito repellent (particularly for southern France)
- Detailed road map and/or GPS device

ESSENTIAL PHRASES

- Hello: Bonjour
- Good Afternoon: Bon apres-midi
- Good Evening: Bonne soiree
- Goodbye: Au revoir
- Please: S’il vous plait
- Thank you: Merci
- Do you speak English?: Parlez-vous anglais?
- I am lost!: Je suis perdu!
- Please can I reserve a table for two/four people: Je voudrais reserver une table pour deux/quatre personnes s’il vous plait. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Sink your toes into the sand as you make your way out to the magical abbey of Mont St-Michel.



The sun sets over Brianaon in the French Alps.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

In the workplace today, you perform successfully, as you exhibit your ability to get past the surface of things and separate the thing that has real worth. Your presence in a group situation has a decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. A sense of community and unity permeates your family life. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. You are creative when it comes to partnerships or lovers; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships. You may find that a love relationship will deepen during this time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This day is one of those amazing days when everything works together. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities prevail and you may find yourself deciding that it is time to write a book. You certainly have enough material to write on any one of your favorite subjects. There may be some question in your mind about needing a change in your position at work. Check out the inner-office openings and you will be able to move into a place that gives you some challenges. You may decide to do some special cooking this evening, and if you have your windows open, you may find some uninvited guests are willing to taste your experimental recipe. Everybody has fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are always interested in being of help to others. You enjoy teaching or helping young people use their creative mind with their use of words. Your sense of humor is not missing from your communications today. There are many practical ideas available to you, especially related to your job or skills. Careful, a customer may tell you a sad story to get a special deal. You appreciate, care and are concerned but not much can fool you. This afternoon you may enjoy a community project. Perhaps you and your family will help to contribute towards the beautification of your neighborhood. If everyone participates, the value of property could increase. You are constantly on the side of humanism at every turn.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be most persuasive with others and expressive in speech and communication. You are a natural for self-expression and others enjoy listening to your particular ideas and thoughts. The initiative is yours and you will find positive end results develop from your enthusiasm to achieve. This is a day to dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Your career could open up by taking the road less traveled or by daring to be more involved in the development of business: new approaches. You are inspired to motivate others with your creative and inventive ways. What-if types of questions seem to be the keys that turn you into the wizard all enjoy having on their side.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself having a difference of opinion with others today. This, however, is the only way to introduce new ways of thinking among your particular business comrades. Make it a point to remove the emotions, and if you find others getting emotional, excuse yourself from the conversation. There will be other opportunities to expand upon some new idea. Given time, your ideas will gain recognition. Real insight into your own inner workings could surface now and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for penetrating conversation this evening. Perhaps a book or magazine on the latest electronic techniques would be mesmerizing. A friend you have not heard from in some time may give you a call. Old times are fun to review.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Throwing caution to the wind, you could ignore whatever responsibilities you have and pursue a particular objective today. You have animal-like instincts when it comes to big business and this is a good time to use those instincts. You are where the action is most intense. Your mind will get through the unimportant and straight to the bottom line. Some may even respect your tenacity and it is exciting to be near you. You may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions if you let yourself become distracted. If you have a co-worker friend that will join you in a project, you can keep each other focused; talk about staying focused before you begin. This afternoon you may enjoy some creative activity with some form of art, theater, sports, etc.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may uncover. You will be feeling successful and able to cope with whatever comes across your path. Good advice from a guide may be forthcoming. You are very fortunate in being able to grow and progress throughout your life without major difficulties. You can always find the resources you require at hand plus the necessary instruction in how to use them. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. You bring passion to your work. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas; this is a productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You would like to tell someone off at work today but you will benefit from just moving your thoughts to another place . . . Perhaps the next adventure you will take with the money you earn. You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others and your efforts today do not go unnoticed. You usually know just what to do. You may be moved to appreciate the beauty in your life and those around you. A sense of humor is one of the necessary ingredients to make a tough situation easier to handle. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now. You may feel like involving yourself in some sort of celebration this evening-a celebration of life. There are new insights regarding home life.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A rebellious streak could affect your career now-careful. Your sense of independence may tend to kick over the apple cart and upset everything. Your progress and success may be at the expense of your more unconventional tendencies-a source of struggle. You prefer a career that accents your own devotion to the dreams and ideals you stand for these days. Working with groups in a spirit of cooperation is a natural. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could come up with new solutions. There is an opportunity this evening to understand a difficult person; you listen and love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend towards mental pursuits and admire intelligence. You are very flexible and other-oriented today. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require. You are probably a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. You have a great deal of control over your actions. Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. You know just how to maneuver yourself into the right places; now is the time to get ahead.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Others may try to sway you from your project today. Allow for the interruptions and then you can return to your choice activity. You know that spring has sprung with all the beauty around you. A trip to the park with a sketchpad may allow you to bring a sample of spring into your own home. Give your charitable urges attention and find something that really gives you great joy to contribute your time and energies toward-at least once every two weeks. Today you may decide to join a therapeutic horsemanship group that aids handicapped people. You will find many rewards when you volunteer in surroundings that make you happy. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends. A new novel keeps you busy tonight.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antiga	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



00:45 Animal Cops Philadelphia
01:40 Wildest Europe
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
04:15 Life At Vet University
05:02 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
05:49 Wildest Europe
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Life At Vet University
08:15 Wildest Europe
09:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Life At Vet University
11:55 Animal Cops Philadelphia
12:50 Wildest Europe
13:45 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
14:40 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
17:25 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory
18:20 Wildest Africa
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Life At Vet University
21:05 Life On Earth: A New Prehistory
22:00 Wildest Africa
22:55 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
23:50 Untamed China With Nigel



00:20 Doctors
00:50 EastEnders
01:20 Holby City
02:15 Carters Get Rich
02:40 Mum
03:10 Uncle
03:35 Pramface
04:05 Doctors
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 Call The Midwife
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Doctors
07:25 EastEnders
07:55 Casualty
08:55 Father Brown
09:40 Father Brown
10:30 Doctors
11:05 EastEnders
11:35 Holby City
12:30 Father Brown
13:15 Father Brown
14:00 Father Brown
14:50 EastEnders
15:20 Doctors
15:50 Doctors
16:25 Doctors
16:55 Doctor Who: The Day Of The Doctor
18:15 Casualty
19:05 The Coroner
20:00 Orphan Black
20:45 Orphan Black
21:30 Benidorm
22:25 Carters Get Rich
22:50 Uncle
23:20 The Coroner



00:00 The First 48
01:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 The First 48
04:00 The First 48
05:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
06:00 Evil Up Close
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Gangs Of Britain...
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 It Takes A Killer
11:30 It Takes A Killer
12:00 It Takes A Killer
12:30 It Takes A Killer
13:00 It Takes A Killer
13:30 It Takes A Killer
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 Deadly Secrets: The Lost Children Of Dozier



00:05 Important Things With Demitri Martin
00:30 The Half Hour
00:55 Broad City
01:20 Chappelle's Show
02:10 Live At The Apollo
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:05 Bondi Ink.
05:55 Hungry Investors
06:50 Urban Tarzan
07:15 Tattoo Disasters
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Framework
09:20 Coaching Bad
10:10 Catch A Contractor
11:00 Lip Sync Battle
13:05 Disaster Date
13:30 Disaster Date
13:55 I Live With Models
14:20 The It Crowd
14:45 The It Crowd
15:10 Nathan For You
15:35 Nathan For You
16:00 The Jim Gaffigan Show
16:30 Impractical Jokers
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
18:59 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
19:46 The It Crowd
20:10 The It Crowd
20:33 Important Things With Demitri Martin
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 The President Show
22:00 Live At The Apollo
22:50 Kumail Nanjani: Beta Male
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah v



00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
01:20 Weather Top Tens
02:10 Storm Chasers
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 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 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
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 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:00 Now That's Funny
17:50 The Carbonaro Effect
18:15 The Carbonaro Effect
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 Now That's Funny
22:00 The Carbonaro Effect
22:25 The Carbonaro Effect
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:30 A Crime To Remember
01:20 Murder Comes To Town
02:10 The Detectives Club: New Orleans
03:00 Murder Calls
03:48 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 I Almost Got Away With It
10:20 The Locator
11:10 Love The Way You Lie

12:00 Southern Fried Homicide
15:20 The Locator
16:10 Killer Confessions
17:00 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
20:20 The Locator
20:45 The Locator
21:10 Florida's Craziest Crimes
22:00 Evil Lives Here
22:50 Evil Stepmothers
23:40 Is O.J. Innocent? The Missing Evidence



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 The Hive
05:50 The 7D
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
06:55 Lolirock
07:20 Elena Of Avalor
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Bizaardvark
09:00 Austin & Ally
09:25 Austin & Ally
09:50 Good Luck Charlie
10:15 Good Luck Charlie
10:40 Alex & Co.
11:05 Lolirock
11:30 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 Welcome To The Ronks
12:15 Hank Zipzer
12:40 Dog With A Blog
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Lolirock
14:50 The Zhuzhus S1
15:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
15:45 Elena Of Avalor
16:10 Liv And Maddie
16:35 Frenemies
18:10 Welcome To The Ronks
18:25 Alex & Co.
18:50 Best Friends Whenever
19:15 Star Darlings
19:20 Liv And Maddie
19:45 Mako Mermaids
20:10 Jessie
20:35 Crackle
20:40 Alex & Co.
21:05 Austin & Ally
21:30 Stuck In The Middle
21:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
22:00 Bunk'd
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Zou
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Zou
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Loopdidoo
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack

03:35 Loopdidoo
03:50 Calimero
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Zou
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Zou
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:25 PJ Masks
07:50 The Lion Guard
08:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:40 Doc McStuffins
09:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:35 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
09:40 A Goofy Fairy Tale
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
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Unbungalievable
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Disney Lights, Camera, Lexi!
16:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:50 PJ Masks
17:05 Doc McStuffins
17:35 The Lion Guard
18:05 PJ Masks
18:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
19:05 Sofia The First
19:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:05 The Lion Guard
20:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:00 Goldie & Bear
21:25 Doc McStuffins
21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:00 Sofia The First
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:55 PJ Masks
23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
23:35 The Hive
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:05 Ocean Warriors
01:50 How Do They Do It?
02:12 How Do They Do It?
02:35 Shark Vortex
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Mega Shippers
04:50 Gold Rush
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Blowing Up History
06:45 Strip The City
07:30 Ocean Warriors
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:00 How Do They Do It?
09:25 The Island With Bear Grylls
10:10 The Wheel: Survival Games
10:55 Castro: The World's Most Watched Man
11:40 Mega Trains
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Fast N' Loud
13:32 Sacred Steel Bikes
14:17 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
15:02 Shark-Croc Showdown
15:47 Return To The Isle Of Jaws
16:35 Sharks And The City: La
17:25 Sharks And The City: New York
18:20 Shark Vortex
19:15 Alien Sharks: Stranger Fins
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Sacred Steel Bikes
22:40 Phelps vs Shark: Great Gold vs Great White
23:30 Great Hammerhead Invasion



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
10:20 Kickin' It
10:45 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 The Suite Life On Deck
13:45 The Suite Life On Deck
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 The Suite Life On Deck
14:40 The Suite Life On Deck
15:05 Monsters, Inc
16:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:50 Disney11
17:15 Mech-X4
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gravity Falls
18:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
19:00 Supa Strikas
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:20 Mech-X4
20:45 Disney11
21:10 Walk The Prank
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



00:05 Famously Single
00:55 Famously Single
01:50 E! News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Botched
04:40 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
10:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
11:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:00 E! News
12:15 Rob & Chyna
13:10 Rob & Chyna
14:05 Rob & Chyna
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 E! News
23:15 Botched



00:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
00:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
01:00 Private Chef
01:30 Private Chef
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa
06:30 Barefoot Contessa
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman

13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Chopped Junior
20:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes
21:00 Reza's African Kitchen
21:30 Reza's African Kitchen
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 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 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets
04:20 Royal Stories
04:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
05:15 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
06:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
07:05 Royal Recipes
08:00 Kate's Wardrobe Secrets
09:00 Royal Stories
09:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
10:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
10:55 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:50 Royal Recipes
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:10 Royal Recipes
16:00 Inside Windsor Castle
16:55 Royal Stories
17:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
17:50 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 Royal Recipes
21:00 Inside Windsor Castle
21:55 Royal Stories
22:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Ancient Discoveries
01:00 History's Greatest Blunders
01:30 History's Greatest Blunders
02:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 What Really Happened
04:30 Serial Killer Earth
05:20 Ancient Discoveries
06:10 E! News
07:00 History's Greatest Blunders
07:30 History's Greatest Blunders
08:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 What Really Happened
11:00 The Universe
12:00 Ancient Discoveries
13:00 History's Greatest Blunders
13:30 History's Greatest Blunders
14:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 What Really Happened
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Ancient Discoveries
19:00 History's Greatest Blunders
19:30 History's Greatest Blunders
20:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 The Lost Evidence
23:00 Serial Killer Earth



00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
01:10 Lost Worlds
02:00 Ax Men
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Hunting Hitler
06:50 Time Team

07:40 American Pickers
08:30 Ronnie O'Sullivan's American Hustle
09:20 America's Greatest Prison Breaks
11:00 American Pickers
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Lost In Transmission
13:30 Pawn Stars
15:10 Detroit Steel
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
18:30 Car Hunters
18:55 Car Hunters
19:20 Counting Cars
19:45 Counting Cars
20:10 Mountain Men
21:00 Alcatraz: The Search For The Truth
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Football: A Brief History By Alfie Allen



00:15 Eat Street
00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Carnival Eats
01:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
02:35 Island Hunter
03:30 Street Food Around The World
03:55 Carnival Eats
04:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
05:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
06:15 Dog Whisperer
07:10 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
08:05 Island Hunter
09:00 Street Food Around The World
09:25 Carnival Eats
09:55 Confucius Was A Foodie
10:50 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
11:45 Dog Whisperer
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Carnival Eats
14:00 Carnival Eats
14:30 Street Food Around The World
14:55 Street Food Around The World
15:25 Confucius Was A Foodie
16:20 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
17:15 Dog Whisperer
18:10 Chasing Time
18:35 Chasing Time
19:05 Confucius Was A Foodie
20:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
21:00 Dog Whisperer
22:00 Chasing Time
22:25 Chasing Time
22:55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
23:50 Carnival Eats



00:10 Supercar Megabuild
01:00 Inside
02:00 Locked Up Abroad
03:00 World's Most Extreme
04:00 Supercar Megabuild
05:00 Yukon Gold
06:00 Science Of Stupid
06:30 Science Of Stupid
07:00 Scam City
08:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Border Wars
12:00 The Witch Doctor Will See You Now
13:00 Science Of Stupid Sports
13:30 Science Of Stupid Sports
14:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
15:00 Inside
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:00 Breakout: Through The Wall
18:00 Undercover USA
19:00 Primal Survivor
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
20:50 Breakout: Through The Wall
21:40 Undercover USA
22:30 Primal Survivor
23:20 Science Of Stupid Sports
23:45 Science Of Stupid Sports



