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A MASSIVE TRUCK BOMB KILLS 90 IN AFGHANISTAN

TALEBAN 'STRONGLY CONDEMN' THE ATTACK



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani. Qatar's Emir arrived in Kuwait yesterday leading an official delegation, on a friendly visit to congratulate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. — KUNA

KABUL: At least 90 people were killed and hundreds wounded yesterday when a massive truck bomb ripped through Kabul's diplomatic quarter, bringing carnage to the streets of the Afghan capital just days into the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. Bodies littered the scene and a towering plume of smoke rose from the highly-fortified area, which houses foreign embassies, after the powerful blast in the morning rush hour blew out the windows of missions and residences.

A Western diplomatic source said the vehicle was a water tanker stuffed with more than 1,500 kilograms of explosives and left a seven-meter deep crater at the scene. Rescue workers were digging bodies from the rubble hours after the explosion. Dozens of damaged cars choked the roads as wounded survivors and panicked schoolgirls sought safety. Men and women struggled to get through security checkpoints to search for loved ones.

It was not immediately clear what the target was. But the attack underscores spiraling insecurity in Afghanistan, where a military beset by soaring casualties and desertions is struggling to beat back insurgents. Over a third of the country is outside government control. "Unfortunately the toll has reached 90 martyred (killed) and over 300 wounded, including many women and children," said health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh, adding the figures would continue to climb as more bodies are pulled from the debris.



KABUL: Afghan girls learn to read the Quran at a local Madrasa, or seminary, during the Islamic month of Ramadan in Kabul. — AP

Continued on Page 13

Min 31°
Max 42°
High Tide 05:35 & 16:05
Low Tide 10:50 & 22:38



CLEANLINESS, HYGIENE

By Sharafun Nisa Mohammed Farouk

Islam strongly promotes personal hygiene and beauty as these are among the core tenets of Islam, and regarded as acts of worship. A person will never attain a balanced personality - according to Islamic standards - without cleaning his body and soul. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Purity (or cleanliness) is half of faith" (Muslim). He also said, "There are two blessings from which many people fail to benefit, which are good health and free time" (Bukhari).

People cannot respect someone who is not clean and doesn't observe personal hygiene. Moreover, they will always try to stay aloof from him. Every human being should be clean in dress, food, drinks, speech, morals, manners, and so on. The effects of cleanliness are not confined to tangible benefits, but transcend them to include soul purification and elevation. Cleanliness, if observed holistically, will also empower people so that they are able to carry out the responsibilities of life easily, and people will be attracted to them.

All of us are in need of healthy strong bodies to carry out our duties in life, which if done with the intention of pleasing Allah and within the parameters of Islam, will be rewarded abundantly by Allah. Islam urges Muslims to be clean with regular showers, ablutions, trimming the nails and hair, etc. Teeth should also be brushed regularly, especially after meals to remove bacteria that find a breeding ground in a dirty mouth.

Such bacteria, if ignored, cause your teeth and gum to decay. Abu Huraira narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "If I had not found it hard for my followers or the people, I would have ordered them to clean their teeth in preparation for every prayer" (Al-Bukhari 889). Beauty is manifested in many aspects including cleanliness and observance of personal hygiene.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Allah Almighty is beautiful (and the source of beauty) and likes beauty, He is clean and likes cleanliness, and He is generous and like generosity..." In the narration above, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) urges Muslims to observe

Continued on Page 13

SAUDI KING EARNS MORE RETWEETS THAN TRUMP

TRUMP CRYPTIC TWEET 'COVFEFE' TRENDS ON TWITTER

WASHINGTON: Not for the first time, a Donald Trump tweet has lit up the internet. But this time, users the world over have been left scratching their heads over "covfeffe": a bizarre word apparently created by the president. "Despite the constant negative press covfeffe," read the US leader's short tweet sent yesterday. Was it an acronym? A secret message? Or just a typo?

Wags around the world weighed in with biting sarcasm, and #covfeffe quickly became the top trending item on Twitter. Comments included a mock Google translation of "covfeffe" from Russian into English as "I resign," and comments like "Drain the covfeffe"-a play on Trump's promise to "drain the swamp" in Washington. "Covfeffe is a great word, period! - Sean Spicer tomorrow," read one tweet, mentioning the president's spokesman. To avoid confusion, the Regent's English Language Center in London wrote: "To all of our English language students, we can confirm that 'covfeffe' is not an English word. Yet."

Continued on Page 13



This screen grab shows a tweet from President Donald Trump which has social media trying to find a meaning in the mysterious term 'covfeffe'. — AP



RIYADH: Muslims break their fast, with a meal known as the 'iftar' during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan in Riyadh. — AFP

MPS OPPOSE BAN ON 'VISAS FOR RELATIVES'

7 RAPISTS SENTENCED TO DEATH

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai said yesterday that a number of MPs are planning moves against a recent Interior Ministry decision to prevent expatriates from sponsoring their parents, sisters and brothers even those living with them in Kuwait. The lawmaker described the decision, issued just a few days ago, as "unhuman" adding that it will cause many social problems in Kuwait. Tabtabai also called on the Interior Ministry to extend the visit visas for Syrian dependents and then renew

their stay every year until the situations improve in Syria.

The lawmaker said the new restrictions on the residences for parents, sisters and brothers will be debated in the National Assembly human rights committee. He did not however give any timeframe for the meeting as the National Assembly is expected to close the current term next week. The Interior Ministry last week issued new regulations stating that the residence permits of parents, sisters and brothers will no longer be renewed and expats can only sponsor their wives and children.

Continued on Page 13

News

in brief

Saudi school shooting

RIYADH: A gunman killed two staff at a private school in the Saudi Arabian capital yesterday, a security source said. "A teacher took a gun and then he went to the school room and he killed the assistant school principal and one of the employees," said the source who asked not to be identified because a formal statement would come later from Riyadh police. Police are treating the case as a criminal matter and "not a terrorist incident," the source said. According to his latest information the suspect, of Iraqi origin, was still being sought. The shooting occurred at Kingdom School, which is part of a group owned by Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, chairman of Kingdom Holding Co whose diversified investments include Citigroup and Time Warner. There were no students present at the time of the shooting, according to the United States embassy which issued an alert about the case.

Trump blasts comedian

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump castigated a well-known comedian yesterday after the release of a grisly-looking photo showing her holding up a prop depicting the president's bloodied severed head. Kathy Griffin had apologized earlier for the picture-released on Tuesday by the celebrity photographer Tyler Shields-following a wave of criticism from many quarters, saying in a video posted on Instagram that "I beg for your forgiveness" for having "crossed a line." "Kathy Griffin should be ashamed of herself," Trump tweeted. "My children, especially my 11 year old son, Barron, are having a hard time with this. Sick!" Griffin, an outspoken Trump critic who won two Emmy awards for her reality show "My Life on the D List," had said she would ask Shields to remove the image from the internet. Among those tweeting in reaction to it was Trump's son Donald Trump, Jr. "Disgusting but not surprising," he said.



Imsak 03:05 Fajr 03:15 Shorook 04:49 Duhr 11:46 Asr 15:20 Maghrib 18:43 Isha 20:13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes Bahrain's Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Bahrain's Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

AMIR RECEIVES BAHRAINI PRIME MINISTER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Dasman Palace on Tuesday Bahrain's Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and an accompanying delegation. Prince Khalifa congratulated His Highness the Amir on the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, wishing him many returns of the occasion.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was present. During the meeting, friendly talks were exchanged amid an atmosphere of warm sentiments that reflected the deep-rooted ties between the leaders and the peoples of the two countries, as well as the sincere efforts to enhance them on all levels. The two sides reviewed issues of common concern, within the framework of the historical ties that bring together the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the hard work to realize the expectations of the bloc's peoples.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Deputy National Guard Chief Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

His Highness the Amir later held an iftar banquet at Dasman Palace in honor of the visiting Bahraini Prime Minister and his accompanying



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bahrain's Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

delegation. After that, Prince Khalifa left Kuwait, and was seen at the airport by senior officials led by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak.

Continued coordination

In a statement made shortly after his arrival to Kuwait, Prince Khalifa voiced pleasure for

visiting the country during Ramadan. He added that the visit reflects the historic close relations between the two countries. Prince Khalifa conveyed greetings from Bahraini Monarch and government to Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people for their "honorable stances towards Bahrain."



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Bahrain's Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa attend an iftar banquet at Dasman Palace.

He pointed out that challenges on both economic and security levels prompt continued coordination and cooperation on untraditional level to overcome them and avoid their repercussions on "the development path of our countries." The Prince said that the GCC countries realize the dimensions of these chal-

lenges and have been lavishing efforts to develop effective solutions through holding political and economic summits, as well as establishing military cooperation that exceeds the Gulf level, to the Arab and Islamic scenes. He reiterated His Highness the Amir's role supporting the Gulf and Arab solidarity. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE SENIOR OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah. Later, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince met with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-

Mohammad and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak. His Highness the Crown Prince then met Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA

UNGA PRESIDENT PRAISES KUWAIT'S CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVE 2030 SDGS

NEW YORK: UN General Assembly's President Peter Thomson praised on Tuesday Kuwait's support for the UNGA in general and in contributing to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thomson made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the UNGA's session to elect non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2018-19.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled reiterated Kuwait's commitment to achieving the 2030 SDGs. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Director Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen. Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with Cote d'Ivoire's Foreign Minister Marcel Amon-Tanoh. The meeting also touched on bilateral relations and means to develop them on all levels.

Earlier on Tuesday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled attended a reception held by the Vietnamese Mission, marking 40th anniversary of Vietnam's UN membership. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled congratulated Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and wished the Vietnamese people progress and prosperity. — KUNA

countries, as well as underlining ongoing cooperation and coordination regarding issues tabled at UN or Security Council.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held talks with French Ambassador to UN Francois Delattre, on need of coordination and cooperation over issues discussed by the UN and Security Council.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Director Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen. Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with Cote d'Ivoire's Foreign Minister Marcel Amon-Tanoh. The meeting also touched on bilateral relations and means to develop them on all levels.