00:20 Revenge Of The Lioness
01:10 Rescue Ink
02:00 Hyena Coast

02:50 The Monster Project
03:45 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
04:40 Prehistoric Predators
05:35 Hyena Coast
06:30 The Monster Project
07:25 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
08:20 Prehistoric Predators
09:15 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
10:10 Penguin Central
11:05 Hollywood Bear Tragedy
12:00 Journey Into Amazonia
12:55 Surviving The Serengeti
13:50 Tiger Man
14:45 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
15:40 Prehistoric Predators
16:35 Maneater Manhunt
17:30 Wild Dolphins
18:25 1000 Days For The Planet
19:20 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
20:10 Prehistoric Predators
21:00 Maneater Manhunt
21:50 Wild Dolphins
22:40 1000 Days For The Planet
23:30 Journey Into Amazonia



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 Rank The Prank
09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Legends Of The Hidden Temple
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
13:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
13:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
15:00 Jinxed
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Regal Academy
17:24 Winx Club
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
23:24 Game Shakers
23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



00:03 Max & Ruby
00:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 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
02:37 Paw Patrol
02:59 Little Charmers
03:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:23 Dora The Explorer
03:45 Max & Ruby

04:08 Nella The Princess Knight
04:31 Shimmer And Shine
04:54 Dora And Friends
05:16 Zack & Quack
05:27 The Day Henry Met
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:01 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
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:54 Nella The Princess Knight
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:22 Paw Patrol
09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:54 Team Umizoomi
11:17 Shimmer And Shine
11:40 Shimmer And Shine
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:47 The Day Henry Met
12:52 The Day Henry Met
12:58 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:20 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:43 Zack & Quack
14:04 Team Umizoomi
14:26 Olive The Ostrich
14:31 Olive The Ostrich
14:37 Paw Patrol
15:00 Little Charmers
15:12 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:23 Dora The Explorer
15:46 Max & Ruby
16:09 Nella The Princess Knight
16:32 Shimmer And Shine
16:54 Dora And Friends
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:27 The Day Henry Met
17:32 The Day Henry Met
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:12 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Zack & Quack
19:22 Bubble Guppies
19:45 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:07 Paw Patrol
20:30 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:15 The Day Henry Met
21:21 Paw Patrol
21:44 Rusty Rivets
21:56 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Zack & Quack
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:16 Shimmer And Shine
23:39 Shimmer And Shine



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 One Mississippi
01:30 One Mississippi
02:00 Better Things
02:25 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 American Housewife
06:05 The Mick
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 American Housewife
15:40 The Mick
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Seinfeld
17:30 Seinfeld

18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 Last Man Standing
19:30 Baby Daddy
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Seinfeld
21:30 Seinfeld
22:00 One Mississippi
22:30 One Mississippi
23:00 Better Things
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:40 Famous In Love
01:30 Beyond
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 Famous In Love
09:20 Supergirl
10:10 Once Upon A Time
11:00 Blindspot
11:45 The Night Shift
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 Time After Time
20:00 The Fosters
21:00 Secret City
22:00 Blindspot
23:00 Blood Drive
23:50 Grimm



00:00 REC 2
01:25 Terminator Genisys
03:35 Larceny
05:10 6 Ways To Sundown
07:05 In The Heart Of The Sea
09:10 Escape
10:40 Larceny
12:15 The Throwaways
13:55 In The Heart Of The Sea
16:00 Fantastic Four
17:45 The Transporter: Refueled
19:30 Die Hard
21:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation



00:55 Peter Pan Live!
03:15 A Little Game
04:50 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
06:30 Brother Bear
08:00 Peter Pan Live!
10:20 Toy Story
11:50 Ice Age 3: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
13:30 Gnomeo & Juliet
15:00 Toy Story 2
16:35 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
18:30 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
20:05 Because Of Winn Dixie
21:55 Gnomeo & Juliet
23:25 Toy Story 2



00:00 Beyond
01:00 Blindspot
01:50 Grimm
02:40 Famous In Love
03:30 Beyond
04:20 Blindspot
05:20 Supergirl
06:10 Once Upon A Time
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
09:45 The Chew
10:30 Famous In Love
11:20 Supergirl
12:10 Once Upon A Time
13:00 Blindspot
13:45 The Night Shift
14:30 The View
15:15 The Chew
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 Supergirl
20:00 Blindspot
21:00 Time After Time



01:05 Hot Pursuit
02:35 Daddy's Home
04:15 Valentine's Day
06:20 National Security
07:50 Daddy's Home
09:30 Valentine's Day
11:35 National Security
13:05 After The Ball
14:50 Fan Girl
16:25 A Thousand Words
18:00 Ride Along
19:45 Spanglish
22:00 Bad Words
23:35 Stay Hungry



01:30 Man In The Moon
03:15 A Birder's Guide To Everything
04:45 2001: A Space Odyssey
07:05 Boychoir
08:50 A Birder's Guide To Everything
10:20 Hoosiers
12:20 2001: A Space Odyssey
14:40 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold
16:30 Oliver's Deal
18:15 Paper Towns
20:05 Miller's Crossing
22:00 Lawrence Of Arabia



00:35 Two Buddies And A Badger
01:55 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
03:15 Get Squirrelly
04:40 Oops Noah Is Gone
06:10 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
07:20 Yugo & Lala 2
08:40 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
09:55 Pacific Pirates
11:15 Two Buddies And A Badger
12:30 Space Dogs 2: Adventure To The Moon
13:50 Egon And Donci
15:10 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
16:25 The Tigger Movie
17:45 Mune
19:15 Egon And Donci
20:35 Yugo & Lala 2
21:50 Pacific Pirates
23:10 The Tigger Movie



00:55 Swordfish
02:35 Pitch Perfect 2
04:35 The Horse Whisperer
07:35 Pitch Perfect 2
09:30 Goosebumps
11:20 The Chronicles Of Namia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
13:15 Twister
15:10 Enemy Of The State
17:25 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes
19:15 While You Were Sleeping
21:00 Seven Years In Tibet
23:20 Mystic River



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Food Factory USA
01:45 Food Factory USA
02:10 Mega Builders
03:00 Prototype This
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
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 Food Factory USA
11:02 Food Factory USA
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 Food Factory USA
15:50 Food Factory USA
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Mega Builders
17:50 Prototype This
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Mythbusters: The Search
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Builders
22:00 Mythbusters: The Search
22:50 Prototype This
23:40 Mythbusters



00:20 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
01:05 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
01:50 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
02:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Dare To Wear
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
06:45 Little People, Big World
07:30 Little People, Big World
08:15 Kate Plus 8
09:00 Say Yes To The Dress
09:25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
10:55 Love At First Swipe
13:10 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
13:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:40 Cake Boss
15:02 Cake Boss
15:25 Cake Boss
15:47 Cake Boss
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Cake Boss
17:25 Cake Boss
17:50 Suddenly Rich
18:50 Kate Plus 8
19:40 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress
21:00 Kate Plus 8
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 My Fat Saved My Life



00:30 European Rally Championship Highlights
01:30 WWE Smackdown
03:00 FIA World Rallycross Highlights
04:00 WWE Wal3ooha
04:30 Monster Jam
05:30 FIBA 3x3 World Cup
06:00 FIA World Rallycross Highlights
07:00 Summer X Games Highlights
08:00 Summer X Games Highlights
09:00 This Week In WWE
09:30 Summer X Games Highlights
10:30 WWE Wal3ooha
11:00 Monster Jam
12:00 WWE Bottom Line
13:00 WWE Afterburn
14:00 Summer X Games Highlights
15:00 WWE Wal3ooha
15:30 Arena Esports
16:00 Summer X Games Highlights
17:00 Summer X Games Highlights
18:00 Monster Jam
19:00 Summer X Games Highlights
20:00 WWE Experience
21:00 WWE Wal3ooha
21:30 Summer X Games Highlights
22:30 Summer X Games Highlights
23:30 FIBA 3x3 World Cup



01:00 UFC Main Event
02:00 Monster Energy FIM Speedway World Cup
03:00 Legends Football League
04:30 Boxing - Kal Yafai v Suguru Muranaka
05:30 Aquabike World Championship
06:00 Aquabike World Championship
06:30 UIM F1 H2O World Championship Highlights
07:00 FIM Speedway Grand Prix Highlights
08:00 UFC 214 Countdown
09:00 One Weekly
09:30 UFC Main Event

WORD SEARCH

Movie Actors 1

Find and circle all of the Movie Actors that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Jeremy Irons won an Oscar.

Y E N O O L C D R T E B A R D E M
F N V N I L A W R P H O E N I X E
O R A R E N A A S G S P A C E Y R
X A O M I E V A N O S B I G L O E
X N R E K O S I H M C K E L L E N
S W L U L C V O T N F B A C O N T
F S A T S A A T N M E N O M A D S
O B A H E S E J R U M L P P E D O
R L D W L N E E F L A D L O T O C
D A I C T B E L K B H U S Y H U S
R C C R A V E C L D T N E E G G E
T K A H E I A R O L A C N R I L G
N H P S A S N O G O T A O R O A D
A S R T U N W E U G S N J A V S I
R U I C Y E H G U A N O C C M N R
G R O E N A M K C A H P E S C I B

- BACON, Kevin

BARDEM, Javier

BLACK, Jack

BRIDGES, Jeff

CAINE, Michael

CARREY, Jim

CHAN, Jackie

CLOONEY, George

COSTNER, Kevin

CUSACK, John

DAMON, Matt

DANIELS, Jeff

DEPP, Johnny

DICAPRIO, Leonardo

DOUGLAS, Michael
- DUNCAN, Michael Clarke

FORD, Harrison

FOXX, Jamie

GIBSON, Mel

GOLDBLUM, Jeff

GRANT, Hugh

GYLLENHAAL, Jake

HACKMAN, Gene

HARTNETT, Josh

IRONS, Jeremy

JACKMAN, Hugh

JONES, James Earl

LAW, Jude

MCCONAGHEY, Matthew
- MCKELLEN, Ian

NEESON, Liam

PESCI, Joe

PHOENIX, Joaquin

REEVES, Keanu

RUSH, Geoffrey

RUSSELL, Kurt

SPACEY, Kevin

STATHAM, Jason

TRAVOLTA, John

VOIGHT, Jon

WAHLBERG, Mark

WEAVING, Hugo

WOOD, Elijah

CROSSWORD 1671

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15					16								17		
18				19		20							21		
22					23			24			25	26			
			27			28		29							
30	31	32						33				34		35	36
37				38			39			40	41			42	
43			44		45			46	47		48		49		
50				51			52			53			54		
55						56						57			
58			59		60			61			62				
		63							64						
65	66			67			68	69	70		71		72	73	74
75							76			77			78		
79				80		81							82		
83				84									85		

ACROSS

1. A state of agitated irritation.
5. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
12. Hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta.
15. (British) A recreational facility including a swimming pool for water sports.
16. Large Old World bat of warm and tropical regions that feeds on fruit.
17. The dialect of Chinese spoken in Canton and neighboring provinces and in Hong Kong and elsewhere outside China.
18. Sour or bitter in taste.
20. (architecture) Oldest and simplest of the three orders of classical Greek architecture.
21. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
22. United States psychologist noted for his work in child development (1880-1961).
24. Appear again.
27. The state of being decayed or destroyed.
29. Of or relating to or characteristic of India or the East Indies or their peoples or languages or cultures.
30. English playwright (1929-1994).
33. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
34. Fallow deer.
37. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
38. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
40. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
42. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
43. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
45. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
48. A telegram sent abroad.
50. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
52. A Hindu prince or king in India.
54. Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
55. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
58. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
59. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
61. Often cultivated for the decorative foliage.
64. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
65. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
67. An elaborate party (often outdoors).
71. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
75. An analgesic for mild pain.
76. Any of the threadlike filaments forming the mycelium of a fungus.
78. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
79. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
80. From 405 million to 425 million years ago.
82. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
83. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
84. A great raja.
85. A light touch or stroke.

DOWN

1. The scum formed by oxidation at the surface of molten metals.
2. Pleasant or pleasing or agreeable in nature or appearance.
3. In the Roman calendar.
4. A matador or one of the supporting team during a bull fight.
5. Before noon.
6. Having leadership guidance.
7. Gone by.
8. Scottish dramatist and novelist.
9. (psychology) Characterized by avoidance or withdrawal.
10. Covered with paving material.
11. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
12. Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
13. A communist state in the Caribbean on the island of Cuba.
14. A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion.
19. A promotional statement (as found on the dust jackets of books).
23. Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
25. The ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle.
26. A genus of Ploceidae.
28. The compass point that is one point east of northeast.
31. A rosid dicot genus that includes moon carrots.
32. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
35. Evil or harmful in nature or influence.
36. Apathy and inactivity in the practice of virtue (personified as one of the deadly sins).
39. A genus of Mustelidae.
41. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
44. (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
46. An unofficial association of people or groups.
47. Slightly open.
49. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
51. The doctrine that all violence is unjustifiable.
53. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
56. (Scotland) A slope or hillside.
57. A quantity of no importance.
60. Tropical African herbs.
62. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
63. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
66. An informal term for a father.
68. Any branch of Shinto other than Kokka.
69. (Norse mythology) God of war and strife and son of Odin.
70. The capital of Western Samoa.
72. (computer science) A data transmission rate (bits/second) for modems.
73. God of love and erotic desire.
74. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
77. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
81. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.