Earlier on Tuesday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled attended a reception held by the Vietnamese Mission, marking 40th anniversary of Vietnam's UN membership. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled congratulated Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and wished the Vietnamese people progress and prosperity. — KUNA



NEW YORK: UN General Assembly's President Peter Thomson meets with Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with British Ambassador to UN Matthew Rycroft.

LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR, ACTIVIST PASSES AWAY



Ahmed Al-Gharabally

KUWAIT: A popular, well-known local entrepreneur, humanitarian and activist, Ahmed Al-Gharabally passed away yesterday. He was the founder of local real estate website, masahati.com and Adlyx, the digital media consultancy and a shining example of Kuwait's best and brightest.

Al-Gharabally, who attended the American School of Kuwait and the American University of Kuwait, was active in the community and on social media, organizing a variety of community initiatives and efforts to improve Kuwait.

His volunteer work included N-Mu, Sout Al Kuwait, Mantaqame, Kuwait Rights & Progress Forum and Legalize Kuwait. Ahmed also initiated a campaign to encourage humane treatment and respect for Kuwait's street cleaners through social media.

Tributes filled social media yesterday as friends and acquaintances offered their condolences for his family.



THE GREAT GIVER

By Shamael Al-Sharikh

I am still in shock. Then again, that is exactly what you used to do. You shocked people. Sometimes, you shocked them with your appearance. After all, you were a Collin-Farrell-lookalike who wore a dishdasha and a 'nasfa' angled to precision, but who couldn't say one full paragraph in Arabic.

Sometimes, you shocked them with your eccentric sense of humor which knew no boundaries. And sometimes, you shocked them with your ability to give.

You were a giver. You gave everything. You gave up

your sleep to help the street cleaners in the scorching mornings of Ramadan when most of us are practicing our fast in the comfort of our air-conditioned offices. You gave time to deliver several talks to budding entrepreneurs about your success story as a small business owner. You gave your efforts and money to found and run our vigilante environmentalist project, #MantaqAME. And let's not forget that 'other' vigilante stunt we pulled in Fahaheel back in the day (which, incidentally, also took place during Ramadan.)

Your smile. Your crazy but thoughtful gifts. Your no-fil-ter, inappropriate, preposterous but perceptive interjec-

tions in our WhatsApp group. Your authentic Kuwaiti 'faz'aa'; your ability to drop everything to help me, just because I needed it. Your unshakable belief that change- the good kind- is coming to our country, and that you have to play a part to speed it up. Your sheer presence. Your memory.

You were and will remain a source of joy to all those who knew you, and anyone who has ever had the distinct pleasure (and probably confusion!) of meeting you, will know that the Great Giver, Mr. Ahmed Al-Gharabally is not one to be forgotten.

Rest In Peace, Ahmadoo. Heaven just got its hands full.

KD 2.28 BILLION SPENT IN 2016-2017 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Supreme Council for Planning and Development's Secretary General Dr Khaled Mahdi said total development projects number 279, of which 25 have been completed, 125 are under construction and 91 are still being readied. Speaking to reporters at a press conference held yesterday to highlight the annual follow-up report of the final statement of the development plan ending on March 31, 2017, Mahdi explained that the total sum allocated for the 2016-2017 plan was KD 3 billion, of which KD 2.28 billion has been already spent, compared to 529 projects with a budget of KD 5.86 billion in 2015-2016.

Mahdi added that the projects include 185 for human resource development with an annual budget of KD 872 million, 77 projects for economic development with a budget of KD 2.1 billion and 17 administrative development projects with a budget of KD 7.3 million. Mahdi said the plan

includes 35 strategic projects with an annual budget of KD 2.2 billion.

Responding to a question about the progress so far achieved in various strategic projects, Mahdi explained that 40.7 percent of Sabah Al-Salem university is completed, in addition to 20 percent of the Al-Zour refinery project, 80.9 percent of the biofuel project, 71.6 percent of the Jaber Bridge project, 49.5 percent of the Mubarak Port project, 0.5 per cent of the new airport project and 96.4 percent of the Jaber Hospital project.

The assistant secretary general for planning and follow-up Bader Al-Refae stressed that follow-up is a significant planning tool that helps face various challenges and accelerates execution. Refae added that the new airport project would be concluded through the 2020-2025 plan, the South Mutlaa project would be concluded by Sept 1, 2019, Farwaniya Hospital by the end of 2019, the new Sabah Hospital in Aug 2018, the new Adan Hospital in Jan 2020, Jaber Hospital in Sept 2017 and Sabah Al-Salem University by the end of 2019.

RAMADAN TRUCKS BAN HOURS ANNOUNCED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Traffic General Department announced yesterday the timing of trucks' ban on main roads during Ramadan, which will be from 8:30 am to 10:30 am and from 12:30pm to 3:00 pm every week from Sunday through Thursday. The department also announced that driving on the left safety lane would be allowed from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Further, the department said that

morning official working hours at all traffic department offices would be from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, while the afternoon working hours at the registrations, driver's licenses, automobile technical examination, driving tests and traffic citations investigations department would be from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. In addition, the department announced that automobile technical examination companies open from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm and from 8:30 pm to 11:30 pm.



Ministry of Electricity and Water and Zain officials pose for a group photo.

ZAIN SIGNS GROUNDBREAKING 'SMART METERS' DEAL WITH MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER

PROJECT ONE OF THE LARGEST IN KUWAIT'S ICT SECTOR

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announces signing a development, management, and operation agreement with the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) in Kuwait for the development of interconnectivity support of the Smart Meters System Project. The signing ceremony took place at MEW's main headquarters in the presence of the Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water, Engineer Essam Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq, and Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, Eaman Al-Roudhan.

Zain won the official bid to become the strategic partner to MEW with respect to managing the smart metering components of the project for a period of seven years. As part of the agreement, Zain will manage the systems of smart electricity and water reading meters in Kuwait.

The project's initial capacity will include 880,000 smart meters, with the possibility of a future expansion to 1.2 million in total. As part of MEW's plan, the first batch of smart meters will be utilized in properties within the investment, industrial, and agricultural sectors, then followed by residential properties.

Zain will manage and operate the smart meters project in collaboration with a number of global strategic partners, including E&Y and Ericsson. The project is set to revolutionize the process of obtaining electricity and water readings, which will be taken automatically and can be tracked in real-time. The massive project costs KD 22 million, and will see Zain building and installing the meters over the next two years, and then managing and operating them for the subsequent five years.

Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait's CEO said, "[Yesterday's] agreement with MEW is an extension of previous partnerships and mutual cooperation that Zain has enjoyed with various Ministries and public authorities in Kuwait to a more strategic level. We are very pleased with this development, and given that the smart meters project is one of the largest in Kuwait's ICT sector, we are proud to be a central part of



KUWAIT: Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq, and Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan sign the agreement.

its deployment and management. The implementation of a project of this scale is a testament to the country's efforts to catalyze the uptake of e-government services, and embodies the public sector's interest in benefiting from the private sector's experience in areas such as customer care. This project stands as a huge boost to Kuwait's public-private partnership program."

Roudhan continued, "This project forms part of Zain's strategic plans to expand smart cities solutions in Kuwait as we look to transform into an inclusive digital telecommunications provider. One such plan was Zain's strategic investment in neXgen, a leading smart city advisory and consulting services provider. The execution of such a significant project is a crucial step in harnessing the power of our digital infrastructure in order to develop truly connected, intelligent environments. Technology continues to play a vital role in all aspects of life, and as Zain is the leading provider of mobile technology innovations in, we are totally committed to having these competencies reflected across society."

Zain will supply and install 5,000 smart meters that meet with international standards. The company will also manage the smart meters' operating systems, including the development and management of a massive database specially developed for this project, and training MEW's call center staff to service consumers around the clock. Zain will also introduce a secure e-payment system through MEW's official website and through a mobile app where consumers can monitor their smart meter's readings in real-time and receive bill reminder notifications and more.

Zain is set to introduce utility payment systems where residents will be able to pay electricity and water bills through prepaid or postpaid plans. Zain will also offer its own payment channels as an option, including the company's website, branches, kiosk machines, and more.

The smart meters project aims to eliminate the requirement for a manual process to obtain meter readings, replaced instead by a state-of-the-art electronic platform that automatically collects meter readings, while also being able to inform MEW's support team of any failures within the system in real-time.

MEW DENIES RUMORS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) undersecretary Mohamed Boshehri strongly denied social media rumors about deciding to suspend remote area allowances for MEW employees, and stressed that such allowances are regulated by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Food regulations

The Municipal Council's legal and financial affairs committee approved food and nutrition authority regulations. The committee also approved a proposal concerning mobile food outlets' health conditions. In its meeting presided yesterday by Ali Al-Mousa, the committee also discussed a complaint filed by residents of east Qurain concerning changing the area's name to Mesayel.

Bridge opens

Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) assistant undersecretary for roads affairs Ahmed Al-Hassan said new contractors hired to develop the Bidaa roundabout and the Sabah Al-Ahmad-Wafra Road will start work within the next few days. Hassan added that contractors hired to execute

contracts number 192 and 256 involving infrastructure in east Jahra will also start work soon. He noted his department would open the western bridge on Jamal Abdul Nasser Street heading towards Kuwait City by mid-June.

Kuwait Airways

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh proposed a new bill on amending law number 6/2008 pertaining turning Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) into a shareholding company. The amendment includes changing articles 3, 4 and 10 of the law to mandate the government cover KAC losses and upgrade the fleet prior to selling its shares to investors. Article 14 also stated that 25 percent of the shares would be offered for public bidding amongst companies listed at the KSE or specialized foreign companies, 45 percent of the shares would be granted to government bodies to be determined by the Cabinet, 25 percent of the shares would be offered for public bidding amongst citizens, 3 percent would be offered for bidding amongst KAC employees and 2 percent among former KAC employees.

AIR TRAFFIC IN KUWAIT STABLE: DGCA

KUWAIT: Flights at Kuwait International Airport was operating as normal yesterday despite dusty weather conditions in the country, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced. Midday visibility was at 1,400 square meters and flight

navigation was not affected by the weather, DGCA spokesman Mansour Al-Hashmi said. Kuwait's meteorological department has warned of minimal visibility as a result of northwesterly gusts at a speed of 70 kilometers per hour. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Dust over Kuwait City caused by strong winds yesterday. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

Kuwait

Heritage



A rare picture of the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (1950 - 1965) taken at the Dasman Palace. Simplicity and humility can be noticed in Sheikh Abdullah's meeting with his guests before heading to the seat of government. (Source: Al-Arabi Magazine, Volume 645 (2012). Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Aby Alella, Researcher in Heritage, Ministry of Information)



Abdulrahman Al-Bkheet

RESPECTING TRAFFIC RULES FOR SAFER DRIVING

By Nawara Fattahova

Each of us can contribute to making Kuwait a better place for all of us to live. In our daily deeds and actions, we can find - if we choose to look - opportunities for improving Kuwait's environment. From not littering on the streets, to choosing to be kind and helpful to others, each individual here can have a positive impact on the society as a whole. Kuwait Times wants to know what can you do?

According to 24-year-old Abdulrahman Al-Bkheet, a student, traffic is the foremost problem in Kuwait. He has many ideas to solve it and is also willing to help in this issue. He answered the question on how one could help in the development of the nation as follows:

"Traffic jam is majorly experienced after the public sector work hours in the afternoons, leading people to delay their return back home. My first suggestion is to deploy a police officer to regulate the timings of the traffic signal. The metro project should be initiated shortly for it can relieve traffic jams. It is also an environment friendly measure, which can mitigate the number of vehicles on the road. I would like to participate in solving this problem by volunteering to standing near some of the jammed crossings or roundabouts where there is no policeman to manage the traffic. I once had done the same when a traffic light stopped working. Other reasons for traffic problems are not following traffic rules and regulations, especially using the safety lanes and changing tracks without indicator. From my side, I am doing my best to respect traffic rules, and I try to impart knowledge regarding traffic rules to my younger brother when he is picked back from school."

MARINA HOTEL HOSTS EXCLUSIVE RAMADAN GHABQA FOR LOCAL MEDIA

FOOD STATIONS, LIVE MUSIC AND GOOD AMBIENCE

KUWAIT: Reinforcing its relationship with the local media, Marina Hotel Kuwait celebrated the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan by hosting an exclusive ghabqa. This informal annual event was organized in honor of the members of the press to thank them for their continuous support on all activities undertaken by the hotel.

The evening witnessed a host of guests who all gathered at the Kamar Al-Marina Tent to enjoy the distinctive hospitality of the special event. Guests were welcomed by the entire management team and greeted upon arrival. Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of Marina Hotel Kuwait wished the guests a

Ramadan Kareem while inviting them to an evening of Oriental hospitality.

A diverse range of sumptuous buffet filled with superb Arab delicacies and cuisines from the live cooking stations was arranged for the guests. The special ghabqa buffet comprised of a large array of delicious food, in addition to seafood meals and a choice between shawrama, pasta and mixed grills, Ramadan drinks, mouth-watering desserts and flavored Shisha. The evening was further enhanced by the sounds of soft oriental music.

Hammoud expressed his appreciation to the media for their ongoing support saying "We organize this annual event as a sincere

token of appreciation towards the members of the local media. We continuously strive to honor the media and value them as our strategic partner." He further extended his gratitude to AirFrance/KLM, for sponsoring the 'Kamar Al-Marina Tent.' The highlight of the evening was the exciting Raffle Draw which granted a range of fabulous prizes adding more joy to the evening. The ghabqa lasted till after midnight and Marina Hotel ensured that each and every guest had a truly memorable evening filled with fun and exceptional delight.

The Kamar Al-Marina tent is specially prepared every Ramadan with new selective decorations, and Oriental music to reflect the tra-

ditional feel of the Holy month. With a capacity to accommodate up to 200 guests. Kamar Al-Marina tent has proven to be the favorite venue for companies and individuals to host their own private iftars or ghabqas during the whole month of Ramadan.

For larger groups seeking a unique iftar experience as well as for private functions and corporate events, Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmed Theatre and Hall offers personalized attention and can accommodate up to 500 guests at a time. It also offers a selection of different menus for iftar and sohour at exclusive prices and is fully equipped to cater for groups and organizations.



Nabil Hammoud



EATING HEALTHY, JOGGING IDEAL DURING RAMADAN



KUWAIT: People tend during the holy month of Ramadan to spend hefty amounts of money to purchase all kinds of food, paving way for consumption all the way to 'sohoor' (pre-dawn meal prior to fasting). This would cause weight increase due to eating unhealthy food during such holy occasion, like food heavily cooked with oil, artificial juices that contain artificial sugar. KUNA magazine 'Al-Derisha' (Kuwaiti dialect for window) interviewed Family Doctor Jaber Bu-Hamad to discuss the issue, and the main mistakes committed by fasting people during Ramadan.

Dr Bu-Hamad said one of the main wrong habits people incline to make is consume artificial drinks that contain manufactured sugar, along with sweets, which lets those who fast feel numb and tired after a short period of 'iftar,' in addition to low energy and high sugar levels in the body, which would take more time to get rid of.

He noted that deep-fried food and pastries also harm the stomach after having a relatively long period of empty stomach, which also causes increase of weight, adding that the best solution is to follow Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) teaching of having some dates, water at breaking the fast and then go to prayer time, and later eating salad and soup, followed by a small portion of the main course. Bu-Hamad said other dishes, which contains more oil, could be delayed three hours or more to allow the stomach consume the already eaten food and to be prepared for another meal.

As for sport, the doctor said practicing sport after iftar within one or two hours is the best time for those who fast, noting that little and balance jogging is better for the body. In conclusion, the doctor also cautioned diabetics prior to fasting to reduce eating sugary food and drinking a lot of water during iftar. Bu-Hamad also called on Thyroid patients to abide by their daily medical dose provided by their doctors prior fasting and after. — KUNA

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الجزيرة Al-Jarida

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By Yousif Al-Enezi

This is one of the greatest plays written by English writer William Shakespeare through which he combines reality to the worlds of genies and imagination with emphasis on the fact that all man-made laws aim to achieve justice and equality, regulate life and protect individual rights. However, some laws may be cruel and harsh to some social sects. After reading a summary of that play, I went to bed and saw a mixture of dreams and nightmares.

I saw myself walking down the Gulf Road near Kuwait Towers. The weather was great with some outgoing spring breeze marking the beginning of summer and the scenery even more beautiful. I sat down by the beach looking at the endless sea and the waves racing to reach the shore of a nation blessed with endless blessings. A nation that had been well-kept by our ancestors for hundreds of years. They sacrificed everything for it.

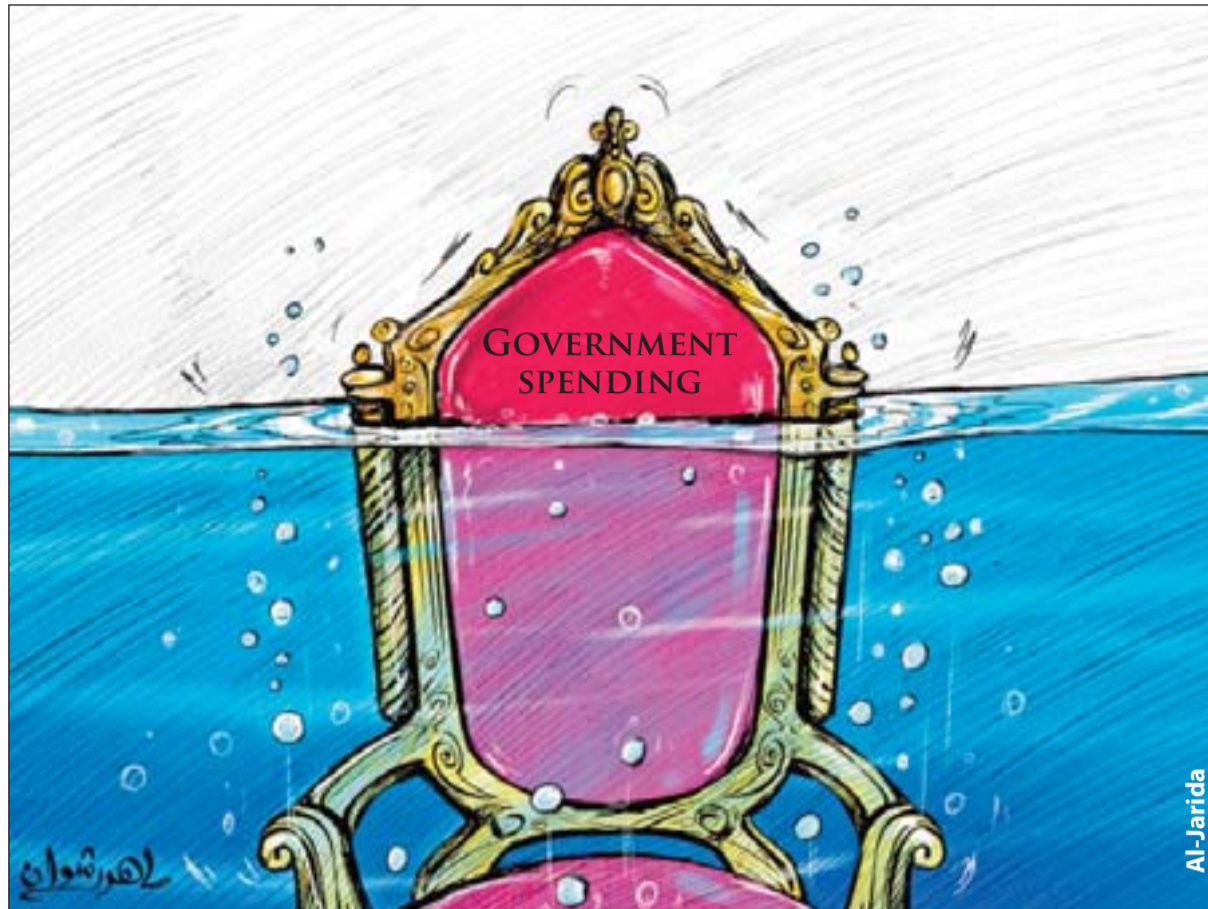
Why, then, have we reached times when some of us seem to be keen on harming our nation? Why do we feel so much disappointment and see people making fun of the people living here? Corruption is everywhere. Endless accusations are pointed in all directions. What is even worse is that some wish that the so-called Arab spring would reach Kuwait. Some have already opened doors and windows for it while others have prepared camps and slogans waiting for such 'spring'.