Yesterday's Solution

More 80's Songs

A	I	R	O	L	G	N	I	L	I	A	S	T	B	M	M	Y	T	L	I	U	G	
F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	L	Y	A	I	E	R	P	O	O	H	U	I	G	U	
N	E	P	O	M	O	K	O	K	I	E	P	R	C	O	U	S	N	D	S	O	S	T
E	H	H	I	N	A	A	T	I	E	R	P	O	O	H	U	I	G	U				
V	H	E	A	N	C	Y	S	H	D	M	O	A	E	P	A	T	E	M	E	O	S	
A	S	M	A	I	K	F	W	N	H	I	K	D	N	L	B	P	M	E	O	R	T	
E	U	T	R	I	H	U	I	V	T	C	S	W	E	M	A	A	S	E	E	N	F	
H	V	E	R	E	T	N	O	A	A	E	O	T	I	R	A	S	F	O	L	A	R	
S	M	O	D	A	W	B	C	U	N	D	R	E	N	A	B	S	F	O	L	A	R	
A	U	Y	L	O	E	A	R	D	S	A	N	L	G	I	A	I	E	R	L	T	R	
F	C	S	O	R	T	H	L	E	E	D	O	S	N	L	O	H	E	A	I	A		
A	T	A	S	I	U	E	O	H	A	R	S	L	M	L	B	N	T	H	C	E	C	
S	I	H	O	U	S	O	Y	W	I	K	C	T	T	C	H	E	S	T	E	N	S	
T	Y	N	E	S	D	R	Y	B	T	R	E	S	U	K	I	T	A	K	E			
C	N	A	L	L	G	I	G	B	U	A	F	R	I	C	A	N	R	T	I	E	C	
A	E	O	W	N	O	N	O	T	A	U	T	A	F	N	T	A	G	I	L	I		
R	V	U	U	L	O	O	K	S	U	O	I	R	O	T	O	N	F	A	M	E	T	O
E	E	H	E	S	A	I	K	O	U	R	H	O	U	S	E	M	D	L	O	H	V	
T	R	U	L	Y	N	S	G	N	O	L	E	B	E	W	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	

- AFRICA

ALWAYS

AMERICA

BEAT IT

BROKEN WINGS

CALL ME

CONTROL

CRUISIN'

DOWN UNDER

ENDLESS LOVE

FAITHFULLY

FAME

FAST CAR

FREEDOM
- GLORIA

GUILTY

HEARTBREAKER

HOLD ME

HUMAN

HUNGRY HEART

INFATUATION

KOKOMO

LA BAMBA

LET'S DANCE

MAGIC

MANIC MONDAY

MONY MONY
- NEVER

NOTORIOUS

OUR HOUSE

PASSION

PATIENCE

PINK HOUSES

PURPLE RAIN

ROCK ON

SAILING

SARA

SATISFIED

SHOUT

SONGBIRD

SUKIYAKI
- SUSSUDIO

THE FLAME

THE LOOK

THE ROSE

TIME

TOO SHY

TRUE

TRULY

TWO HEARTS

VACATION

VOICES CARRY

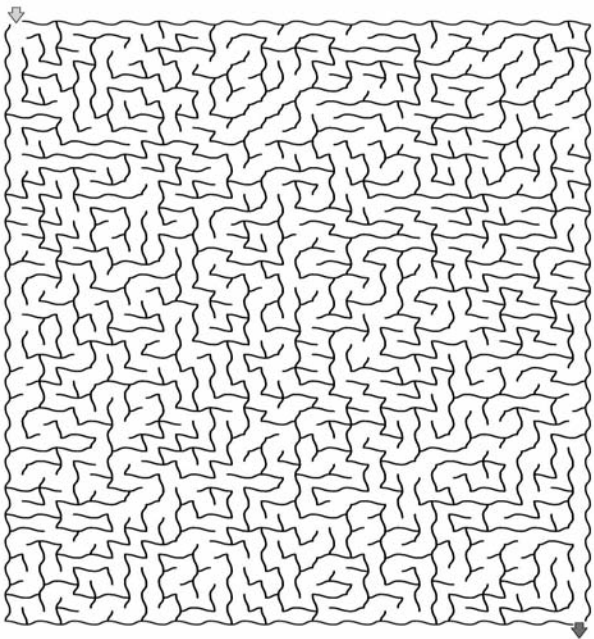
WE BELONG

WHIP IT

YOUR LOVE

The hidden song is: I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

ASTRONAUTS GEAR UP FOR SPACE WITH TOUGH RUSSIAN TRAINING

STAR CITY, Russia: Wearing helmets weighing 100 kilos, spinning in a centrifuge and exercising while weightless: Russian cosmonauts and astronauts from abroad have to undergo a grueling training process before blasting off into space. Helped by an instructor at the famed Star City outside Moscow, cosmonaut Sergei Ryazansky slowly puts on his helmet as he hangs from the ceiling suspended by a thick metal cord and practices opening a lock while wearing a thick spacesuit.

The 42-year-old cosmonaut is no novice. He has already spent five months aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in 2013 and 2014 and will return for another mission today, teamed up with US astronaut Randy Bresnik and Italian Paolo Nespoli. "In weightlessness, the weight of the helmet isn't felt. But the cosmonauts feel great pressure which makes them swell up and become very stiff. They have to make an enormous effort to walk, bend their arms or move their legs," said the instructor Dmitry Zubov.

Space walks are especially tough because they are often carried out weeks after astronauts arrive at the orbiting space laboratory when their muscles are already growing weaker due to lack of gravity. "I adore space walks. That's the most exciting part of the flight," said Ryazansky, who completed three space walks on his first space trip. Two space walks are planned for his next stint on the ISS.

Master emotions

"The most important thing for a cosmonaut is knowing how to master your emotions," said the deputy director of the cosmonaut training centre, Yuri Malenchenko, who himself has made six space voyages, the last landing in 2016. "When you train for a long time on Earth to go out into space, you feel like you don't have emotions any more. "But when the airlock opens and you look down before taking the first step into the void, you feel like you're going to plunge down," said Malenchenko, who has done stints both on Russia's ditched Mir station and the ISS, flying out on a US shuttle and a Russian Soyuz craft.

Two of the toughest exercises are the zero gravity simulation on nausea-inducing flights in Soviet-era planes and hurtling around in a giant centrifuge to prepare for the rigours of take-off from the Earth's surface. —AFP



CHICAGO: In this file photo, E-cigarettes appear on display at Vape store in Chicago. —AP

BLOWING SMOKE? E-CIGARETTES MIGHT HELP SMOKERS QUIT

NEW YORK: People who used e-cigarettes were more likely to kick the habit than those who didn't, a new study found. Nicotine patches, gums and medications are known to aid smoking cessation, but there's no consensus on whether vaping devices can help anti-smoking efforts. The US research is the largest look yet at electronic cigarette users and it found e-cigarettes played a role in helping people quit. "It's absolutely clear that e-cigarettes help smokers replace cigarettes," said Peter Hajek, director of the health and lifestyle research unit at Queen Mary University in London, who wasn't part of the study.

Smoking rates have been generally declining for decades. Health experts have credited taxes on tobacco products and anti-smoking ads for the drop. E-cigarettes have been sold in

the US since 2007. Most devices heat a liquid nicotine solution into vapor and were promoted to smokers as a less dangerous alternative since they don't contain all the chemicals, tar or odor of regular cigarettes. Researchers analyzed and compared data collected by the US Census from 2001 to 2015, including the number of adult e-cigarette users from the most recent survey.

About two-thirds of e-cigarette users tried to quit smoking compared to 40 percent of non-users, the study found. E-cigarette users were more likely to succeed in quitting for at least three months than non-users - 8 percent versus 5 percent. The research was published online Wednesday in the journal, BMJ. It was funded by the National Institutes of Health. The rate of people quitting smoking in the US has remained steady at about 4.5 percent for years. It jumped

to 5.6 percent in 2014-2015, representing about 350,000 fewer smokers. It was the first recorded rise in the smoking cessation rate in 15 years.

Reducing the harm

While national anti-smoking campaigns likely helped, the results show e-cigarette use also played an important role, said lead author Shu-Hong Zhu of the University of California, San Diego. Hajek, who wasn't part of the research, said vaping devices shouldn't be strictly regulated, but instead be allowed to compete directly with cigarettes. "That way, smokers can get what they want without killing themselves," he said. Earlier this month, a House panel renewed its efforts to prevent the Food and Drug Administration from requiring retroactive safety reviews of e-cigarettes already on the market. —AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199





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Kuwait CINEMA						KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (27/07/2017 TO 02/08/2017)					
SHARQIA-1			MARINA-1			AL-KOUT.2					
CARS 3		1:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		1:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		11:45 AM			
CARS 3		3:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		12:45 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		2:30 PM			
BANK AL HATH		5:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		3:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		5:15 PM			
BANK AL HATH		8:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		6:15 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		7:15 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		10:30 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		8:15 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		9:45 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		12:45 AM	ATOMIC BLONDE		10:30 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		12:05 AM			
SHARQIA-2			MARINA-2			AL-KOUT.3					
DUNKIRK		12:45 PM	CARS 3		12:00 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:30 AM			
DUNKIRK		3:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		2:15 PM	CARS 3		2:15 PM			
BABY DRIVER		5:15 PM	CARS 3		4:15 PM	CARS 3		4:30 PM			
DUNKIRK		7:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		6:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		6:45 PM			
BABY DRIVER		9:45 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		9:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		9:30 PM			
DUNKIRK		12:05 AM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		12:05 AM	BABY DRIVER		12:15 AM			
SHARQIA-3						AL-KOUT.4					
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3		1:35 PM	DUNKIRK		1:00 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		2:15 PM	DUNKIRK		1:15 PM	BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		1:30 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		4:15 PM	DUNKIRK		3:30 PM	FRI					
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		6:15 PM	DUNKIRK		5:45 PM	BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		3:30 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		9:00 PM	DUNKIRK		8:00 PM	BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		5:30 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:45 PM	BABY DRIVER		10:15 PM	BANK AL HATH		7:30 PM			
			BABY DRIVER		12:30 AM	BANK AL HATH		10:00 PM			
						BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		12:30 AM			
MUHALAB-1			AVENUES-1			BAIRAQ-1					
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		11:35 AM	DUNKIRK		11:30 AM	DUNKIRK		12:30 PM			
TISBAH ALA KHAIR		2:20 PM	BANK AL HATH		1:45 PM	CARS 3		2:45 PM			
GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		4:15 PM	BANK AL HATH		4:15 PM	CARS 3		5:00 PM			
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		4:45 PM	BANK AL HATH		6:45 PM	DUNKIRK		7:15 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		7:30 PM	BANK AL HATH		9:15 PM	DUNKIRK		9:30 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		9:45 PM	BANK AL HATH		11:45 PM	DUNKIRK		11:45 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		12:05 AM									
MUHALAB-2			AVENUES-2			BAIRAQ-2					
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:45 AM	DUNKIRK -2D-4DX		12:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		11:30 AM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		2:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3 -3D-4DX		2:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		1:30 PM			
CARS 3		4:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		4:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		3:30 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		6:45 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE -2D-4DX		7:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		6:15 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		9:30 PM	DUNKIRK -2D-4DX		9:45 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		8:15 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		12:15 AM	ATOMIC BLONDE -2D-4DX		12:05 AM	ATOMIC BLONDE		10:15 PM			
						ATOMIC BLONDE		12:30 AM			
MUHALAB-3			AVENUES-3			BAIRAQ-3					
DUNKIRK		11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3		1:35 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		1:00 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		1:45 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		1:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		1:45 PM			
DUNKIRK		3:45 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		3:30 PM	SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING		3:45 PM			
DUNKIRK		6:00 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		5:45 PM	MUBARAKAN -Hindi		6:30 PM			
DUNKIRK		8:15 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		8:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		9:30 PM			
BABY DRIVER		10:30 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		10:15 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:30 PM			
BABY DRIVER		12:45 AM	ATOMIC BLONDE		12:30 AM						
FANAR-1			360°- 1			PLAZA					
CARS 3		1:00 PM	DUNKIRK		12:00 PM	MUBARAKAN -Hindi		3:30 PM			
TISBAH ALA KHAIR		1:35 PM	DUNKIRK		2:15 PM	GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		3:30 PM			
FRI			DUNKIRK		4:30 PM	MUBARAKAN -Hindi		6:30 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		3:30 PM	DUNKIRK		6:45 PM	NO FRI+MON					
CARS 3		5:45 PM	DUNKIRK		9:15 PM	GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		9:30 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		8:00 PM	DUNKIRK		11:30 PM	MUBARAKAN -Hindi		9:30 PM			
ATOMIC BLONDE		10:15 PM									
ATOMIC BLONDE		12:30 AM									
FANAR-2			360°- 2			LAILA					
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3		11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3		3:45 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		2:15 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		1:35 PM	DUNKIRK		5:45 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		5:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		3:35 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		8:00 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		7:45 PM	KHAMMIS & JUMMA (Horoob Ejbary)		5:40 PM	ATOMIC BLONDE		10:45 PM			
WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		10:00 PM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		8:20 PM						
BABY DRIVER		12:45 AM	TISBAH ALA KHAIR		10:45 PM						
			TISBAH ALA KHAIR		12:45 AM						
						AJIAL.1					
						MUBARAKAN -Hindi		3:30 PM			
						MUBARAKAN -Hindi		6:30 PM			
						MUBARAKAN -Hindi		9:30 PM			
FANAR-3			360°- 3			AJIAL.2					
MUBARAKAN -Hindi		12:30 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		11:40 AM	TUBELIGHT (Hindi)		4:15 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		1:40 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		2:25 PM	NIBUNAN -Tamil		7:00 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		3:35 PM	WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES		5:10 PM	VIKRAM VEDHA - Tamil		10:00 PM			
MUBARAKAN -Hindi		5:30 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		7:55 PM						
BABY DRIVER		8:30 PM	LONDON HEIST		9:55 PM						
BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		10:45 PM	LONDON HEIST		11:55 PM						
BOYKA: UNDISPUTED		12:40 AM				AJIAL.3					
						SUNDAY HOLIDAY -Malayalam		3:35 PM			
						SUNDAY HOLIDAY -Malayalam		6:20 PM			
						SUNDAY HOLIDAY -Malayalam		9:20 PM			
						AJIAL.4					
FANAR-5			AL-KOUT.1			GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		3:45 PM			
BANK AL HATH		11:30 AM	DESPICABLE ME 3		11:30 AM	GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		6:45 PM			
DESPICABLE ME 3		2:00 PM	DESPICABLE ME 3		1:45 PM	GOUTHAM NANDA - Telugu		9:45 PM			
BABY DRIVER		4:15 PM	DUNKIRK		3:45 PM	FIDAA - Telugu		3:45 PM			
BANK AL HATH		6:30 PM	DUNKIRK		6:00 PM						
BANK AL HATH		9:00 PM	DUNKIRK		8:15 PM						
BANK AL HATH		11:30 PM	BABY DRIVER		10:30 PM						
			DUNKIRK		12:45 AM						

ACCOMMODATION

Separate furnished room available in a family flat for executive bachelor near Behbehani complex, opp Al-Hamra tower, Sharq. Contact: 55079989. (C 5331)

Separate room with attached bathroom available in a fami-

ly flat for a decent family near Behbehani complex, opp Al-Hamra tower, Sharq. Contact: 99775616. (C 5332)

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available from July 25, Contact 94418396 or 94033908 26-7-2017

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:

03:35

Shorook:

05:05

Duhr:

11:54

Asr:

15:30

Maghrib:

18:43

Isha:

20:10

EMERGENCY

112

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

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BRITAIN PAVES THE WAY FOR POST-BREXIT TRADE DEALS

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Hong Kong firm beats Brexit blues with record city skyscraper deal

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SINGAPORE: Staff collects merchandise for customers' orders from shelves at the newly-opened Amazon Prime Now facility in Singapore. —AP

AMAZON, FOXCONN REFLECT A GROWING TREND: DELIVER IT NOW

WASHINGTON: In today's economy, speed is everything. Amazon's plans to add 50,000 jobs at a dozen warehouses across the United States and Foxconn's decision to build a \$10 billion plant and hire up to 13,000 workers in Wisconsin aren't just feel-good stories of job creation. They reflect the pressures companies now feel to be as close to their customers as possible - a trend that's helping restore some American factories and jobs. Computer advances increasingly let manufacturers customize orders and ship goods faster.

In the new world, making products in far-away low-wage countries like China can be a disadvantage: It can take too long - weeks, months - to ship finished products to the United States. "This is about customer proximity," said Michael Mandel, chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute. "You develop a sustainable and durable advantage against overseas competition." Mandel said the growing trend would have emerged regardless of who occupied the White House. Still, President Donald Trump took the opportunity to take some credit Wednesday for the Foxconn announcement, saying it "definitely" happened because of his election and his pursuit of tax and regulatory cuts.

"This is a great day for American workers and manufacturing, and for everyone who

believes in the concept and the label, 'Made in the USA,'" Trump said. Amazon plans to make thousands of hiring offers in one day when it holds a job fair next week across the country. People offered jobs on the spot will pack or sort boxes and help ship them. Nearly 40,000 of the 50,000 jobs will be full time, and most will count toward Amazon's previously announced goal of adding 100,000 full-time workers by mid-2018. The move reflects Amazon's propulsive growth at a time when traditional retailers are closing stores and cutting jobs.