With these ideas fighting in my mind, I spotted a bottle washed ashore and on opening it, thick white smoke filled the air around me and a genie like that of Aladdin and his magic lantern appeared before me, expressing readiness to make my wishes come true. Well, I asked him to take me on a visit to the Arab spring countries to see the fruits of such spring and how they have blossomed into more developed, secure and safe nations.

The genie looked at me with surprise as to whether I really wished to go on such a tour, but had no other choice but to follow my orders. However, hovering above these countries, I was in deep shock to see the amount of devastation and destruction. I saw ruins of cities, factories where explosive belts were made, long lines of people waiting to get a piece of bread, tents everywhere in both summer and winter. Killing and wars spreading all over because of armed terrorist groups.

We landed in one of these countries but were stunned to see people in shock and fear as nobody knows whether they will be alive until the very same day's evening or the following morning. I looked at the genie wondering what had even happened to the spring, luxury, revolution and the promise. The genie made no answer but carried me back to Kuwait, and the moment we saw its lights, streets and reassured people, the genie shouted 'God save Kuwait' from the bottom of his heart.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT AND MOROCCO DISCUSS FOSTERING BILATERAL RELATIONS

RABAT: 'Means of promoting bilateral relations' was the focus of a meeting between Kuwait's Ambassador to Morocco Abdullatif Al-Yahya and the Moroccan Minister of Youth and Sports Rachid Talbi Alami yesterday. In a statement to KUNA following the meeting, the Kuwaiti envoy lauded the Kingdom's good organization of the celebrations of "Morocco Capital of Arab Youth for 2016". The celebrations, organized within the framework of the Arab League, constituted a framework for boosting cooperation and communication amongst the Arab youth, Al-Yahya said. Kuwait was named "Capital of Arab Youth for 2017" and will carry out on Morocco's path with a renewed and distinct spirit that bolsters the role of Arab youth in, he added. For his part, the Moroccan minister extolled the bilateral ties, voicing his country's support for sports in Kuwait, a country highly respected on the Arab, regional and international scenes, thanks to excellent performances of Kuwaiti athletes in different contests. — KUNA



Kuwait's Ambassador to Morocco Abdullatif Al-Yahya and the Moroccan Minister of Youth and Sports Rachid Talbi Alami are pictured in this photo. — KUNA

Crime

Report

NIQAB-WEARING BEGGAR ARRESTED

KUWAIT: An Asian man was arrested for wearing a niqab and begging outside the woman's section of a Salmiya mosque. Case papers indicate that a female citizen suspected the beggar sitting outside the mosque and called the police. The suspect tried to run away but was chased and apprehended.

Mugging

An Egyptian man reported that someone dressed in a dishdasha stopped him in Fahaheel, claimed to be a police detective, stole KD 7,450 he had just withdrawn from the bank, and threatened to harm him if he ever saw him at the police station. However, despite the threat, the man reported the theft, providing detectives with the suspect's and his vehicle's descriptions. A search is on for the fake detective.

Theft

A citizen reported that unidentified robbers stole eight cooking gas cylinders from his house in Fahd Al-Ahmad. A case was filed.

Phone stolen

An Asian driver was arrested for stealing a new smartphone that belonged to his sponsor's daughter and selling it, said security sources, noting that detectives tracked down the phone to a mobile phone store in Riggaa, where the salesman led the police to the thief who sold him the phone.

Destroyed passport

A search is on for a woman heard on a social media video threatening someone named Ali, saying: "Now show me Ali how you will travel!" after she tore up his passport. Security sources noted destroying a Kuwaiti passport is incriminated by law.

Intrusion

Six young citizens were arrested for intruding on a private graduation party and assaulting everyone there. Security sources said a citizen had thrown a party to celebrate her son's graduation at a hotel. However, six uninvited guests barged into the ballroom and turned it into a battlefield, before the hotel security managed to control and hand them over to the police.

Fake cop caught

A search is on for a suspect who impersonated a police detective and stopped a female citizen in a co-op's parking lot, where he started harassing her. But the moment she reached for her phone and called the police, the suspect drove away. — Translated from the Arabic press

AUB LAUNCHES UNIQUE SOCIAL PROGRAM DURING RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the launch of its social program during the Holy Month of Ramadan, through which it offers a number of charitable, cultural, religious and social welfare activities, in order to play an active role in serving the community.

Ahli United Bank declared its keenness to develop its social program for the month of Ramadan, year after year, to ensure the best activities that fit the nature of the Holy Month and deepen the Bank's association with the community.

This year, the Bank has launched a TV commercial to celebrate the Holy Month of Ramadan, carrying a welcome message, 'Ramadan is here.' The message focuses on the values that unite us in Ramadan, such as visiting family and relatives, celebrating with children on the occasion of girgean, as well as exchanging greetings, congratulations, and spreading joy and happiness in the hearts of all.

AUB said in a press release: "Our social program throughout the month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of activities and initiatives such as issuing the Imsakiya prior to Ramadan, as well as driving an employee religious seminar under the name 'How do we get ready for Ramadan?', delivered by Sheikh Dr Khaled Al-Mathkooor, AUB's Chairman of the Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board. Many employees attended the seminar."

The Bank has organized its Ramadan Quran Recitation competition, which is being held for the third consecutive year. This year, the competition has been developed to include four primary categories: male and female employees, staff mem-

bers' children and the public, for children whose ages range between 6 to fourteen years old.

In an effort to promote and encourage religious awareness through media, AUB will support the prominent Hadith program "Ahadith Wa Ebar", which is broadcasted on Al-Rai TV throughout the month of Ramadan, and is presented by Sheikh Dr Abdulaziz Al-Qassar, a member of AUB's Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board. The program aims to thoroughly address a chosen number of Hadiths.

AUB added: "In line with AUB's commitment towards charity work that is in line with the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Bank's social program includes a number of social initiatives which include visits by staff to children in hospitals, distributing gifts with an objective of easing their pain, and bringing more joy and happiness to them throughout the month. The Bank also encourages its employees who are interested in volunteering to participate, in such social work.

AUB, in collaboration with social volunteering groups, will hold a number of activities that include distributing food and clothes to less fortunate families along with a number of visits to the elderly in homes and distributing gifts and girgean.

AUB concluded, "We believe in the importance of social giving, and as a leading financial institution that operates in line with the Islamic sharia, we are committed to interacting with our local community and supporting its wellbeing throughout the month of Ramadan, a time when good deeds are expected, and to help people in need.



NERVOUS BEFORE AN INTERVIEW? HERE IS HOW TO AVOID THE STRESS

KUWAIT: As a professional, you must have gone through many exams in your life. The common pre-exam symptoms such as: butterflies in your stomach, anxiety of not knowing an answer, and the need to prepare more and more can cause a lot of stress. This doesn't change much in the corporate world. Instead, the job interview is what might cause you to sweat and tremble in this case.

If you are one of the many professionals who feel really nervous at the very thought of interviewing for a new position, there are certain things to do that can get you ready and help you through your interview woes. Here is what the Bayt.com career experts recommend:

Be prepared

The interview is not the time to rack your brain when answering questions like: "How long did you work for that company?" or "When exactly did you graduate?" You should know your CV like the back of your hand. Remember, it is about you and you are the world's best expert on this subject matter. For the length of the interview you are completely in control.

Pretend that the interviewer is more stressed out than you are

This is a very famous technique. Just imagine that the person interviewing you is more nervous and stressed than you are. It will help boost your confidence and minimize any negative thoughts in your head.

Put yourself in the interviewer's shoes

It is important to remember that the interviewer is a busy person with deadlines, tasks, and things to do. Keep in mind that getting this far in the application process is already an accomplishment and the fact that the employer has given you such a generous block of time

means they are genuinely interested in your abilities. You should feel good that you have made it this far.

Practice makes perfect

Knowing the job, the industry and the company well is essential for successful interviews. Research these areas extensively. Practice your answers bearing in mind at all times what the employer is looking for based on your research activities. Practicing will make you more comfortable with the style and flow or a job interview and will minimize your stress level.

Do not get stuck on the bad

Remind yourself that everyone makes mistakes. Should you stumble with a particularly difficult question, you can quickly recover. The secret is not to make a big issue out of a bad or outright wrong answer, but to quickly take

stock of what went wrong, regain composure, then refocus and move on to the next question.

Dress well

Research a company's culture before deciding on what 'well' is. Do not go wearing a suit to a company whose employees are always in jeans and t-shirts, and don't wear jeans to an interview at a company where everyone's always suited up. This is really important. Feeling well dressed goes a long way to make you feel like you belong.

Smile

Aside from charming the interviewer, a polite smile will make you happier and will lift your spirits. Aim to smile as sincerely often during the interview and watch how your mood lightens up and how the interview takes on a more positive light.





Trump cellphone diplomacy raises security concerns

REFUGEES FACE 'ACUTE CRISIS' IN CYCLONE-HIT BANGLADESH

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People watch a ground based interceptor missile take off at Vandenberg Air Force base, California on Tuesday. — AFP

US SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ICBM DEFENSE

SYSTEM KEY TO PROTECTING US TERRITORY FROM NORTH KOREAN ATTACK

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon scored an important success Tuesday in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor that is key to protecting US territory from a North Korean attack. Vice Adm Jim Syring, director of the Pentagon agency in charge of developing the missile defense system, called the test result "an incredible accomplishment" and a critical milestone for a program hampered by setbacks over the years.

"This system is vitally important to the defense of our homeland, and this test demonstrates that we have a capable, credible deterrent against a very real threat," Syring said in a written statement announcing the test result. Despite the success, the \$244 million test didn't confirm that under wartime conditions the US could intercept an intercontinental-range missile fired by North Korea. Pyongyang is understood to be moving closer to the capability of putting a nuclear warhead on such an ICBM and could develop decoys sophisticated enough to trick an interceptor into missing the real warhead.