For Taiwan-based Foxconn, building a factory in Wisconsin brings it closer to US buyers of its liquid-crystal display panels, which are used in televisions, computer screens and automotive dashboards. Foxconn intends to hire 3,000 workers initially and eventually perhaps employ as many as 13,000. It could also receive up to \$3 billion in state incentives over 15 years. The company is best-known for assembling Apple iPhones in China, but its Wisconsin factory won't be building iPhones. For years, the United States has lost factory jobs as manufacturing moved to low-wage countries, especially China.

Army of unemployed

But America has been regaining some of its competitive edge. The Reshoring Initiative,

a nonprofit set up to restore American factory jobs, says that last year, for the first time in decades, the number of manufacturing jobs created by US companies that moved operations back to the United States and by foreign companies investing in America exceeded the jobs lost by US companies moving abroad. Wages, rents and property prices have risen in China, thereby reducing the Chinese cost advantage.

Machines increasingly do work once performed by people, which has reduced the importance of labor costs. And manufacturers more and more worry that supply chains that cross oceans can be disrupted by such unexpected shocks as earthquakes and other natural disasters, thereby delaying shipments to impatient buyers. Still, the United States will remain somewhat dependent on foreign factories for basic parts that go into finished products. Trump has asserted that new factories in the United States will reduce the trade deficit, which dampens economic growth.

But foreign-owned companies in the United States can easily widen the trade gap, according to analysis by Robert Scott, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank based in Washington. "These plants are always magnets for imports," Scott said. Scott estimates that roughly 40 percent of America's trade deficit

in goods of \$751.5 billion in 2014 came from the US subsidiaries of foreign companies. For Amazon, the more workers it employs and the more warehouses it operates, the faster it can deliver books, smartphones and sneakers directly to American households.

As Amazon and other online retailers supplant physical stores as the primary source for American shoppers, fewer and fewer of the employees who stand between customers and their purchases are traditional cashiers and sales clerks. Rather, they're the people sorting boxes and driving forklifts in vast warehouses. Consider that over the past five years, jobs at US department stores have fallen nearly 12 percent. By contrast, jobs in warehouses have jumped 38 percent.

"We're in the middle of a really historic transformation of the job market right now," says Bernard Baumohl, chief economist at the Economic Outlook Group. "You have to broaden your view of what retail is these days." Still, Gary Burtless, an economist at the Brookings Institution, says Amazon may struggle to hire all those new workers: The US unemployment rate has already fallen to 4.4 percent, close to a 16-year low. "Amazon is going to have to work a little harder than it would have three years ago to fill 50,000 slots," he says. "There's not a reserve army of unemployed" to draw on anymore.—AP

TOTAL BARRELS AHEAD AS OIL PRICE RISE

PARIS: French oil company Total said yesterday underlying profits gushed higher in the second quarter thanks to a recovery in the price of oil, with the company also benefitting from increased output. The firm's measure of adjusted profits that excludes exceptional items climbed 14 percent from the same period last year to \$2.5 billion (\$2.1 billion euros). That beat the consensus forecast of analysts surveyed by financial data firm Factset, who were expecting on average \$2.3 billion in adjusted profits.

While crude prices have slid since the beginning of the year as OPEC and Russia struggle to implement an accord to limit output, they are still considerably higher than one year ago, helping oil firms earnings comparisons on an annual basis. Total said the average price of Brent crude, the main international oil contract, was up by 9 percent in the second quarter from the same period last year.

Moreover, Total was able to increase its output by 3 percent to 2.5 million barrels per day in oil equivalent thanks to new projects coming on line in Kazakhstan and Congo. It expects production to rise over 4 percent for the year as a whole "In a price environment that remains volatile, Total again delivered an excellent set of quarterly results," chief executive Patrick Pouyanne was quoted as saying in the company's earnings statement.

Total's efforts to improve its financial health over the past few years put the firm in a better position to deal with the uncertain market conditions where oil prices have remained low, he said. "...the Group has the flexibility to take advantage of the low-cost environment by being able to launch profitable projects and acquire resources under attractive conditions," said Pouyanne. Total shares were up 0.4 percent in midmorning trading while the CAC 40 index in Paris was up 0.1 percent overall.—AFP

TWITTER USER GROWTH STALLS, REVENUE DIPS

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter failed to boost its user base and saw a drop in revenues in the past quarter, the social network said yesterday, sending its shares tumbling in pre-market trade. The message platform, which has been struggling to keep pace in the fast-moving world of social media, reported a net loss of \$116 million in the second quarter, slightly wider than its \$107 million loss a year ago. More significantly, Twitter reported its base of monthly active users was unchanged at 328 million compared to the first three months of the year and up just five percent from a year earlier.

Twitter said revenues in the quarter slipped five percent from a year ago to \$574 million, and advertising revenue fell eight percent to \$489 million. Shares in Twitter sank more than nine percent to \$17.77 in pre-opening trade on Wall Street following the release. Twitter, which has never delivered a profit, said it is making progress on improving its product, in the expectation this will boost growth and help it move to profitability. "We have developed what we believe are steady, stable and sustainable engines of growth," Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey told a conference call. "Twitter is what's happening in the world and what people are talking about."

Dorsey said Twitter was focusing on the metric of "daily active users" rather than the more closely watched monthly figure, and said daily usage was up 12 percent, without offering a specific number. "We're strengthening our execution, which gives us confidence that our product improvements will continue to contribute to meaningful increases in daily active usage," he said in a statement.—AFP



PHILADELPHIA: This photo shows the Twitter app on a smartphone in Philadelphia.—AP



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo.—AP

ASIA MARKETS UP BUT DOLLAR STRUGGLERS AS US RATES FADE

HONG KONG: Major Asian markets gained yesterday but the dollar struggled after the previous day's losses when the Federal Reserve's tepid inflation outlook fuelled speculation it will hold off further US rate hikes this year. Regional traders tracked fresh Wall Street records on optimism about corporate earnings as a host of big names disclosed results. Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney all rose while Seoul was boosted by Samsung Electronics forecast-beating, record-breaking profits that were fuelled by sales of its new Galaxy S8 smartphone and memory chips.

The Federal Reserve held interest rates Wednesday and confirmed plans to begin winding in its massive bond holdings "relatively soon", as expected. But the central bank statement also noted that inflation continues to run below its two percent target, which traders took as a negative for the dollar and raised questions about any possible further rate hikes this year.

"Any chance of a September rate hike seems to have disappeared while the Fed's statement balance sheet reduction will begin 'relatively soon' could mean that too has been pushed out," said Greg McKenna, chief market strategist at CFD and FX provider AxiTrader. "The US dollar has come under intense pressure once again, rates eased a little, and stocks can focus on the continued earnings surprises." McKenna added there was little chance of a US dollar recovery in the near term.

Samsung record

The greenback fell sharply against its major peers following the Fed statement, with the euro climbing to its highest level in more than two years, although the US unit staged a modest recovery in late Asian trade. It remained

well off against higher-yielding currencies, with the Australian dollar spiking 1.4 percent and breaking 80 US cents for the first time since mid-2015. The greenback fell more than one percent against the New Zealand dollar and the South African rand.

On equity markets Tokyo closed 0.2 percent higher, Hong Kong was up 0.8 percent in afternoon trade and Seoul ended the day 0.4 percent up. Shanghai was up 0.1 percent and Sydney rose 0.2 percent. Samsung-the world's largest maker of mobile phones-said operating profit soared a forecast-beating 72.9 percent from the previous year to 14.07 trillion won. That puts in on course to

beat Apple, which consensus forecasts say will report a \$10.6 billion profit next week. However, the firm finished 0.1 percent off in Seoul.

Oil prices reversed early losses to extend a recent rally, with Brent above \$50 and US benchmark West Texas Intermediate at eight-week highs above \$48. Analysts said the bullish trend is expected to continue after the US Energy Information Administration said Wednesday commercial crude inventories fell 7.2 million barrels in the week to July 21. In early European trade London added 0.1 percent, Paris gained 0.5 percent and Frankfurt dipped 0.2 percent.—AFP

ROYAL DUTCH SHELL NET PROFIT JUMPS

LONDON: Royal Dutch Shell yesterday said net profit grew 31.5 percent to \$1.545 billion (1.316 billion euros) in the second quarter from a year earlier, boosted by higher oil prices. "Shell's strong results this quarter show that we are reshaping the company following the integration of BG," chief executive Ben van Beurden said in an earnings statement in reference to the Anglo-Dutch company's purchase of British peer BG Group in 2016. "Cash generation has been resilient over four consecutive quarters, at an average oil price of just under \$50 per barrel," he said.

Revenue jumped 23 percent to \$72.1 billion in the reporting period, with Shell aided also by the sale of non-core assets. Profit on a current cost-of-supplies basis-which strips out changes to the value of its oil

and gas inventories-more than trebled to \$3.6 billion. Van Beurden added that Shell would continue to focus on cost controls. The second quarter result was meanwhile skewed by performance a year earlier, when Shell was hit by low crude prices and costs linked to its takeover of BG Group.

Shell is in the process of selling off assets worth £30 billion over two years up to 2018 — and has since offloaded about two-thirds the amount. It plans to make investments of \$25 billion this year, down on 2016 when Shell bought BG for £47 billion in a move intended to strengthen its position in the liquefied natural gas market. In morning trade, Shell's shares were up about 1.0 percent on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was flat overall.—AFP

ETIHAD AIRWAYS LOSES \$1.87 BILLION IN 2016

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways said yesterday it posted a \$1.87 billion loss last year, hit by "one-off" impairments on aircraft and investments in troubled Alitalia and airberlin. The government-owned carrier said total impairments amounted to \$1.9 billion, including a \$1.06 billion "charge on aircraft, reflecting lower market values and the early phase out of certain aircraft types." "There was also an \$808 million charge on certain assets and financial exposures to equity partners, mainly related to Alitalia and airberlin," the company said.

Old fuel-hedging contracts also hurt the carrier's results, Etihad said, adding that their financial impact is expected to diminish this year. "A culmination of factors contributed to the disappointing results for 2016," said Mohamed al-Mazrouei, chairman of the board of Etihad Aviation group. Launched in 2003, Etihad has expanded rapidly and bought minority stakes in carriers around the world as it increased its share of global travel along with larger Gulf rivals Emirates and Qatar Airways.

Etihad owns 49 percent of Alitalia,

29 percent of airberlin, 40 percent of Air Seychelles, 19.9 percent of Virgin Australia and a 24-percent stake in India's Jet Airways. It also has a 49-percent share of Air Serbia. Alitalia went into administration in May after staff rejected job and salary cuts which management had proposed as a condition for injecting new funds under a two-billion-euro rescue plan for the loss-making Italian carrier. Meanwhile, losses incurred by the German carrier airberlin over the past two years amounted to 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion).

Etihad said its total revenues dropped from \$9.0 billion in 2015 to \$8.36 billion, while passenger numbers increased from 17.6 million to 18.5 million. "We are in an industry characterized by overcapacity, declining market sizes on key routes, and changing customer behaviour as a weak global economy affects spending appetite," said Etihad Airways chief executive Peter Baumgartner. In 2015, Etihad had posted a 41-percent surge in its net profit, to \$103 million, on the back of rising passenger num-



ABU DHABI: In this file photo, an Etihad Airways plane prepares to land at the Abu Dhabi airport in the United Arab Emirates. —AP

bers and cargo volumes.

But in December last year, Etihad said it had begun cutting jobs in a restructuring process to reduce costs due to tough competition and a weaker global economy. James Hogan stepped down from his post as the

group's chief executive officer this year after leading Etihad for more than a decade. Oil-exporting Gulf countries have felt the economic pinch as their revenues nosedived after crude price tumbled from above \$100 a barrel in early 2014. —AFP

TESLA TO VEER FROM HIGH-END IMAGE WITH 'MODEL 3'

SAN FRANCISCO: Customers will finally get behind the wheels of Model 3 cars today as Tesla tries to veer from its high-end image with a more affordable electric car. Tesla founder and boss Elon Musk planned to mark the occasion with a ceremony at the company's plant in the city of Fremont near San Francisco. An initial batch of 30 Model 3 cars was expected to go mainly to Tesla employees. Production of the electric car aimed at the broader market with a price of \$35,000 — will ramp up quickly, Musk said, with 100 in August and 1,500 or more in September.

Tesla aims to produce 5,000 units of the Model 3 a week this year, and 10,000 units a week in 2018. The mid-range model is a crucial piece of Musk's ambitions to transform Tesla into a large-scale vehicle manufacturer. It will allow the firm, started in 2003, to produce about 500,000 vehicles in 2018 and a million by 2020. California-based Tesla currently sells only two luxury models of its electric vehicles: the "Model S" sedan and the "Model X" SUV whose base price starts at around \$80,000. It produced only 84,000 cars in 2016.

The Model 3 sparked such strong demand that customers placing orders now are told they can expect delivery sometime in mid-2018. The rush of pre-orders allowed Tesla to recently become the biggest US car company in terms of market capitalization, despite the fact that General Motors (GM) and Ford produce millions of cars per year and Tesla has yet to make a profit.

Musk, who also runs cosmic transport firm SpaceX and tunnel drilling enterprise The Boring Company, wrote in Tesla's early years that the strategy was to enter the car market at the high-end, then push prices down and volume up with subsequent models. Combined sales of Model S and Model X vehicles in the first half of this year were estimated to tally from 47,000 to 50,000. By comparison, Germany-based Volkswagen and Toyota in Japan Toyota each sell more than 10 million cars per year.

Smaller and simpler

Success with the Model 3 could ease concerns about the ability of Tesla to grow significantly. Designed to be smaller, simpler, and easier to assemble than its big sisters, the Model 3 is also priced to compete in the heart of the auto market. The Model 3 offers fewer options than its predecessors, but is infused with the same self-driving technology. The Model 3 battery was designed to keep it going for "at least 215 miles" before needing to be recharged, according to Tesla. The battery in the most powerful Tesla model delivers almost 600 km per charge, the company said. —AFP

BRITAIN PAVES THE WAY FOR POST-BREXIT TRADE DEALS

ALL DEALS ON HALT UNTIL EU DEPARTS

LONDON: Britain is busily laying the groundwork for post-Brexit trade with a flurry of international diplomacy-but can only tentatively explore options until it officially departs the European Union. Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May's government has stepped up talks in recent months with the United States, Japan and Commonwealth countries, seeking to carve out ambitious accords for the post-Brexit era.

US President Donald Trump this week touted the prospects of a "very big" trade pact with Britain, raising eyebrows in Brussels-where Brexit talks have barely got off the ground after starting last month. His surprise words came as British trade minister Liam Fox met his US counterpart Robert Lighthizer for top-level talks, before heading to Mexico. The United States is Britain's largest national export market-bigger than France and Germany combined-and the number one destination for British investment. Foreign Minister Boris Johnson was meanwhile on a globe-trotting tour of the southern hemisphere, stopping off last week in Australia and New Zealand, having already drummed up business in Japan. Johnson, a leading campaigner for Britain to quit the European Union prior to the June 2016 shock Brexit referendum, declared New Zealand could expect to be one of the first nations to ink a trade deal with London.