Syring's agency sounded a note of caution. "Initial indications are that the test met its primary objective, but program officials will continue to evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test," his statement said. Philip E Coyle, a former head of the Pentagon's test and evaluation office and a senior fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, said Tuesday's outcome was a significant success for a test that was three years in preparation, but he noted that it was only the second success in the last five intercept attempts since 2010. "In several ways, this test was a \$244 million-dollar baby step, a baby step that took three years," Coyle said. The most recent intercept test, in June 2014, was successful, but the longer track record is spotty. Since the system was declared ready for potential combat use in 2004, only four of nine intercept attempts have been successful. "This is part of a continuous learning curve," said Navy Capt Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, ahead of Tuesday's test. The Pentagon is still incorporating engineering upgrades to its missile interceptor, which has yet to be fully tested in realistic conditions.

North Korea says its nuclear and missile programs are a defense against perceived US military threats. Its accelerating missile development has complicated Pentagon calculations, most recently by incorporating solid-fuel technology into its rockets. The step would mean even less launch warning time for the United States. Liquid fuel is less stable and rockets using it have to be fueled in the field, a process that takes longer and can be detected by satellites.

Underscoring its uninterrupted efforts, North Korea on Monday fired a short-range ballistic missile that landed in Japan's maritime economic zone. In Tuesday's US test, the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency launched an interceptor rocket from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The target was an intercontinental-range missile fired from a test range on Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific.

According to the plan, a 5-foot-long "kill vehicle" released from atop the interceptor zeroed in on the ICBM-like target's mock warhead outside Earth's atmosphere and obliterated it by sheer force of impact, the Pentagon said. The "kill vehicle" carries no explosives, either in testing or in actual combat. The target was a custom-made missile

meant to simulate an ICBM, meaning it flew faster than missiles used in previous intercept tests, according to Christopher Johnson, the Missile Defense Agency's spokesman. It was not a mock-up of an actual North Korean ICBM, and details of its exact capabilities weren't made public.

Officially known as the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system, the Pentagon likens the defensive tactic to hitting a bullet with a bullet. With congressional support, the Pentagon is increasing by the end of this year the number of deployed interceptors, based in California and Alaska, to 44 from the current total of 36. While Tuesday's

test wasn't designed with the expectation of an imminent North Korean missile threat, the military wants progress toward the stated goal of being able to shoot down a small number of ICBMs targeting the United States.

Laura Grego, senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, which has criticized the missile defense program, called the interceptor an "advanced prototype," meaning it is not fully matured technologically even if it has been deployed and theoretically available for combat since 2004. A successful test Tuesday, she said, could demonstrate the Pentagon is on the right track with its latest technical fixes. "Overall," she wrote in an analysis prior to

the test, the military "is not even close to demonstrating that the system works in a real-world setting".

The interceptors are, in essence, the last line of US defense against an attack by an intercontinental-range missile. The Pentagon has other elements of missile defense that have shown to be more reliable, although they are designed to work against medium-range or shorter-range ballistic missiles. These include the Patriot missile, which numerous countries have purchased from the US, and the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, which the US deployed this year to South Korea to defend against medium-range missiles from North Korea. — AP

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OVERCROWDING, CORRUPTION, CRIME: HELL OF MEXICO PRISONS

MEXICO CITY: Plagued by riots, murders and escapes, the prolonged crisis in Mexico's overcrowded prisons is being worsened by the infiltration of cartels and the corruption of authorities. The high-profile escape of the country's most-wanted drugs lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in 2015, and a riot last year in a Monterrey penitentiary that left 49 dead, have only underscored the challenges facing the government. "The crisis comes down to two factors," said Guillermo Zepeda, head of the Jurimetria legal affairs watchdog. "Overcrowding on the one hand, and on the other the penetration of organized crime into penitentiaries."

The government of President Enrique Pena Nieto has vowed to tackle the endemic problem with more infrastructure and equipment, as well as more and better paid prison staff. In the past year, it has succeeded in reducing the prison population by 30,000, but 58 percent of the country's current 216,831 inmates

still live in overcrowded conditions, and more than a third of Mexico's 375 prisons are filled beyond capacity.

Guns and parties

Gangs have effective control of cell blocks in some prisons and fight among themselves for control, triggering riots, murders, escapes and clashes. This year alone there have been shoot-outs, fires and the escape of 29 inmates from prisons in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas. The son of Juan Jose Esparragoza, one of the founders of Guzman's powerful Sinaloa cartel, managed to escape from a prison in the state of Sinaloa.

Images of a "narco-fiesta" went viral on social media this year, showing jailbirds in the western state of Jalisco swigging alcohol, feasting and watching a live concert in which the band played songs hailing the gang boss who had organized the party. Another video showed inmates being forced by mem-

bers of a rival gang to clean their cells while dressed in women's lingerie.

Just a few days ago, police found guns and a tunnel in another prison in Tamaulipas where 80 percent of the inmates are members of the Gulf Cartel. Memories are still fresh of Guzman's spectacular escape from a maximum security penitentiary two years ago, ducking down a tunnel under the very noses of his guards and staying on the run for months. That was the second time he had busted out, having carried out another high-profile jailbreak in 2001.

Those scenes, as well as the gang brawl that killed 49 prisoners in Monterrey's Topo Chico prison last year, are made possible by "the corruption inside the system," said Catalina Perez of the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics. "There is a lot of corruption which no one is dealing with," she said. "You end up with some inmates paying for luxury cells and whatever else they want, while the poorer ones wind up

cleaning the toilets," she told AFP. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in May reiterated its concern over what it called the worsening state of gangs running or partially controlling prisons, "in the face of a growing number of inmates linked to organized crime or with higher economic means."

Inefficient law

Almost half of the inmates in federal penitentiaries, and 30 percent of those in state jails, are held in preventive custody, waiting to be tried or sentenced. In many cases, they face charges for minor crimes, such as robbery without violence. "These people have few financial resources and have only been accused of minor crimes," said Perez. She said Mexico has to decide what function its prisons serve: "If we are going to use them for people caught with small amounts of illegal substances or to re-assimilate (into society) those who committed the worst crimes."

In June last year, Congress passed a

law that gave the greenlight to punishments that would allow reparation of damage and community work rather than jail time. It aims to re-assimilate offenders and take the pressure of the prisons, but its implementation on the ground has been slow. "Now we have to demand that the authorities carry out the work in keeping with the law, something which is not happening now," said Angelica de la Pena, from the left-leaning Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), who heads the upper house's human rights commission.

Civil rights groups, for their part, are concerned that society has not been educated to be more accepting of those who have served time. "If people coming out of jail cannot find work, are discriminated against, and are notorious in their own neighborhoods, then it will be a never-ending cycle," said Consuelo Banuelos, head of Promotion for Peace, a group working to rehabilitate prisoners in society. —AFP



ADANA, Turkey: This photo taken on May 24, 2017 shows US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley during the opening ceremony of Sakirpasa Umran school, funded by the US government. —AFP

HALEY TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL, UN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEETING

UNITED NATIONS: US Ambassador Nikki Haley, who has accused the United Nations of anti-Israel bias, will travel to Israel next week and deliver an address to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Haley will be the first US ambassador to address the rights council, speaking at a session on June 6 that will be followed by a speech on the US role at the council, the US mission said. The former governor of South Carolina has criticized the UN rights body as "corrupt" and the US administration has been weighing a withdrawal from the council.

"We haven't made a decision yet," Haley told reporters when asked if the United States would quit the council. Haley said she would discuss possible reforms at the council and "then we will make a decision after that." From June 7 to 9, Haley will hold meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders during her visit to Israel and

visit a UN peacekeeping mission in the region. Haley said she was hoping to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, but that these meetings had yet to be confirmed.

The US ambassador has won applause from the Israeli government for pledging to stand up to what she has termed "Israel-bashing" at the United Nations. She has condemned a Security Council resolution demanding that Israel halt the expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian land as a "terrible mistake". The resolution was adopted after the former US administration refused to use its veto to block the measure and instead abstained. In Geneva, Haley will also discuss the human rights crisis in Venezuela. It will be her second visit abroad as US ambassador. Last week, she visited Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey. —AFP

3,000 ARRESTS IN VENEZUELA UNREST

CARACAS: Venezuelan police have arrested nearly 3,000 people in the two months since a wave of anti-government protests erupted, a judicial campaign group said on Tuesday. President Nicolas Maduro's opponents accuse him of repressing protesters who are calling for elections to remove him from office. He accuses them of plotting a coup against him. Foro Penal (the Criminal Justice Forum) has counted 2,977 people arrested during the deadly unrest, of whom 1,351 are still in detention, director Alfredo Romero told a news conference.

Of those, 197 have been jailed after being sentenced by military courts, said a lawyer working for the group, Alonso Medina. "This is a situation that occurs under dictatorial regimes," Medina said. Prosecutors say 60 people have been killed in violence linked to the protests

since they broke out on April 1, many of them shot dead. Riot police have fired tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets. Protesters have hurled Molotov cocktails and rocks.

That was the picture Tuesday as well when about 2,000 demonstrators took to the streets against Maduro. Police used tear gas and flash-bang explosives to break up crowds. The crowd was unable to move out of the east end of Caracas. Most fled from the gas, but a few holdouts who were wearing helmets kept clashing with authorities on motorcycles who were hit with rocks and Molotov cocktails. "People are not getting tired of protesting; they are getting more and more tired of this government, and of going hungry," Arturo, a university student of 26, told AFP. —AFP

TRUMP MOBILE DIPLOMACY RAISES SECURITY CONCERNS

US PRESIDENT'S CALLS VULNERABLE TO EAVESDROPPING

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has been handing out his cellphone number to world leaders and urging them to call him directly, an unusual invitation that breaks diplomatic protocol and is raising concerns about the security and secrecy of the US commander in chief's communications. Trump has urged leaders of Canada and Mexico to reach him on his cellphone, according to former and current US officials with direct knowledge of the practice. Of the two, only Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has taken advantage of the offer so far, the officials said.

Trump also exchanged numbers with French President Emmanuel Macron when the two spoke immediately following Macron's victory earlier this month, according to a French official, who would not comment on whether Macron intended to use the line. All the officials demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal the conversations. Neither the White House nor Trudeau's office responded to requests for comment.