Brexit signal

Jim Rollo, law professor at the University of Sussex, said the government was eager to show progress in trade talks because of domestic party politics. "They need, for internal Conservative Party management reasons, to signal that Brexit is happening



SYDNEY: Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (L), Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (2nd L), Australia's Defense Minister Marise Payne (2nd R) and Britain's Defence Minister Michael Fallon, right, attend a press conference in Sydney. —AFP

despite the lack of progress so far in Brussels," Rollo said. "The UK cannot legally sign new trade agreements until it leaves the EU and thus the EU common commercial policy." EU rules prohibit Britain from negotiating new trade deals until it has left the bloc-which is scheduled for March 2019.

The European Commission wants to resolve crucial issues, including citizens' rights and Britain's exit bill, so that a future trade deal can be hammered out starting in October with the bloc's remaining 27 nations. "There will be no substantive progress on trade agreements until we leave and perhaps even later depending on target countries' own intentions to sign an

agreement with the EU 27 — an economy more than five times bigger than the UK," Rollo said.

He stressed that Australia and New Zealand both wanted to ink deals with the European Union first-before entering an agreement with Britain. Crawford Falconer, formerly New Zealand's trade ambassador, was recently appointed as Britain's new chief trade negotiation adviser. Britain is keen to maintain its global place as a major commercial power in the world economy. International trade to and from Britain is worth an estimated £700 billion (\$912 billion, 783 billion euros) — and around half of that is with the EU. —AFP

DIAGEO PROFIT, SHARES FIZZ HIGHER

LONDON: Diageo, the British maker of alcoholic drinks including Guinness stout, said yesterday that annual profits soared more than a fifth, aided partly by the pound weakening on Brexit uncertainty. And its share price rallied to stand up about seven-percent higher in London afternoon deals as it unveiled a £1.5-billion (\$2.0-billion, 1.7-billion-euro) stock buy-back. Profit after tax climbed 21 percent to £2.7 billion in the group's financial year to the end of June, compared with 2015/2016, Diageo announced in a results statement.

Sales rose 15 percent to £12.1 billion, helped by favorable exchange rate moves. Despite benefitting from the weak pound, the group did highlight uncertainty surrounding Brexit-with Britain's EU departure set for March 2019 — as a key risk to the outlook. "We delivered a strong set of results," chief executive Ivan Menezes said in the earnings release.

"Our performance demonstrates the effective delivery of our strategy. We have delivered consistent strong performance improvement across all regions and I am pleased with progress in our focus areas of

US spirits, scotch and India." Last month, the London-listed drinks giant snapped up Casamigos, an upscale tequila brand co-founded by Hollywood star George Clooney, in a deal potentially worth \$1 billion. Casamigos is the fastest-growing so-called "super-premium" tequila brand in the United States, according to the company. At about 1145 GMT, shares in Diageo were up 7.0 percent at £24.32, topping London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was up 0.1 percent at 7,446.92 points. —AFP

HONG KONG FIRM BEATS BREXIT BLUES WITH RECORD CITY SKYCRAPER DEAL DROP IN POUND VALUE BOOSTS PROPERTY MARKET

LONDON: A Hong Kong firm struck a record deal for a London skyscraper yesterday amid a rise in foreign investment in property since the Brexit vote, but a slump in domestic demand hit the profits of real estate agent Foxtons. Condiment-maker Lee Kum Kee, a family business that is best



LONDON: This file photo shows a view of the new 'Walkie Talkie' tower in central London. —AFP

known for its oyster sauce, is buying up the building nicknamed the "Walkie Talkie" for £1.3 billion (1.5 billion euros, \$1.7 billion), the highest price ever for an office building in Britain. The iconic 34-storey skyscraper in London's insurance district, with three-tiered sky garden and restaurant on top, hit the headlines just after being built when it was blamed for damaging a car by reflecting the sun's rays.

"This is the UK's largest ever office deal," Cushman & Wakefield, a commercial property giant which advised on the deal, said in a statement. "Since the vote to leave the EU, capital targeting London from the Asia-Pacific region has increased to record levels," said James Beckham, head of London capital markets at the property company. "This is partly due to currency fluctuations but is more indicated of longer-term confidence in London and investment strategies which are not derailed by short-term political uncertainty," he said.

The deal comes months after Chinese property magnate Cheung Chung Kiu bought another London landmark—the "Cheesegrater" building—for £1.15 billion. The previous highest price for a single piece of British commercial property was the HSBC tower in Canary Wharf which was bought by the Qatar Investment Authority in December 2014 for £1.175 billion. The value of the pound dropped sharply against the euro and the dollar following Britain's vote last year to leave the European Union, making foreign investment into Britain more attractive.

While that has boosted some parts of the property market, sales have slowed down overall because many Britons have been hit by the inflationary pressures caused by the increase in the price of imports. London estate agent Foxtons said it had fallen victim to the lower demand yesterday as it reported a 64-percent drop in pre-tax profits for the first six months of the year from the same period last year.

Profits fell to £3.8 million from £10.5 million.

Foxtons boss Nic Budden said in a statement that the company's performance "has been further impacted by unprecedented economic and political uncertainty". The Foxtons announcement was the latest sign of a cooling in Britain's property market as what happens in London tends to have a knock-on effect around the country. Banks approved the lowest number of new home mortgages for nine months in June, according to data released this week by trade association UK Finance. Official data earlier this month meanwhile showed that house price growth is slowing, at 4.7 percent in the 12 months to May. —AFP

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS' RECORD EARNINGS SEE IT OVERTAKE APPLE

SEOUL: South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics posted record-breaking earnings yesterday, putting it on course to better rival Apple's quarterly profits as it seeks to move past a bribery scandal and a damaging recall debacle. The firm said huge sales of its new Galaxy S8 smartphone and demand for its memory chips were behind the jump in April-June and predicted another blockbuster report for the current quarter to September.

It said operating profit soared a forecast-beating 72.9 percent from the previous year to 14.07 trillion won (\$12.6 billion), compared with consensus forecasts of \$10.6 billion for US titan Apple, which is due to report next week. However, Greg Roh, an analyst at HMC Investment Securities, said: "Samsung has surpassed its rivals for now but Apple usually sees little fluctuation in its profits whereas Samsung's profits fluctuate largely on memory chip prices." Apple is expected to outstrip Samsung in full-year results.

The world's top maker of smartphones and memory chips also said net profit surged almost 90 percent to 11.05 trillion won, its best quarterly result in five years. Samsung shares ended down 0.08 percent in Seoul. "The S8 has indeed helped get Samsung back onto its feet, hopefully putting the Note7 debacle behind it," Bryan Ma, a technology industry analyst at IDC, said before the announcement. "But we also have to keep in mind that a lot of Samsung's momentum is from memory and displays too, so it's not all about the S8, either," he said, according to Bloomberg News.

Reputation

Samsung has been trying to overcome an embarrassing recall last year of its flagship Galaxy Note 7 smartphone over exploding batteries, which cost it billions of dollars and dealt a blow to its reputation. It has also been buffeted by a scandal that has seen vice-chairman and heir Lee Jae-Yong charged in connection with the sprawling corruption scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-Hye. The semiconductor business raked in 8.03 trillion won in operating profit in the second quarter, up 204 percent from the previous year. —AFP



SEOUL: In this file photo, employees walk by the Seoul office of Samsung Electronics Co. in Seoul, South Korea. —AP

TELEFONICA LOGS HIGHER PROFITS

MADRID: Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica posted yesterday an 18.4 percent increase in net profit in the second quarter and lifted its revenue target for 2017. The heavily indebted company said its net profit in the April-June period was 821 million euros (\$957 million), up from 693 million euros a year earlier but below the figure of 835 million euros predicted by analysts polled by financial data company Factset.

Revenues increased by 1.9 percent in

the second quarter over the same year-ago period to 12.96 billion euros, boosted by stronger mobile data revenues and higher handset sales, Telefonica said in a statement. The company said it now expects revenues to grow by over 1.5 percent this year. It had previously guided for "stable" revenue growth in 2017.

"The strength and better business trends in the first half of the year, as well as being well-positioned to continue capturing sustainable growth in the

coming quarters, allow us to upgrade our guidance for 2017," Telefonica executive chairman Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete said in a statement. The company reduced its net debt by 0.2 percent in the second quarter from the first quarter to 48.5 billion euros. Telefonica is present in 21 countries. Its main markets are Spain and Brazil but it is present in nearly all of Latin America as well as Germany and Britain. It has 127,000 employees. —AFP

DEMAND OVERSEAS KEEPS MUSTANG ON TOP DESPITE LOWER US SALES

DETROIT: On any given day this summer, you might find 97-year-old Lennart Ribbring driving his 2016 Ford Mustang GT on a winding road near his home in Sweden. Or you might see Chris Fitzpatrick polishing his 1967 Mustang convertible in Auckland, New Zealand. Guo Xin might be working on a Mustang in his car repair shop in Beijing, while in England, a happy bride and groom drive off in a Mustang GT California Special. More than 50 years after it was introduced, the world remains captivated by the Mustang. Ford will ship the quintessential American car to 140 countries in 2017.

"It has a mass appeal," says John Heitmann, a history professor at the University of Dayton and the author of "The Automobile and American Life." "Cars, historically, have been so closely tied to status and class, but the Mustang transcends so many different class distinctions." Ford's growling pony car became the best-selling sports car in the world last year, with more than 150,000 sold, according to IHS Markit. Mustang sales are slipping in the US, where overall sales are softening.

US Mustang sales fell 13 percent last year, and they're down 29 percent so far this year. But rising sales elsewhere could help the Mustang retain the global crown. Mustang sales were up 40 percent in the first half of this year in China, where Guo owns three of them, including a 2005 GT convertible. The former race car driver finds Mustangs tougher and more fun to drive than European or Japanese sports cars. The Mustang beat out two sleeker European rivals, the BMW 4 Series and the Porsche 911, to become No. 1.

"I like what is simple and rough in a Mustang," says Guo, who leads the Mustang Club of China, with more than 3,000 members. The car's largest fan club, the Mustang Club of America, has around 12,000 members. But there are hundreds of smaller ones. The Icelandic Mustang Club boasts 200 members. Fans have been importing individual Detroit-built Mustangs for decades, but Ford recently put in the engineering muscle to ensure that the cars could be sold in dealerships around in the world. The sixth-generation Mustang, released in 2015, is the first that comes in both right-hand and left-hand drive versions.

Global icon

Its air conditioning system was built to withstand blowing sand in the Middle East, while its front end conforms to European pedestrian-safety regulations. New markets for the Mustang this year include Brazil, Ivory Coast and Palau. Ford's global push makes the Mustang more accessible to longtime fans like Fitzpatrick. When he was a teenager in New Zealand, American-made cars were expensive status symbols. To him, American cars meant muscle. European sports cars were smaller and less aggressive. "I always think of touring and power when I think of Mustang," says Fitzpatrick, who now owns two classic Mustangs.

Heitmann, the history professor, says the Mustang is one of the few cars that is appealing - and affordable - to nearly everyone. A base model with a V6 engine starts at \$25,000. Aficionados will pay more than double that for a Shelby GT350 version with a V8. Heitmann, 69, has owned two Mustangs in his lifetime, and has his eye on the 2018 model. "It's democratic. A working-class person can drive this car to the plant, and a banker can drive it to the office. You can't do that with a Mercedes," he says.—AP



BEIJING: In this photo, Guo Xin sits on a toy Mustang as he poses with his 1966 MT GT Fastback, left, and 2005 GT convertible at his garage in Beijing.—AP



TOKYO: Young boys look at vehicles of Japan's automaker Nissan Motor at a showroom in Yokohama, suburb of Tokyo.—AFP

NISSAN SALES UP BUT PROFIT DIPS

TOKYO: Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co. says that despite strong overall sales its quarterly profit dipped in the last quarter, squeezed by rising costs and slowing growth in China. The company said yesterday that its April-June net profit was 134.9 billion yen (\$1.2 billion), down 1 percent from 136.4 billion yen the same period the year before. Quarterly sales climbed 4 percent to 2.76 trillion yen (\$24.8 billion).

Nissan, which makes the Leaf electric car, March subcompact and Infiniti luxury models, stuck to its full year forecast through March 2018, for 535 billion yen (\$4.8 billion) profit on 11.8 trillion yen (\$106 billion) sales. Yokohama-based Nissan sold 1.35 million vehicles in the quarter, up 5 percent on year. Vehicle sales rose in Japan, the US, China and Europe, it said. Tiny cars called "kei" vehicles sold briskly in Japan market, while strong demand for sport utility vehicles such as the Nissan Rogue helped perk up sales in the US.

Although Nissan's sales in China in the latest quarter exceeded those in the previous year, the momentum of growth was tapering off, the company said. Nissan Corporate Vice President Joji Tagawa told reporters results were likely to pick up in coming months, as new and revamped models are launched, including the remodeled Leaf electric car, which he said will help maintain Nissan's leadership in electric vehicles. He said Nissan hopes to lead in self-driving technology and is on track to deliver by next year vehicles that can autonomously carry out lane-changes on highways.

The rising cost of raw materials erased 19 billion yen (\$171 million) from Nissan's quarterly operating profit, while

an unfavorable foreign exchange rate eliminated another 2 billion yen (\$18 million), the company said. Nissan, which also makes Datsun brand cars, has acquired a 34 percent stake in Japanese rival Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Mitsubishi is the third member of Nissan's longtime alliance with Renault

SA of France. That alliance will have combined annual vehicle sales of 10 million vehicles, putting it on par with other industry giants such as Volkswagen AG of Germany, Japanese rival Toyota Motor Corp. and US automaker General Motors Co. Toyota and Honda Motor Co. report earnings next week.—AP

VOLKSWAGEN EARNINGS RISE IN STRONGER EUROPEAN ECONOMY

FRANKFURT: Volkswagen's profit more than doubled in the second quarter as the German carmaker benefited from a growing European economy and moved past one-time costs for its diesel emissions scandal in the US. After-tax profit rose to 3.2 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) from 1.2 billion in the same quarter a year earlier. Last year's result was burdened by 2.2 billion euros in costs from the diesel scandal. No such one-time charges were reported for this year's quarter. Despite the rise, the profit was short of the 3.3 billion euros foreseen by market analysts as compiled by financial information provider FactSet.

Sales for the group and all its brands, which include Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, Skoda, Bentley and Lamborghini, rose 4.7 percent to 59.7 billion euros. Chief Financial Officer Frank Witter said yesterday that the results were boosted by increased sales during the first half of the year "above all in Europe, and also in North and South America, which is

particularly encouraging." Witter said the strong earnings would enable the company to invest in new technologies and business models to cope with a rapidly changing industry.

Carmakers are investing heavily in developing battery-powered and self-driving cars as well as app-driven approaches to transportation that involve ordering rides using a smartphone but not necessarily owning a car. "These do not look like the results of a company that's under pressure," said analyst Max Warburton at the Sanford C. Bernstein research firm, who described the figures as "solid." For the first six months of the year, operating earnings at the core Volkswagen brand rose to 1.9 billion euros from 0.9 billion in the first half of 2016. The unit benefited from cost controls and a strong model mix with more profitable vehicles including the Jetta sedan and the Tiguan SUV.