The notion of world leaders calling each other up via cellphone may seem unremarkable in the modern, mobile world. But in the diplomatic arena, where leader-to-leader calls are highly orchestrated affairs, it is another notable breach of protocol for a president who has expressed distrust of official channels. The formalities and discipline of diplomacy have been a rough fit for Trump - who, before taking office, was long easily accessible by cellphone and viewed himself as freewheeling, impulsive dealmaker.

Presidents generally place calls on one of several secure phone lines, including those in the White House Situation Room, the Oval Office or the presidential limousine. Even if Trump uses his government-issued cellphone, his calls are vulnerable to eavesdropping, particularly from foreign governments, national security experts say.

"If you are speaking on an open line, then it's an open line, meaning those who have the ability to monitor those conversations are doing so," said Derek Chollet, a former

Pentagon adviser and National Security Council official now at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. A president "doesn't carry with him a secure phone," Chollet said. "If someone is trying to spy on you, then everything you're saying, you have to presume that others are listening to it."

Caution

The caution is warranted even when dealing with allies. As German Chancellor Angela Merkel learned in 2013, when a dump of American secrets leaked by Edward Snowden

revealed the US was monitoring her cellphone, good relations don't prevent some spycraft between friends.

"If you are Macron or the leader of any country and you get the cellphone number of the president of the United States, it's reasonable to assume that they'd hand it right over to their intel service," said Ashley Deeks, a law professor at the University of Virginia who formerly served as the assistant legal adviser for political-military affairs in the US State Department.

The practice opens Trump up to charges of hypocrisy. Throughout last year's presidential campaign, he lambasted Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for using a private email server while she was secretary of

secret line of communication could be used to facilitate sensitive policy discussions about the conflict in Syria, according to a person familiar with the talks. The person demanded anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the sensitive conversation by name. The White House has said such back channel communications are useful and discreet.

Leaks

Trump has struggled more than most recent presidents to keep his conversations with world leaders private. His remarks to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Russian diplomats have all leaked, presumably after notes of the conversations were circulated by national security officials.

It was unclear whether an impromptu, informal call with a foreign leader would be logged and archived. The Presidential Records Act of 1981, passed in response to the Watergate scandal, requires that the president and his staff to preserve all records related to the office. In 2014, the act was amended to include personal emails.

But the law contains "blind spots" - namely, record-keeping for direct cellphone communications, said Jonathan Turley, a professor at George Washington University Law School, who specializes in public interest and national security law. Under Barack Obama, the first cellphone-toting president, worries about cyber intrusions - particularly by foreign governments - pulled the president's devices deep into the security bubble. Many of the functions on Obama's BlackBerry were blocked, and a very small handful of people had his phone number or email address, according to former aides.

"Government sometimes looks like a big bureaucracy that has stupid rules, but a lot of these things are in place for very good reasons and they've been around for a while and determine the most effective way to do business in the foreign policy sphere," said Deeks. "Sometimes it takes presidents longer to figure that out." —AP



WASHINGTON: In this March 24, 2017 photo, US President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office of the White House. —AP

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The practice opens Trump up to charges of hypocrisy. Throughout last year's presidential campaign, he lambasted Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for using a private email server while she was secretary of

eign policy officials. Those records are preserved and archived.

The White House did not respond to questions on whether the president is keeping records of any less-formal calls with world leaders. Trump's White House is already facing scrutiny for apparent efforts to work outside usual diplomatic channels. The administration has been fending off questions about a senior aide's alleged attempt to set up a secret back channel of communication with Moscow in the weeks before Trump was took office.

White House adviser Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, met in December with Russia's ambassador to the US and discussed whether a

US KILLER LED LIFE MARKED BY VIOLENCE

BROOKHAVEN, Mississippi: Willie Cory Godbolt, the man accused of killing a sheriff's deputy and seven people he knew in rural Mississippi, has led a life marked by violence. When Godbolt was 17, his mother shot and killed his father, a Brookhaven police officer, after the two had separated, Brookhaven Police Chief Bobby Bell said Tuesday. In the two decades since, Godbolt was charged with misdemeanor assault or similar crimes at least a dozen times, and convicted in at least six of them, Lincoln County court records show.

Last June, his wife accused him of choking and punching her, and putting his hand down her mouth so she couldn't scream. Investigators say his most violent act yet happened over the weekend when a domestic violence dispute spiraled into a killing spree that left eight people dead at three separate homes. He could face the death penalty if convicted. About two decades ago, Godbolt's mother accused his father of domestic violence but the charges were later dropped. In 1999, using her ex-husband's police revolver, she shot him to death and pleaded guilty to manslaughter and burglary. She is no longer in prison.

Godbolt, shackled at his hands and feet, appeared in court briefly Tuesday afternoon and was denied bail. He was being held at the Copiah County jail. He left armed was bandaged from a gunshot wound, but it's

not clear who shot him. Investigators say it wasn't police. Godbolt, who in the past has worked for a grocery distributor, showed little emotion and barely spoke during the hearing. A judge said the court will appoint an attorney for him.

Slain were Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy William Durr; Barbara Mitchell, 55; Brenda May, 53; Toccara May, 35; Ferral Burage, 45; Shelia Burage, 46; Austin Edwards, 11; and Jordan Blackwell, 18. Funeral services were scheduled over several days starting today. In the last four years, Godbolt had been cited repeatedly for making threats or assaulting family members and others. He was convicted after punching a husband and pushing a wife out of the bleachers at a school football game in October 2013.

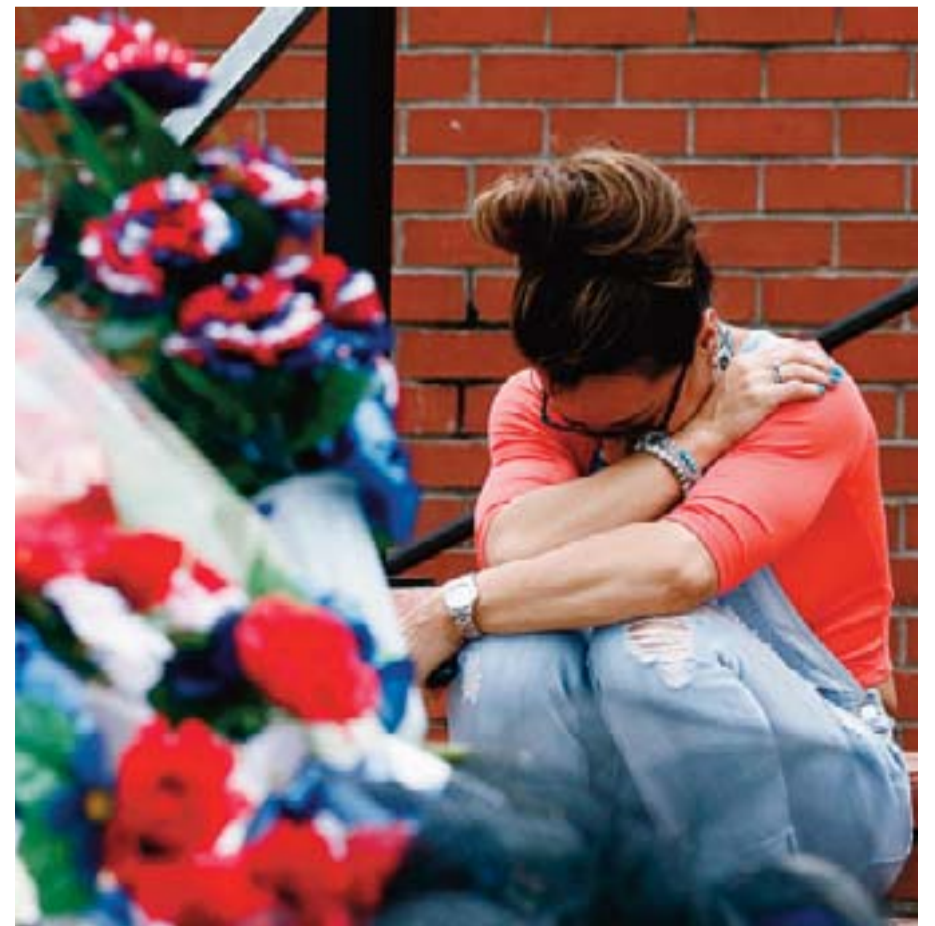
Godbolt's in-laws, the May family, pressed charges against him multiple times, with Godbolt being convicted of death threats in Nov 2015. His wife, Sheena Godbolt, obtained a restraining order against her husband last June after accusing him of felony domestic violence. Sheena Godbolt swore in court papers that her husband harmed her "by punching her in the stomach repeatedly and by choking her. She states he also put his hand down her mouth where she couldn't scream for help."

On Saturday, the initial call came at 11:30 p.m. to remove a person involved in a domestic dispute. Investigators say Godbolt

had gone to a home to demand that his estranged wife give up their two children. Durr, the deputy, had told him to leave, and relatives said it seemed Godbolt was going to comply when he opened fire. "We've handled calls like that a thousand times," Lincoln County Sheriff Steve Rushing said. "At some point, it went really bad."

After killing four people there, Godbolt continued an all-night rampage where he killed the two boys at a second home and then the Burages in a third location around sunrise. Rushing said Godbolt changed cars at least three times. Witnesses say he forced a woman and then a 15-year-old boy to drive him around for much of the night. Mississippi Bureau of Investigation spokesman Warren Strain declined to confirm those reports. Aside from the deputy, everyone who died was a relative or acquaintance of Godbolt.

A story of heroism emerged from the carnage. A witness at the second shooting said Blackwell used his body to shield his cousin, Caleb Edwards, 15, from the gunfire. "He loved me enough to take some bullets for me," Caleb said Sunday. Caleb's 11-year-old brother, Austin Edwards, was also shot to death in that living room early Sunday. Godbolt told The Clarion-Ledger that he hadn't planned to be captured alive. "My intentions was to have God kill me. I ran out of bullets," he said. "Suicide by cop was my intention." —AP



BROOKHAVEN, Mississippi: Katrina Ebbers, whose husband is a Lincoln County Sheriff's deputy, cries as she sits near the makeshift memorial for slain Lincoln County Sheriff's Office deputy William Durr at the Lincoln County-Brookhaven Government Complex on Tuesday. —AP

CALABAR: SLAVE TRADE TO PEOPLE TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA



CALABAR, Nigeria: This file photo taken on November 16, 1967 shows Nigerian federal army soldiers patrolling near the destroyed prison of Calabar, the oldest port on the West African coast, after the federal troops took the city from the Biafran rebellion, during the Biafran war. — AFP

CALABAR, Nigeria: They travel thousands of kilometers across west Africa to get to the southeast Nigerian city of Calabar where small boats are supposed to take them to a better life. But these migrants aren't about to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. They're aiming for a closer - and less risky - promised land: rich oil-producing African countries. Symphorien Hounkanrin, 35, is originally from Ketenou, an impoverished village in Benin, and left school at the age of 11. Other than fishing, he says "there's nothing to do there" for young people like him.