The mass-market brand Skoda also did well, increasing its operating profit by 25 percent thanks to the new version of its Kodiaq SUV.—AP

MCÉVOY READY FOR 'DOGFIGHT' IN MEN'S 100M FREESTYLE FINAL

BUDAPEST: Cameron McEvoy expects a "very fast" men's 100m freestyle final at the world championships with a "dog-fight" on the cards and the blue riband event wide open. France's Mehdy Metella clocked the fastest time from Wednesday's semi-finals of 47.65 seconds, but all of the top five swam under 48 secs. With both Olympic gold medallist Kyle Chalmers and China's world champion Ning Zetao missing in Budapest, the 100m title is up for grabs. Australia's McEvoy, 23, the world silver medallist two years ago in Kazan, was fourth fastest at just 0.30 secs behind the Frenchman. United States sprinters Nathan Adrian and Caeleb Dressel, plus McEvoy and 18-year-old Jack Cartwright of Australia, joined Metella in going under the 48-seconds mark in the semis.

"The top five guys have all sneaked under 48 — usually you're lucky to get that in a final. Relative to 2015 only me and the winner went under that," said McEvoy. "It's exciting, it's all about soaking it up on the night, historically anyone can do it. "There's always at least someone unexpected who is in the top three. I think it's going to be very fast."

Britain's Duncan Scott clocked 48.10, just 0.48secs behind the Frenchman and has a chance of a medal. "Bring on the dogfight, there's going to be fast times all over the shop," said the 20-year-old Scotsman.

"It might take a personal best just to get a medal or even reach the top five." Ahead of the men's 200m individual medley final, Chase Kalisz of the USA was the fastest qualifier at 1:55.88 with Japan's Kosuke Hagino, the Olympic 400m individual medley champ, just behind.

His compatriot Daiya Seto, the 400m IM world champion was fifth fastest. "It felt good, I'm excited for the final," said Kalisz, the 400m IM silver medallist at last year's Olympics. China's Fu Yuanhui was second quickest into the women's 50m backstroke final behind Brazil's Etienne Medeiros, who clocked 27.18secs-just 0.12 short of the world-record.

Emily Seebohm, who won bronze when Canada's Kylie Masse broke the women's world record in the 100m backstroke final on Tuesday, and Australia team-mate Holly Barratt were joint fifth fastest as both swam 27.51. "I was really happy with that, it's pretty close to my best, but I know I did an average start again, so I'm looking forward to hopefully getting everything right," said Seebohm.

Germany's Franziska Hentke was the fastest into the women's 200m butterfly final after clocking 2:06.29, but China's Yilin Zhou was just 0.34 behind her. Following her 200m individual medley gold medal on Monday, home-crowd favourite Katinka Hosszu was the sixth fastest and says fatigue is not an issue despite having raced every day so far at these championships. "I don't feel exhausted really, I have some reserves left although I have swum quite a lot already. The final tomorrow will tell how much I can take," said Hungary's 'Iron Lady'. — AFP



BUDAPEST: Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Balandin competes in a men's 200m breaststroke heat during the swimming competition at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, yesterday. — AFP

SWIMMING

CAMPBELL BRACED FOR 'FIST-FIGHT' IN SEMI-FINALS

BUDAPEST: Defending champion Bronte Campbell is braced for a "fist-fight" in the 100m freestyle semi-finals after a flurry of fast times from top names in the heats. Just as in the men's race, the women's blue riband event is shaping up to be a fierce scrap in the pool at the world aquatic championships.

Sweden's Sarah Sjöström, who set a new world record of 51.71secs in Budapest on Sunday, was fastest in the morning heats, clocking 53.01secs. Australia's Campbell, the world gold medallist in the 50m and 100m freestyle in Kazan two years ago, was eighth fastest, but just 0.55 behind Sjöström.

"It's nice not to have to go at maximum speed, but tonight it's going to be a fist fight to get into the final," said Campbell. Sjöström, who won the 100m butterfly gold on Monday, was happy to be back competing "after two days off".

"I had the speed from the start, but there's no point in going for it, so I just kept the momentum up," she said. Simone Manuel of the United States and Canada's Penny Oleksiak, the joint Olympic gold

medallists from the Rio Olympics, were at 0.71 and 0.79 back respectively. Dutch sprinter Ranomi Kromowidjojo, the 2012 Olympic champion, was sixth fastest at 0.44, while Australia's Emma McKeon was at 0.46. McKeon, who has already won four silvers in the 200m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 4x100m freestyle and mixed 4x100m medley, is battling fatigue and her rivals.

"It felt quite comfortable, but that was my ninth race," said the 23-year-old. "I knew that this morning, it would be quite challenging to get myself going. "I was set a different warm up this morning and it helped to refresh my mind."

LARKIN'S CRUISE CONTROL

Defending champion Mitch Larkin of Australia squeezed into the men's 200m backstroke semis as 13th fastest at 1.89secs behind Ryan Murphy, the Olympic champion, the quickest who clocked 1.56.11.

Larkin said his slow time was all part of the plan. "I felt pretty groovy, I had a fair bit left in the last 50 metres and could have lifted it a little bit, but felt I was in a

good spot," he said. China's Xu Jiayu, who won the men's 100m backstroke gold on Tuesday in Budapest, was the fifth fastest at 0.81secs behind Murphy.

"It was good, I'm trying to move through these heats as easy as possible," said Murphy. Having set a new world record in the women's 100m breaststroke on Tuesday, 20-year-old Lilly King of the USA was second fastest into Thursday's semi-finals over 200m at 0.25 sec, behind Britain's Molly Renshaw, who clocked 2:24.03.

Australia's Taylor McKeown, the 2014 Commonwealth champion, was third fastest at 0.28. With breaststroke sensation Adam Peaty opting not to contest the 200m, Anton Chupkov of Russia was the fastest into Thursday's semis at 2:08.73 with Britain's Ross Murdoch at 0.75 back.

Germany's Marco Koch, the defending world champion, was 13th fastest at 2.17, while Olympic champion, Dmitriy Balandin of Kazakhstan was 10th quickest at 1.95. In the heat's for Thursday night's 4x200m freestyle final, China clocked the fastest time of 7:51.75 with Japan, the United States and Australia also safely through. — AFP

HAMILTON SEEKING SIXTH HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY

BUDAPEST: Lewis Hamilton would head off for Formula One's annual European summer holidays on top of the drivers' world championship with a record sixth victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix this weekend. The three-time world champion could also draw level with seven-time champion Michael Schumacher in the record books with his 68th pole position, if he produces another signature demonstration of one-lap pace for Mercedes in tomorrow's qualifying.

The 32-year-old Briton, one point behind leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari after 10 of

this year's 20 races, has already won a record five times at the tight, dusty, slow and technical Hungaroring circuit. After his supreme performance in dominating the British Grand Prix, Hamilton will arrive full of confidence, but mindful of the dangers of complacency, thanks to a timely reminder from Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas. The Finn, who has shown a liking for similarly demanding tracks this year, notably by winning the Russian Grand Prix at Sochi, has warned his team not to believe that their one-two at Silverstone signalled they had overhauled Ferrari.

"We can't get that kind of thing to our mind that we are quicker," said Bottas. "We don't want to do that. We want to be feeling on our back foot, we want to be able to improve the car and we know it is very track specific. "That's a fact because we've had quite high-speed circuits now the last two races. Baku was a special one, but the next race in Budapest is completely different."

"It's got very slow speed corners, really high temperatures, so we are not going to be too confident there. We know that we have still work to do and plenty of things we need

to improve on." Bottas's caution is well-placed as German Vettel and Ferrari are sure to launch a fightback and will be focused on preventing Hamilton and Mercedes securing any kind of advantage.

Vettel has led the championship since the season-opening Australian Grand Prix, but has not won in four outings since the Monaco event in May. A return to a slower and lower-grip track, in hot conditions, will encourage Ferrari to believe they may gain the initiative, but they know too that Bottas and Mercedes have been the top combination since Monaco.—AFP

WALLABIES SKIPPER MOORE PLANS INTERNATIONAL EXIT IN 2017

NEWCASTLE: Stephen Moore has announced he'll quit international rugby at the end of the year and has already handed the Wallabies captaincy over to Michael Hooper. The 34-year-old Australia hooker had a contract through to the 2019 World Cup in Japan but has decided to move into retirement in steps, starting with an end to international rugby after the Wallabies' tour to Europe in November and then finishing his Super Rugby career with the Queensland Reds in 2018.

With 120 internationals to his credit,

Moore is 10th on the list of most capped players in the game. "There's still plenty of footy to go this year but I know the Wallabies will be left in very strong hands if we continue to work hard and stay grounded," Moore said in a statement released by the Australian Rugby Union on Thursday. "Succession is a really important part of the leadership of any team and we've been working to that end for a number of years and having those discussions for some time."

Moore, a veteran of three World Cup

campaigns, was dropped to the reserves bench for two of Australia's three tests in June, with Tatafu Polota-Nau starting, but he remained leader of the Wallabies squad. Wallabies coach Michael Cheika said Moore had an important role in helping develop an inexperienced squad for the remainder of the season.

"This isn't a farewell right now - he's fully committed to getting the gold jersey back to the top this year," Cheika said. "His contribution to this current team cannot be understated. What he's achieved on the field

is no mean feat but it's his work off the field in his role as captain of Australia that has really impressed me.

"We now have to make sure we send him off in the best way possible this year." Australian rugby has been in decline since losing the 2015 World Cup final to New Zealand, and Cheika is making moves to regenerate the national squad after a disappointing June series. Australia's next major challenge is a Rugby Championship and Bledisloe Cup test against the world champion All Blacks on Aug. 19. — AP

PREVIEW

LIONS FINAL INCENTIVE TO TAME HURRICANES

SYDNEY: South Africa's Golden Lions must overcome defending champions Wellington Hurricanes on tomorrow if they are to host this year's Super Rugby decider in their first meeting with New Zealand opposition this season. The Lions will stay in Johannesburg if they win a rematch of last year's Wellington final and take on either the Canterbury Crusaders or fellow New Zealanders Waikato Chiefs.

The Crusaders, bidding for a record eight Super Rugby titles, have home advantage in tomorrow's other semi-final in Christchurch. The Lions, under outgoing coach Johan Ackermann, have won 15 of their 16 games and finished on top of this season's standings to claim home ground advantage at Ellis Park should they win through to the final.

It would be only the fourth time a Super Rugby final has been staged in South Africa since 1996. But the Hurricanes, expected to be strengthened by the return of dynamic All Blacks hooker Dane Coles, will be a tough nut to crack. Wellington were the last team to beat the Lions at home in Super Rugby, a spanking 50-17 win on April 30 last year.

"The Hurricanes are a team that play in your face," said Ackermann. "They like to put teams under pressure and they did that to us last year, so hopefully we'll handle that pressure better this time." Coles, widely regarded as the best hooker in the game, returned to action for the 'Canes in their quarter-final win against the Brumbies in Canberra last weekend coming off the bench.

He is expected to start in Johannesburg for the first time since March after being sidelined with concussion issues. A key match-up will be between the fly-halves, with the Hurricanes playmaker Beauden Barrett up against Elton Jantjes for the Lions.

JANTJES THREAT

"Elton has been consistently good this season. He just had a bad game last weekend (against the Sharks), which happens to all 10s," Hurricanes assistant John Plumtree said. "He didn't kick well against the Sharks last week but could easily knock everything over against us. I know Elton well and he would have worked hard during the week." The Crusaders have named an unchanged side for their clash with the Chiefs.

It is the third time in Super Rugby these two rivals have faced off in a semi-final, with the Chiefs winning on both previous occasions. Crusaders head coach Scott Robertson said it was a different time and different circumstances. "They used their home ground advantage on those occasions, but this time we have earned the chance to play in front of our own supporters and that means a lot to us," Robertson said.

"To see so many of our supporters still come out to the game last weekend in such miserable conditions was humbling, so that is even more motivation for the team to put on a performance to make the fans proud."

Chiefs coach Dave Rennie said he would much prefer to face the Hurricanes in the final in Wellington, rather than making another long trek to South Africa, should his team overcome the Crusaders. "Clearly, we'd prefer to go to Wellington because it means we get to go home," Rennie said.

"We've had success down there in the past, we know we're playing a really good side who's probably been the form team but we'll back ourselves." — AFP



Novak Djokovic

TENNIS

DJOKOVIC HOPES TO IMITATE TAKE-A-BREAK ROGER FEDERER

PARIS: Novak Djokovic announces he is shutting down his season to rest an elbow injury and will return in January 2018.

Same day of the year, similar injury-connected storyline-but identical outcome? Djokovic, struggling on and off for 18 months with a right elbow injury, and without adding to his 12 majors since completing the career Grand Slam at the 2016 French Open, announced Wednesday that he won't play again in 2017.

It will rule him out of the US Open where he has twice been champion and made six of the last seven finals as well as Serbia's Davis Cup semi-final against France. His absence from New York will be the first time he has missed a Slam since 2004, ending a run of 51 successive majors. When Federer skipped the 2016 French Open, it ended his majors streak at 65.

Djokovic, 30, will eventually see his world ranking slip to around the 15 mark-his first trip outside the top 10 since March 2007. Federer, five years his senior, was 17 in the world when he

won the Australian Open this year and is now back at three.

So there is plenty of encouragement there for Djokovic who will be a dangerous last-16 opponent for one of his top rivals at the 2018 Australian Open where he has won six titles. "My body has its limits, and I have to respect that and be grateful for all that I have achieved so far," said Djokovic, admitting that his on-court troubles are a brutal legacy of over-playing.

When Federer called time on his 2016 campaign, he had played just 28 matches. While he rested up, Andy Murray and Djokovic battled over three continents for the world number one spot. British star Murray ended the year having fought through 87 matches while Djokovic played 74 times.

In 2017, Federer has featured in just seven tournaments, winning the Australian Open, Indian Wells and Miami Masters, the Halle grass-court title and his record eighth Wimbledon.

His win loss-record for the year is currently 31-2. Federer also skipped the 10-

week clay-court season which culminated in Rafael Nadal strolling to a 10th Roland Garros title. Murray, whose Wimbledon title defence ended in a quarter-final loss to Sam Querrey, has taken part in 11 events this year with a win-loss ratio of 25-10.

The world number one is also carrying a hip injury which could yet see him also sit out the US Open. Djokovic has slugged through 12 tournaments, including two trips to the Davis Cup. He has 32 wins on the season and eight losses.

Federer, who may play just one warm-up event before the US Open which he has won five times, believes his 2016 sabbatical has helped extend his career despite his 36th birthday fast approaching on August 8. But he doesn't advocate lengthy breaks for all players.

"Some players just need to play. They need to play every other day, otherwise they feel like they completely lose touch with the racquet and the ball, the body goes all funny on them," said Federer.—AFP

RED SOX ACE KS 11 IN 4-0 WIN OVER MARINERS

SEATTLE: Chris Sale pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, 20-year-old Rafael Devers became the youngest Boston player to hit a home run since Tony Conigliaro in 1965 and the Red Sox beat the Seattle Mariners 4-0 on Wednesday to stop a four-game losing streak. Sale (13-4) struck out 11, reaching double digits for the 14th time this season. A day after his big league debut, Devers homered in the third off Andrew Moore (1-3) for his first major league hit. Sandy Leon hit a two-run homer off Moore in the fourth.

DODGERS 6, TWINS 5

Justin Turner hit a game-ending single with two outs in the ninth off All-Star closer Brandon Kintzler (2-2) as Los Angeles rallied from a 5-0 fourth-inning deficit to win their fifth straight and improve the major leagues' best record to 71-31. Kenley Jansen (5-0) pitched a scoreless ninth.

YANKEES 9, REDS 5

Luis Severino (7-4) struck out nine over seven innings, allowing a pair of unearned runs and three hits as New York completed a two-game sweep. Didi Gregorius hit his fourth homer in three games and Todd Frazier hit his first homer for the Yankees, who have won consecutive series after going 0-8-2 in series after sweeping Baltimore from June 9-11. The Yankees have won eight of 12 following a 7-19 slide. Cincinnati has lost three straight and is 2-11 since the All-Star break. Homer Bailey (2-5) lost his third start in a row, giving up seven runs - five earned - and 10 hits in six-plus innings.

RAYS 5, ORIOLES 1

Evan Longoria and Steven Souza Jr. homered, and Alex Cobb (9-6) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings. Longoria's two-run homer off Ubaldo Jimenez (4-7) put Tampa Bay ahead 2-1 in the sixth, and Souza hit his 21st homer this season in the seventh against Darren O'Day.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, BRAVES 3

J.D. Martinez homered twice and Ketel Marte hit an inside-the-park, two-run homer. Martinez has homered three times in three days, his first home runs since he was acquired from Detroit. Patrick Corbin (8-9) gave up two runs and seven hits in six innings. Aaron Blair (0-1) allowed five runs, five hits and five walks in three innings.

GIANTS 2, PIRATES 1

Brandon Belt hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh against Tony Watson (5-3) on a routine fly that left fielder Starling Marte had trouble seeing because sun and wind. Jeff Samardzija (5-11) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, and Sam Dyson worked the ninth for his sixth save.

CUBS 8, WHITE SOX 3

Jake Arrieta (10-7) gave up two runs and three hits in 6 2/3 innings and the World Series champions moved a season-high six games over .500 at 53-47. Chicago leads the NL Central by a half-game over Milwaukee after trailing the Brewers by 5 1/2 games just two weeks ago. Anthony Rizzo had three hits and four RBIs, helping the Cubs improve to 10-2 since the All-Star break. Addison Russell hit a solo homer in the ninth. Top prospect Yoan Moncada hit his first career homer and Allen Hanson also went deep, but the White Sox lost for the 11th time in 12 games. Third baseman Yolmer Sanchez committed a costly error and James Shields (2-3) lasted just four-plus innings. The White Sox played without All-Star outfielder Avisail Garcia, who is



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Dodgers' Justin Turner tosses his bat after hitting a walk-off single during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Los Angeles, Wednesday. The Dodgers won 6-5.—AP

expected to miss a couple weeks after an MRI revealed a strained ligament in his right thumb.

NATIONALS 8, BREWERS 5

Bryce Harper extended his hitting streak to a career-high 18 games, then was ejected for arguing with plate umpire Chris Segal after striking out in the eighth inning with runners at the corners. Washington said it will put star right-hander Stephen Strasburg on the disabled list with a nerve impingement that is causing pain in his right forearm. The move will be retroactive to Monday, and Nationals manager Dusty Baker said Strasburg will miss one turn. Ryan Zimmerman and Adam Lind had two-run doubles in a seven-run eighth inning. Milwaukee's Domingo Santana hit a first-inning home run that landed on the concourse beyond the left-field stands, a drive that would have traveled 476 feet unimpeded, according to MLB's Statcast. Ryan Madson (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning, and Jacob Barnes (3-2) wasted a 2-1 lead.

BLUE JAYS 3, ATHLETICS 2

Justin Smoak hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth off Santiago Casilla (2-5) and Kendrys Morales homered on the next pitch. Toronto has hit consecutive homers six times this year, the last three occasions involving Smoak and Morales. Joe Biagini (3-8) pitched two-thirds of an inning.

PHILLIES 9, ASTROS 0

Aaron Nola (8-6) struck out a career-high 10 over six innings, allowing four hits. He is 5-1 with a 1.49 ERA over his last seven starts. Cameron Rupp hit two home runs and had

four RBIs. Maikel Franco homered and doubled and Tommy Joseph had two doubles for the Phillies, who had 14 hits while setting season highs with five doubles and nine extra-base hits. Mike Fiers (7-5) allowed three runs and five hits in four innings.

ROYALS 16, TIGERS 2

Eric Hosmer matched his career high with five hits, including his first major league grand slam, and had six RBIs and four runs. Hosmer entered with 117 homers but had not hit one with the bases loaded until he connected off Warwick Saupold in a nine-run seventh inning. Bruce Rondon was ejected with one out in the ninth after hitting Mike Moustakas on the back with a pitch, which caused both benches to empty. Utilityman Andrew Romine entered in his third big league pitching appearance. Ian Kennedy (4-6) improved to 3-0 in his last six starts, allowing one run and three hits in six innings. Anibal Sanchez (2-1) gave up four runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 10, ANGELS 4

Rookie Bradley Zimmer homered and drove in the go-ahead run with a seventh-inning double as Cleveland won its sixth in a row, matching a season high. Zimmer hit a leadoff homer and broke a 2-all tie with a two-out double against Ricky Nolasco (4-12). Bryan Shaw (4-4) was the winner.

MARLINS 22, RANGERS 10

Dee Gordon homered on the first pitch thrown by Yu Darvish (6-9) and Miami set a franchise scoring record, topping a 20-1 win over Atlanta on July 1, 2003. Christian Yelich

hit a solo homer in the first for the Marlins, and Marcell Ozuna's three-run triple in the fourth made it 9-2 to chase Darvish (6-9). J.T. Realmuto and Giancarlo Stanton later went deep, with Stanton hitting a 468-foot drive for his major league-leading 33rd homer. Adrian Beltre homered and had two doubles, giving the Rangers third baseman 2,996 hits. He was ejected in the eighth in a dispute with plate umpire Gerry Davis over where Beltre stood while on deck to hit. Jose Urena (9-4) allowed five runs, four hits and four walks in five-plus innings.

CARDINALS 10, ROCKIES 5

Paul DeJong hit his eighth home run in July, a two-run drive in the first off Jeff Hoffman (6-3). Randal Grichuk had a career-high four hits and Harrison Bader had three hits in his second major league game. Carlos Martinez (7-8) struck out eight and gave up five runs and seven hits in six innings for his first win since June 16. St. Louis has won four of five while Colorado has lost four of six. The Rockies announced after the game that they have acquired right-hander Pat Neshek from Philadelphia for minor league pitchers J.D. Hammer, Alejandro Requena and infielder Jose Gomez.

PADRES 6, METS 3

Luis Torrens had three RBIs, Manuel Margot homered and Jhoulys Chacin (10-7) gave up two runs and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. Brad Hand got three outs for his fourth save, extending his scoreless string to 17 1/3 innings. Steven Matz (2-4) gave up six runs and nine hits in three innings and is 0-3 in his last five starts.—AP

‘ICARUS’: INSIDE RUSSIA’S OLYMPIC DOPING SCANDAL

LOS ANGELES: When documentary filmmaker Bryan Fogel began looking into drugs in sport, he envisaged pulling off a bold stunt to show how easy it was to cheat anti-doping tests. Little did he know he would end up making a geopolitical thriller about Russian doping involving dirty urine, a troubling death and the biggest scandal in sporting history.

Due for release on Netflix next Friday, Fogel’s “Icarus” shows how Russia corrupted the 2012 Olympics in London and 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, told through the eyes of the man who masterminded the fraud before defecting and turning FBI informant.

It started out as a simple plan to recreate disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong’s blood doping regime and document exactly how easy it was to sail through the tests that ought to have caught the American.

“The theory was, if this guy has been able to do this, what has changed in the last four years since his confession and, more importantly, what does this mean for all sport?” Fogel told AFP. He aimed to illustrate flaws in the system by using roughly the same blood-doping regime as Armstrong and getting an expert to coach him through evading detection during his post-race urine tests. He ended up being introduced to Russian doctor Grigory Rodchenkov, who oversaw all drug testing for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Moscow’s World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) lab and, astonishingly, was only too happy to help.

Fogel spent six months being coached by the charismatic, maverick Rodchenkov into taking a variety of substances including human growth hormone EPO, as the pair talked over Skype and met in Los Angeles and Moscow.

‘SUICIDE’ PLOT

Then, on November 9, 2015, WADA accused Rodchenkov in a 335-page report after an 11-month investigation of being the mastermind behind Russia’s massive, state-run doping efforts. The international furor forced President Vladimir Putin into making emphatic denials of state involvement on national television and promising “personalized and absolute” punishment for any individuals found culpable.

Over the next five days Rodchenkov was forced to resign, had his lab shut down and had agents from the Federal Security Service (FSB) — formerly the KGB — moved into his home. Contacts told him the intelligence services were plotting his “suicide.” Fearing for his life, Rodchenkov escaped to the United States after Fogel bought him a plane ticket.

The scientist arrived at Fogel’s home in Los Angeles with a hard drive containing documents proving that state-sponsored doping had been going on for decades, not just in track and field but across a spectrum of Russian sports. His evidence outlined how Rodchenkov had developed cutting-edge chemistry and, in Sochi, overseen an FSB operation to swap out contaminated urine for clean samples.

Rodchenkov tells Fogel on camera that 30 of Russia’s 73 medals in Beijing 2008 were aided by doping, as well as at least half of the 81 medals won in London 2012. In February last year, Rodchenkov’s close friend, former anti-doping agency chief Nikita Kamaev, died suddenly of what Russian authorities called a “massive heart attack,” as he was planning a book with Sunday Times journalist David Walsh on doping in sport. Rodchenkov says his friend-the only other non-government official in the world who knew about the doping scandal-had never suffered heart problems.

“It was incredibly frightening. You realize that this changes all of Olympic history, this is a spectacular scandal. They cheated their \$50 billion Olympics and won 32 medals, and defrauded the world,” Fogel said.

GETTING AWAY WITH IT

In May 2016 Fogel presented a spreadsheet to a meeting of leading global anti-doping officials naming every single athlete on Russia’s programme and what they were taking in London-and revealed he had the same for the 2008 Beijing Games.

“The entire system, essentially from the advent, was how do you dope and get away with it,” Fogel told AFP. “Grigory was this genius scientist who was creating tests that were catching athletes, and on the same hand he was developing the ‘anti-venom,’ so that Russian athletes can get away with the test he’s developed to catch other athletes.”—AFP



GALLE: India’s wicket keeper Wriddhiman Saha, left, successfully breaks the wicket to dismiss Sri Lanka’s Upul Tharanga, right, during the second day’s play of the first Test cricket match between India and Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka, yesterday. — AP

CRICKET

INDIA LEAVE S LANKA REELING AT 154-5

GALLE: India’s bowlers tore through the Sri Lankan top order to put the visitors firmly on top on the second day of the first Test in Galle yesterday. Paceman Mohammed Shami picked two wickets in the same over and Umesh Yadav got rid of opener Dimuth Karunaratne after India posted a commanding 600 all out, their biggest total in Sri Lanka.

Former captain Angelo Mathews was batting on 54 with Dilruwan Perera on six when stumps were drawn for the day, with Sri Lanka still trailing by 446 runs with five wickets in hand. Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara, who struck a solid 153, said he was pleased that India had lived up to its billing as the number one Test side in the world.

“We would like to maintain that standard. We have scored enough runs, and we’ve got five wickets today. We are very well poised at this stage. “I think the key for us, even in the last season, was that we’ve bowled really well. Our bowlers are bowling good lines and lengths,” he said referring to India’s 10 wins in the last 13 Tests. Sri Lankan opener Upul Tharanga struck a defiant 64 off 93 balls but was run out thanks to a quick piece of fielding by Abhinav Mukund.

Mukund, fielding at silly point, also took a fine one-handed catch off Ravichandran Ashwin to send back Niroshan Dickwella (eight) and reduce the hosts to a shaky 143-5. Yadav gave his side an early breakthrough after the Indian lower-order batsmen scored at a quick pace despite losing wickets at regular intervals.

Yadav had Karunaratne trapped leg before and although the batsman went for a review, the decision was upheld after replays showed the ball pitching on the middle stump. Shami, making his Test comeback after an injury layoff, then dismissed debutant Danushka Gunathilaka for 16 and Kusal Mendis for

a duck in the space of four balls.

PRADEEP HEROICS

Earlier, paceman Nuwan Pradeep clinched his maiden five-wicket Test haul, putting the brakes on India’s free scoring. Pradeep (6-132) dismissed Pujara for 153, triggering a batting collapse which saw the tourists lose four wickets in a lively first session after resuming the day at 399-3.

“Though I didn’t start well, I thought I got better as I kept bowling. I got some rhythm,” said Pradeep who last played a Test in January. “We came to the match with a plan. But the way the match went and given the state of the pitch, we had to change our plans.

“A lot of our plans didn’t work... But cricket is like that, at least we could get them out for 600.” Pujara hit 13 fours in his 265-ball knock to match his previous Test best of 153 against South Africa at Johannesburg in 2013.

Hardik Pandya struck a half-century on debut as India’s last two wickets added a quickfire 83 runs in 71 balls to lift the side from 517 for 8. Shami hit Rangana Herath for three sixes while Pandya lofted Pradeep for as many sixes in an attacking batting display by India’s lower order batsmen. Ajinkya Rahane (57) looked solid but was sent back to the pavilion after Karunaratne dived for a low catch on his right off fast bowler Lahiru Kumara.—AFP

CRICKET AUSTRALIA READY FOR ARBITRATION IN PAY ROW

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia said yesterday it will take its bitter pay dispute with players to independent arbitration if agreement cannot be reached by early next week, with a tour to Bangladesh looming. Chief executive James Sutherland said unless intensive negotiations over the next few days produce a compromise, his organisation will seek the intervention of an industrial umpire-likely to be a retired judge-to resolve the impasse.

The first match on the Test tour of Bangladesh is due to start on August 22, followed by a one-day tour to India in September and October ahead of the showpiece home Ashes series, beginning in November.

“We are at the stage now where we need to address this situation and cricket needs to get on with the

game,” Sutherland told reporters in Melbourne. “We need players employed, contracted, focused not only on upcoming tours, but indeed an exciting season of cricket ahead.

“We feel what the ACA (Australian Cricketers’ Association) has proposed actually jeopardises not only the Bangladesh tour, but in turn the India one-day tour and even beyond that, dare I say it, the Ashes.”

The ACA responded late yesterday saying it will be working to resolve its dispute with CA. “Arbitration is an adversarial process more akin to a court room,” the ACA said in a statement. “A further concern is the time it would take for an arbiter to meaningfully understand the complexities of revenue sharing in elite professional sport and then to make judgement.— AFP

MARCHISIO BRACE LIFTS JUVENTUS OVER PSG

MIAMI: Claudio Marchisio's second-half double was enough for Juventus to see off Paris Saint-Germain 3-2 on Wednesday and send the French champions home from the United States on the back of two consecutive defeats. The Italian international scored the goal of the game, a fiercely struck effort in the 62nd to restore Juve's lead after PSG's equaliser on 53 minutes. Although Unai Emery's team battled hard, as the clock ticked down Moise Kean was brought down in the box allowing Marchisio to win it from the penalty spot. It was a tough call on PSG defender Layvin Kurzawa, who appeared to become entangled with Kean, but Juventus were not complaining about a decision which capped a decent night's work for the Italian giants.