His brothers and cousins all left for oil hubs, Libreville in Gabon, or Malabo in Equatorial Guinea. Now he wants to join them. "There's work. You can earn a lot there," he told AFP, his eyes lighting up. "You can come back and build a nice house in the village like those who go to Europe." The United Nations has said that contrary to common belief, more than half of all African migrants actually look for work elsewhere on the continent.

Like Gabon, which is home to just 1.8 million people, sparsely populated oil-producing countries attract a plentiful supply of foreign workers every year. They come from Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria and Benin, disregarding the risks for the prospect of opportunities. "No-one knows how many leave nor how many die" en route, said Nassirou Afagnon, from the International Organization for Migration

(IOM) in Benin. Few statistics are available. Because there is free movement between member states of the west African regional bloc ECOWAS, it is easy for would-be migrants to reach Calabar by road. The peaceful port city off the Gulf of Guinea lies only a few miles by sea to their intended destinations.

Slave-trading port

Standing in front of a small jetty scattered with rubbish, an employee of the Maritime Union promises potential clients a safe trip and no identity checks. Seven thousand naira (\$22) is enough to get to the port of Limbe in neighboring Cameroon. From there, another boat to Gabon costs 15,000 CFA francs (\$25). For the same trip from Calabar, some operators charge up to 350,000 CFA francs per migrant, according to those who have made the journey in Gabon.

Traffickers are well-established along Marina Bay in central Calabar, where they're called "businessmen". During the day, they take fishermen and merchandise to other Nigerian ports legally. But during the night, their boats carry a silent human cargo. At the end of February, Joe Abang, the justice minister of Cross River state, of which Calabar is the capital, raised the alarm. He said Calabar had become "the transit haven for traffickers" to "perpetrate their nefarious activities" because of a crackdown against smuggling in neighboring states. — AFP

POLL DIVE HITS BRITISH PM'S ELECTION BATTLE

LABOUR NIBBLING AWAY AT CONSERVATIVE LEAD

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May was fighting to shore up her general election campaign yesterday after a shock projection forecast a hung parliament and left the pound wobbling. The landslide Conservative victory May hoped to seal by calling a snap election for June 8 seemed much less likely with eight days to go, with the polls narrowing and the premier putting in a lackluster performance in a major television interview.

The opposition Labour party, led by veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, has gradually nibbled away at the Conservative lead in the polls, with the campaign back in full swing after the Manchester terror attack. But May insisted she had the best plan for taking Britain into negotia-

tions over its exit from the European Union, which start 11 days after the election. "The only poll that matters is the one that's going to take place on June 8," she said on a campaign visit to Plymouth in southwest England. "Then people will have a choice as to who they want to see as leader, who they want to see as prime minister taking this country forward in the future: me or Jeremy Corbyn. I have the plan for the Brexit negotiations but I've also got a plan to build a stronger and more prosperous Britain and I'm confident we can do that."

Polls tightening

May called the election three years early in a bid to strengthen her slender majority in parli-

ment going into the Brexit talks. The decision was made on the back of polls that at times put the Conservatives 20 points ahead and on course for an overwhelming victory. But opinion polls have showed the gap between the Conservatives and Labour closing. "The movement in the polls over this campaign is bigger than in any election I've covered since 1945," veteran poll watcher David Butler said on Twitter.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper's rolling average of the last eight polls now puts the Conservatives on 44 percent, Labour on 36 percent, the centrist Liberal Democrats on eight percent and the anti-EU UK Independence Party on five percent. A shock new projection on the front page of The Times newspaper forecast a hung parliament in which the Conservatives would fall short of the 326 seats needed for a majority. Using new constituency-by-constituency modelling, the projection by pollsters YouGov said the Conservatives would lose 20 seats to 310, with Labour up 28 to 257. The model was based on 50,000 interviews over one week. However, it has a very wide margin of error, saying the Conservatives could get anywhere between 274 and 345 seats meaning they could also increase their majority.

Pound takes a hit

The British currency was hit in Tuesday overnight trading, dipping by as much as 0.5 percent on the back of the YouGov poll. It recovered ground early yesterday, trading broadly flat at 1.28 against the dollar and up 0.1 percent against the euro at 1.14. Sterling had risen in recent weeks on the prospect that the Conservatives would win by a landslide. "There is a slightly more cautious attitude as a result of those narrowing polls," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets. Sensing the momentum, Corbyn tried to shift the debate away from Brexit on Wednesday by going on the attack on public services, traditionally one of Labour's strong cards. He warned that schools and state healthcare in England would be put at risk if May remains in office. — AFP



BATH: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May listens to a question from a member of the audience during a question and answer session during a general election campaign rally at Cross Manufacturing in southwest England yesterday as campaigning continues in the build up to the general election on June 8. — AFP

BATTLE BUSES PLAY DRIVING ROLE IN BRITISH ELECTION

LONDON: Despite the growing use of social media to reach voters, British election campaigns still revolve around leaders trundling across the country on "battle buses" to drive their message home. A garish, oblong campaign

slogan on wheels - stuffed with party leaders, spin doctors, activists and journalists - the battle bus is a curious British electioneering staple that emerged in the late 1970s and has somehow kept on the road in the digital age.

While US President Donald Trump flew into glitzy campaign rallies on his private, gold-plated Boeing 757 jet, British prime minister hopefuls plough through the traffic on buses to reach provincial towns, where they try to avoid being harangued in front of the cameras outside a sausage roll shop. "They are a slightly odd feature of British elections. This is the British version of Air Force One: we turn up on a third-hand bus," politics professor Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics university, told AFP. With Britain being 1,000 km long, politicians can conceivably cover a dozen constituencies in a day using campaign buses.

Democratic but comic

The executive coaches typically have a VIP sofa and table area at the back where travelling reporters can have a cosy chat with the politicians between the frequent and often extremely brief campaign stops. These typically involve a walkabout with a line of party backers in the background holding placards - often trying to obscure those of rival party interlopers - and a bundle of photographers walking backwards in front of them.

Many of the images from the campaign will be taken in front of a bus, or within a stone's throw of one. Actually meeting voters is a perilous risk: if a confrontation spirals out of control, it eclipses everything else on the news agenda. The chief example is from 2001 when Labour's deputy prime minister John Prescott punched a man in the face, seconds after stepping off the "Prescott Express". Travers said battle buses offered a perfect compromise of security, space and flexibility - able to go to towns off the train network - without looking flashy. "They are the most democratic form of transport, and don't have status issues like cars. They send out the right message," he said. "And you can get out quick when the going gets tough." — AFP



This combination of pictures shows (clockwise from top left): On May 12, 2017, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May boarding the Conservative party's general election campaign "battle bus" after making a speech at an airfield north of Newcastle; on May 18, 2017, Britain's Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn waving to supporters as he climbs back onto the Labour "battle bus" in Southall, west London; on May 20, 2017, UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader Paul Nuttall (left) and the party's candidate for the Clacton constituency, Peter Oakley (second left), exiting the party's "battle bus" in Clacton-on-Sea, eastern England; and on May 01, 2017, Britain's Liberal Democrats leader, Tim Farron greeting supporters at the start of his "battle bus" tour, in Kingston, southwest London. — AFP photos



ENNERDALE, South Africa: This file photo taken on May 10, 2017 shows a protester using a slingshot to hurl a stone at anti-riot police during a demonstration against service delivery and housing in the community of Finetown. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA STRUGGLES AS PROTESTS RAGE OVER POST-APARTHEID FAILURES

ENNERDALE, South Africa: The piles of stinking rubbish are growing, running water and electricity are scarce. In Ennerdale, public anger over the failures of post-apartheid South Africa has reached boiling point, exploding into a wave of violent protest. Here, on the outskirts of Johannesburg's sprawling Soweto township, the tightly-packed redbrick houses conceal a deep-rooted sense of frustration which in recent weeks has morphed into fury.

Outraged locals have burnt tyres and attacked police over chronic unemployment, shortages of electricity and water, as well as sub-standard education and healthcare. "Look where we're living. Ten people are staying in this room, nine more in the shack behind, all from the same family," said 21-year-old Celine Brown, a local resident. Rubbish has gone uncollected for longer than anyone can recall and dependable supplies of water and electricity are a pipe dream.

Anger among the 17,000 people living here has reached fever pitch. Initially, the protests took the form of marches with demonstrators burning tyres on roads. But they soon escalated into arson attacks on buildings, clashes with police and looting.

'Not hearing us'

Brown said she had been waiting for a basic government-funded home for three years. "Maybe it's because they're not hearing us. Maybe it's that they don't understand the situation we are going through because they have better lives," she told AFP. Brown was born in the single-room house with a cement floor that becomes freezing in winter. Through an iron grill, she looks out onto the strip of dirt that is her garden. On the other side of her property is a wooden shack.

Three generations are packed into her house, which has neither drinking water nor lights - and no one in the household has work. "If the government is not doing anything about the situation we are in, it is just going to get worse and worse. Rioting is the only thing to do," she said. Other parts of South Africa's largest city have also erupted into violence over the lack of basic services. The flare-ups are almost a daily occurrence in South Africa - the continent's most developed economy - and are known locally as "service delivery protests". And a quarter of a century after the fall of apartheid, Brown's plight highlights the persistent inequality dogging the rainbow nation.