Any of the 44,444 who came to the Hard Rock Stadium would have been acutely aware that Miami is preparing itself for the arrivals of European titans Barcelona and Real Madrid tomorrow in what's being billed as the glittering showpiece of this summer's International Champions Cup friendly tournament. Yet while La Liga's finest wait in the wings, this was a chance for two other stellar clubs to whet the appetite of the voraciously soccer mad inhabitants of South Florida. It was PSG's last match in the United States before leaving to meet Monaco in Morocco on Saturday, prior to returning home to fine tune preparations for the start of the domestic season.

Emery's side have endured a difficult time Stateside, both on and off the pitch. The results - a penalty win over Roma following a 1-1 draw before being roundly beaten by Tottenham Hotspur in Orlando last Saturday - have been compounded by a very public-and so far unresolved-attempt to prise the Brazilian forward Neymar from Barcelona.

Emery, who admitted PSG are still working on transfer targets but refused to be drawn on specific names, said: "We are looking at how the players are performing rather than the results and I have been pleased." Nevertheless, the PSG manager's mood wouldn't have been lifted by a chastening first 45 minutes. Their tormentor in chief was the excellent Argentina international midfielder Paulo Dybala, 23, who went close to opening the scoring on 28 minutes when his free-kick was tipped over by Areola just three minutes after compatriot Angel Di Maria forced Italian veteran Gianluigi Buffon into an excellent save.

Juan Cuadrado, the Colombian former Chelsea winger, was also in the mood to shine and went close soon after but it was left to Dybala and another Argentinian to open the scoring.

MARCHISIO HAS FINAL SAY

Gonzalo Higuain, who scored 24 goals in his first season in Turin following his record breaking 90 million euros move from Napoli last summer, sent the ball inside to Dybala who instantly returned it straight into the path of the 29 year-old-who advanced on goal before calmly beating Alphonse Areola in the 45th minute. It was a brilliant finish matched only by Marchisio's 62nd minute piledriver which restored the Old Lady's lead after Gonçalo Guedes had tapped home a Di Maria cross to bring the scores level on 53 minutes.

Some sloppy play from PSG substitute Layvin Kurzawa saw the lively Kean win possession and his center was powerfully driven past Areola by the Italian international midfielder. Buffon's replacement Carlo Pinsoglio enjoyed an impressive second-half run out and his brilliant stop to deny Jese on 74 minutes would have drawn approval from Juve's legendary captain.—AFP



MIAMI GARDENS: Mario Mandzukic #17 of Juventus controls the ball against Thomas Meunier #12 of Paris Saint-Germain first half during their International Champions Cup 2017 match at Hard Rock Stadium on Wednesday in Miami Gardens, Florida. — AFP



ZWIJNDRECHT: Defender Wendie Renard (C) and teammates attend a training session of France's women national soccer team within the UEFA Women's Euro 2017 football tournament in Zwijndrecht. — AFP

SOCCER

FRANCE, AUSTRIA REACH WOMEN'S EURO Q-FINALS

ROTTERDAM: A late Camille Abily free-kick sent 10-woman France through to the Euro quarter-finals after a 1-1 draw against Switzerland, alongside newcomers Austria who routed Iceland 3-0 on Wednesday. In Breda, Switzerland took the lead on 19 minutes when Eve Perisset was sent off for bringing down Ramona Bachmann and Ana-Maria Crnogorčević slammed in a header from the ensuing free-kick.

In the 76th minute, Abily's free-kick somehow slipped through the fingers of Swiss goalkeeper Gaele Thalmann, following Crnogorčević's foul on Eugénie Le Sommer. In Rotterdam, Austria cruised to an easy win against Iceland to seal top spot in Group C with first-half goals by Sarah Zadrazil and Nina Burger, and a late strike by substitute Stefanie Enzinger.

Zadrazil fired home on 36 minutes, capitalising on a howler by keeper Gudbjörg Gunnarsdóttir who failed to deal with an easy cross. Burger nodded in Zadrazil's flicked header eight minutes later, and Enzinger volleyed home on 90 minutes to round off the scoring. France started on a high, with Claire Lavogez's blast saved by a diving Thalmann. But things got complicated as Perisset left the pitch in tears, with France struggling against the solid Swiss defence.

Thalmann kept out Abily's low shot, while Swiss skipper Lara Dickenmann saw an effort repelled by Sarah Bouhaddi. After the equaliser, France held off Switzerland's pressure, with Crnogorčević firing wide and Bachmann shooting straight at Bouhaddi. "Believe me, it's a great satisfaction," said French coach Olivier Echouafni. "We believed in it right to the end and our equaliser, considering we had ten against eleven for so long, was thoroughly deserved." "It was quite a night and it was quite unexpected. We didn't panic, though.

FANTASTIC DAY

At half-time, I knew we'd get a chance with a free-kick, and so it was." Swiss coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg said the first half had gone as planned. "We

showed a lot of running, willingness, determination and tactically we were great." "It was a real pity-we fought so hard, and then we concede such a goal. We were so, so close to beating France. I can just hope my team learn from this."

Austria never left any doubt about who was going to dominate the game in Rotterdam, with Nicole Billa testing Gunnarsdóttir three times in the first half.

In a rare Iceland chance, Fanndis Fríðriksdóttir narrowly missed the goal on 26 minutes.

The Austrians kept Gunnarsdóttir busy until the end, as the Iceland keeper had to handle second-half attempts by Laura Feiersinger, Zadrazil and Sarah Puntigam. "Today we were very quiet and controlled the game in most phases," said Austrian coach Dominik Thalhammer.—AFP

COWBOYS' ELLIOTT SMILES FOR FANS, SHUNS MEDIA AS ISSUES LOOM

OXNARD: Ezekiel Elliott stopped for a few moments to greet military personnel and pose for a few pictures on the opening day of training camp. Just like that, the star running back of the Dallas Cowboys darted out of a large crowd of reporters and ran toward a fence to sign a few autographs.

Last year's NFL rushing leader as a rookie isn't talking to media members because of lingering issues off the field, but Elliott is still hamming it up with adoring fans. And he's also going through complete workouts a year after a hamstring issue limited his time in camp.

"I'm not even worrying about Zeke because that guy loves football," said receiver Dez Bryant, who had his share of trouble upon entering the league in 2010. "I understand it's more than football. He's got a great supporting cast and he can't lose with guys like us around him."

The NFL has been investigating Elliott for more than a year over a domestic violence complaint that prosecutors in Ohio declined to pursue. Owner Jerry Jones seems less convinced than he was a few months ago over whether the former Ohio State star will get suspended. Elliott potentially damaged his standing a week before training camp by getting involved in a bar fight that ended with a 30-year-old man getting punched in the nose,

although Elliott's name didn't appear in the police report.

Dallas police halted the investigation when the man who was punched couldn't be reached. Jones has said he doesn't have any other details on the incident. While Elliott waits for word from the NFL, he's preparing for an encore to his 1,631-yard season that helped the Cowboys take the top seed in the NFC at 13-3 before losing to Green Bay in a divisional playoff.

Elliott, who turned 22 the day the Cowboys reported for camp in California, wasn't the only rookie sensation for Dallas. Dak Prescott won NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors with one of the best debuts for a quarterback in league history. And Prescott has proven to be a solid citizen off the field after having to answer to a drunken driving charge in his college town of Starkville, Mississippi, after the Cowboys drafted the former Mississippi State standout.

BAD DECISIONS

Prescott has since been cleared in the case, but was emphatic a year ago in saying it wouldn't happen again. "I've made probably as many bad decisions as any of these guys have, only being 23, so I'm definitely not one that I can point fingers and be mad," said Prescott, who turns 24 tomorrow.—AP

NEYMAR SCORES AS BARCELONA BEAT MAN UTD 1-0

WASHINGTON: Neymar, serene amid a frenzy of transfer speculation, scored the first-half goal that gave Barcelona a 1-0 victory over Manchester United on Wednesday in an International Champions Cup friendly. The Brazilian striker, reportedly pondering a 222-million euro (\$256.8 million) move to Paris Saint-Germain, showed why the French club would be willing to pay a world-record price to get him.

He delivered his third goal in two matches in the exhibition tournament as Barcelona

handed the English Premiership club their first defeat of the pre-season. After a bright start Manchester United struggled to contain Barcelona's star duo of Neymar and Lionel Messi. Neymar broke through in the 31st, stripping the ball from Antonio Valencia in the penalty area, turning and finding the net.

The goal proved enough to give a second straight victory to new Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. Valverde made sweeping changes to the team that beat Juventus 2-1. Luis Suarez, Jordi Alba, Samuel Umtiti, Nelson

Semedo, Sergio Busquets and 19-year-old midfielder Carles Arena were included in the lineup headed by Messi and Neymar.

There were eight changes to the Manchester United team that defeated Real Madrid on penalties on Sunday, with captain Michael Carrick, Marcus Rashford and Jesse Lingard the only players to retain their starting spots. It was Manchester United who threatened first, when Rashford's cross found Romelu Lukaku in the area, but the Belgian couldn't find the net.

Barcelona inexorably took control, and United goalkeeper David de Gea was given plenty of work by Neymar, Messi and Suarez. Messi came close in the 12th minute, his low effort sliding wide. A long-range effort from Lukaku, a fierce blast from Paul Pogba and a curling effort from Rashford all tested Barcelona keeper Jasper Cillessen in the space of minutes. But from there Barcelona dominated. De Gea denied Neymar from close range in the 28th, but had no answer for the Brazilian three minutes later. —AFP

MAN CITY ROMP TO 4-1 WIN OVER REAL MADRID

LOS ANGELES: Pep Guardiola's Manchester City has spent big to bolster their defence this summer, but showed they will be a force to reckon with at the other end this season in a 4-1 friendly win over Real Madrid on Wednesday.

A second-half blitz in front of 93,000 fans at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum saw City secure their first pre-season victory in style. Real were unable to contain Guardiola's side once they got their noses in front early in the second half.

The £28.5 million (32 million euros, \$37 million) spent by City on Nicolas Otamendi two years ago now almost seems like small change after City have splashed out around £50 million each on Kyle Walker, John Stones and Benjamin Mendy over the last 12 months.

But after Otamendi pounced from a couple of yards out to smash the ball into the net, the entire complexion of the International Champions Cup encounter changed. Until that point, Real had been the more dangerous side in an end-to-end encounter, with Isco, in particular, causing City's back five problems with his range of passing.

City's new £32 million keeper Ederson - culpable in last week's friendly defeat to neighbours Manchester United - was forced to produce smart saves to deny Isco, Karim Benzema and Casemiro, with the latter also heading against the post.

Gabriel Jesus and Sergio Aguero both went close at the other end, but once Otamendi found the net in the 52nd minute, on the rebound after Stones's header was saved, City were rampant. Substitute Raheem Sterling calmly tucked away a lovely through-ball from the impressive Kevin De Bruyne just moments after firing a shot inches wide. The advantage was then extended to three after Stones scuffed a shot into the far corner from a De Bruyne corner.

City were twice denied a third by the woodwork, with Francisco Casilla producing a stunning finger-tip save to push De Bruyne's free-kick onto the post and then Leroy Sane smashing the ball against the near post within seconds of entering the field.

But the icing on the cake arrived for Guardiola's side in the final 10 minutes, when 17-year-old Spaniard Brahim Diaz cut inside off the right and curled a beauty into the top corner from the edge of the area. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos, left, and Manchester City midfielder Oleksandr Zinchenko vie the ball during the second half of the International Champions Cup match on Wednesday in Los Angeles, California. Manchester City won 4-1. — AFP



SANTA CLARA: Team USA celebrates with the trophy after they beat Jamaica 2-1 winning the final football game of the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup at the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California on Wednesday. The USA won 2-1 over Jamaica. — AFP

SOCCER

USA BEAT JAMAICA TO WIN SIXTH CONCACAF GOLD CUP

SANTA CLARA: Jordan Morris's late strike lifted the United States to a 2-1 victory over Jamaica on Wednesday in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final. The United States captured their sixth Gold Cup crown-one shy of Mexico's record seven victories in the regional championship for North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Morris sealed it in dramatic fashion with a goal in the 89th minute. A misdirected Jamaican clearance was knocked down by US super-sub Clint Dempsey near the penalty spot and Morris blazed a right-footed shot past Jamaican keeper Dwayne Miller and inside the right post. Jozy Altidore's superb free kick had put the United States ahead in the 45th minute, but Jamaica's Je-Vaughn Watson equalized in the 50th as the underdog Jamaicans pushed the US hard.

Jamaica were playing in their second straight Gold Cup final, after falling to Mexico in 2015. That year they ousted the United States in the semi-finals, while this year they sent the Mexicans packing. Although they have joined the US and Mexico as the only teams to reach back-to-back finals, they are now

just the second team to lose consecutive title matches.

Since the inception of the Gold Cup, Mexico and the US have won all but one edition, with Canada triumphing in 2000. Jamaica lost their talismanic goalkeeper, Andre Blake, to a hand injury early in the contest. Miller was in goal as halftime approached, when US captain Michael Bradley was fouled in mid-field and Altidore curled the ensuing free kick over the wall and into the top corner of the net.

Miller soared to get his fingertips to the ball but couldn't keep it out of the net. Jamaica pulled level when Watson bulled his way past Morris on a Kemar Lawrence's corner kick to volley a short shot past US goalkeeper Tim Howard. Morris admitted that he was stung when the man he was marking scored and relieved he could make up for it with the game-winner. "Credit to Jamaica-they made it very tough for us," Morris said. "I was nervous-it was my guy that scored on the (Jamaican) goal. So I was trying to make up for that any way I could."

"Obviously, I take responsibility for it, but luckily I could put it in the back of the net." For Jamaica, however, Morris's

goal was "like a dagger in the heart," Jamaica coach Theodore Whitmore said.

'THIS MEANS EVERYTHING'

"But again, this is football," he said. "If you look in the semi-final against Mexico, the same thing happened in that game (when Jamaica scored an 88th-minute winner)." The first real chance for either team had come in the 19th minute, and the play proved costly for Jamaica.

Altidore fired a 25-yard blast and Blake rose to make the save. Trying to score from the rebound, the United States' Kellyn Acosta crashed into Blake, whose right hand was injured badly enough to take the Jamaican captain out of the game. He had led Jamaica to three shut-out victories in the tournament, including a 1-0 triumph over defending champions Mexico in the semis.

The United States are now unbeaten in 14 matches since Bruce Arena returned for a second spell as coach, taking over from Jurgen Klinsmann after the German was sacked in the wake of a 4-0 loss to Costa Rica in World Cup qualifying last year. —AFP

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USA beat Jamaica to win sixth CONCACAF Gold Cup

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SANTA CLARA: United States' Tim Howard raises the championship trophy after the United States beat Jamaica 2-1 in the Gold Cup final soccer match in Santa Clara, Calif., Wednesday. — AP