Bucket for a toilet

A few streets away the situation is just as bad. "There are no toilets. We sit on the bucket in the house and go and pour it there," said Valerie Mabimbeli, 64, pointing outside. "Give us proper houses." "Our people cannot live for over 30 years in a situation where there is no water, no electricity. I feel that it is unfair and inhumane," said another resident, 46-year-old Marge Cass. "If there are no jobs, if there is no proper housing, we will have no youth that has a vision to wake up and say 'I want to go to a job' or 'I want to go to school... This is the birth of crime.'"

With unemployment at 25 percent and growing relentlessly, the chronic lack of housing is one of the most visible aspects of the economic challenges facing South Africa. There have been no new homes built in Ennerdale since 1994 - the year of South Africa's first non-racial election. The ruling ANC made limited progress investing in infrastructure but some of those gains have been lost since the 2008 economic crisis. Of South Africa's 55 million people, 13 percent live in "informal" dwellings, according to official statistics.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa recently spoke out about the scale of the problems facing the country. "We have not grown enough or created sufficient jobs to defeat poverty and unemployment," he told parliament earlier this month. Addressing the protesters in Ennerdale, Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu sought to reassure them. "We are not deaf to your problems," she said.

'This country will burn'

Many of Ennerdale's residents are mixed-race - in official terms "coloured" - and they have accused the government of discrimination. "The government has not developed these communities economically as they have done with black African communities," said Jerome Lottering standing with a group of protesters in Eldorado Park. "We are sitting on a ticking time bomb - if things are not being done to change the lives of millions of people, this country is going to burn."

Gabriela Mackay, a race relations researcher, said the "race problem is less of (an) issue" than the fact that people feel their votes just don't count. In front of her sister's derelict home, Marge Cass, a spokeswoman for the residents, doubts that national elections in 2019 will improve the situation. "We vote here but nothing has ever changed," she said. — AFP

RUSSIA FIRES CRUISE MISSILES AT IS TARGETS IN SYRIA



In this frame grab provided yesterday, long-range Kalibr cruise missile is launched by the Russian Navy Admiral Essen frigate in the Mediterranean. — AP

MOSCOW: Russian warships in the Mediterranean Sea have fired four cruise missiles at the Islamic State group's positions in Syria, the Russian defense ministry said yesterday. The announcement came as Syrian government troops pushed ahead in their offensive against IS and militants in central and northern Syria. Moscow said in a statement that the Admiral Essen frigate and the Krasnodar submarine launched the missiles at IS targets in the area of the ancient town of Palmyra. There was no information on when the missiles were launched.

Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in northern, central and southern part of the country against IS and US-backed rebels under the cover of Russian airstrikes, gaining an area almost half the size of neighboring Lebanon. Most recently, Syrian troops and their allies have been marching toward the IS stronghold of Sukhna, about 60 km northeast of Palmyra. The strategic juncture in the Syrian desert aids government plans to go after IS in Deir el-Zour, one of the militants' last major strongholds in Syria. The oil-rich province straddles the border with Iraq and is the extremist group's last gateway to the outside world.

Russia, a staunch Damascus ally, has been providing air cover to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's offensive on IS and other insurgents since 2015. Moscow had fired cruise missiles from warships in the past, as well as from mainland Russia against Assad's opponents. As the fighting against IS militants is underway near Palmyra, Syrian troops clashed with US-backed rebels in the country's south yesterday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Mozaem Al-Salloum, of the activist-run Hammurabi Justice News network that tracks developments in eastern Syria.

The fighting came days after the United States told Syrian government forces and their allies to move away from an area near the Jordanian border where the coalition is training allied rebels. The warning comes less than two weeks after the Americans bombed Iranian-backed troops there after they failed to heed similar warnings. Navy Capt Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said on Tuesday that the US dropped leaflets over the weekend telling the forces to leave the established protected zone. — AP

IRAN TV USES GREEN SCREEN TO BYPASS HEADSCARF RULES

TEHRAN: For Iranian viewers sitting down for this year's primetime historical drama during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, there was a shock: You could see women's hair. The director's trick: Popping across the border to neighboring Armenia to film women without headscarves in front of a "green screen" and then superimposing them into the background of Iranian scenes. "This is a technical achievement for our cinema and television that can be of service in future," director Jalil Saman said in yesterday's Haft-e Sobh newspaper.

The month of Ramadan, which started on Saturday, is always a showcase for high-profile TV serials and this year it is Saman's "Nafas" (or "Breath"), about a nurse being dragged into the revolutionary tumult of the late 1970s, that has garnered the most attention. Iranian TV can show foreign films with unscarved women - although too much leg or cleavage gets blurred out or hidden behind a digitally inserted object such as a lamp.

But local programs must normally abide by strict rules in which no female hair can be shown, even for historical dramas or scenes set in a family home where real-life women do not cover their heads. Saman said it would have been absurd to show everyone in a headscarf since the show is set before the Islamic revolution of 1979 when women were free to wear whatever they wanted. Shows set during that period

are usually "ruined", he told Haft-e Sobh, because they cannot show how things really looked. "They give the impression that Islam was followed more before the revolution than today," he said. "We have only shown a part of how it was before the revolution but some cannot even tolerate this."

Saman said he was refused permission by the censors to use actresses in wigs, a trick used for several high-profile shows in the past. The other popular option - having women in hats with scarves wrapped around their ears and neck - was "ridiculous" he added. So instead Saman turned to "green screening", in which actresses are filmed in front of a green background that can be digitally removed and the character inserted into other scenes.

Iranian filmmakers must obtain three separate authorizations: For the script, filming and release. But the authorities admit that a majority of Iranians now own a satellite dish - even though they are technically illegal - beaming in uncensored programming from all over the world. It is part of the steady erosion of strict Islamic rules - in practice, if not in theory - that has also seen headscarves pushed further and further back, especially in wealthier parts of Tehran. President Hassan Rouhani won a resounding re-election victory this month, promising a further easing of social restrictions, although he faces considerable opposition from the clerical establishment. — AFP



COX'S BAZAR: An IOM medical team provides treatment at Balukhali camp yesterday. — AFP

REFUGEES FACE 'ACUTE CRISIS' IN CYCLONE-HIT BANGLADESH

INDIAN NAVY PLUCKS 33 CYCLONE SURVIVORS, BODY, FROM SEA

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh: Aid workers warned yesterday of an "acute crisis" in Bangladesh after a cyclone destroyed thousands of homes and devastated camps housing Rohingya refugees, leaving many without food or shelter. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya live in the overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar on the southeast coast after fleeing violence in neighboring Myanmar. Cyclone Mora battered the area on Tuesday, killing seven people, destroying 20,000 homes and forcing the evacuation of 600,000 residents.

India's Navy said it had pulled 33 Bangladeshi survivors and a body from the Bay of Bengal Wednesday during search and rescue operations following the cyclone. Some of the worst damage was at the camps housing the 300,000 Rohingya, whose numbers swelled last year following a military crackdown on the stateless Muslim minority in Myanmar. "There is an acute crisis of food, shelter, health services, water and sanitation facilities in the makeshift settlements following the storm," said Sanjukta Sahany, local head of the International Organization for Migration which coordinates relief in some of the camps. "The drainage and toilet system have been fully broken," she told AFP.

Risk of disease

Sahany said the storm had destroyed or damaged at least 16,010 homes in the makeshift camps and also seriously damaged clinics run by aid agencies for the Rohingya and the local community. Aid workers scrambled to get food to the camps, which house around 300,000 Rohingya, many of whom were observing the Ramadan fast when the cyclone struck. "We are

also repairing community structures and schools so that families that are sleeping in the open can move inside until their sheds can be repaired," said John McKissick, who heads the Cox's Bazar office of the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

Refugees have said they were given no official warning of the storm and were unable to salvage stockpiles of food for the breaking of the fast when it hit. "No charities came to offer food. Some people shared a small piece of bread between a group of four," community leader Mohammad Rafique Habib told AFP. "Pregnant women, children and the elderly are suffering most." Abdul Matin, who lives in a camp for unregistered Rohingya refugees, told AFP many had crowded into schools and mosques for the night, while others were forced to sleep in the open.

Haji Abdus Salam, who lives in Nayapara camp with his 13 children, two wives and 10 grand-children, said the family had not eaten since Tuesday. Outside the camps, Bangladeshi authorities say 20,000 homes were destroyed and another 39,000 damaged by the cyclone, which brought winds of up to 135 km per hour. The charity Save the Children said it was particularly concerned about the impact on minors. "Making matters worse, there is also an increased risk of disease, especially for those living in temporary or basic housing and with poor water and sanitation facilities," said country director Mark Pierce.

Bangladesh had earlier evacuated nearly 600,000 people from vulnerable areas and many low-lying villages were inundated by a storm surge reaching four feet (1.3 m). Most have since returned to their homes. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament her government's swift

response, coupled with the fact that the cyclone made landfall during an ebb tide, had averted disaster. Hasina has said her government would rebuild all property damaged by the storm and has sent two Bangladesh Navy ships to two of the worst-hit areas.

It was not immediately clear how the 33 rescued yesterday came to be in the sea, although some reports said they may have been swept from the shore. The Fishing Boat Association said an estimated 200 fishermen had failed to return to port. They were thought to be stranded, or to have anchored, on far-flung islands.

The INS Sumitra found the survivors, including women and children, floating in the Bay of Bengal roughly 160 km off the coast of Chittagong. "Our navy have found 33 survivors and one dead body from the sea. They were floating in the waters when they were found," Dhaka's Indian High Commission spokesman Ranjan Mondol said. The Indian embassy's Facebook page showed pictures of survivors floating in the Bay of Bengal as well as of rescued people covered in blankets.

Eastern Naval Command spokesman Commander C G Raju said the rescued Bangladeshis were given medical treatment. "We are planning to send a rescue aircraft to look out for more survivors," he told AFP. The Indian Navy had reportedly kept its Eastern Fleet on the highest alert level to assist Bangladesh if needed. Cyclone Mora comes after heavy rains in Sri Lanka caused the worst flooding the island has seen in well over a decade, killing more than 200 people. South Asia is frequently hit by flooding in the summer with the arrival of the annual monsoon rains. — AFP



KIRIBATHGALA, Sri Lanka: Soldiers carry out recovery work at the site of a mudslide in this village in Ratnapura district yesterday. — AFP

LANKA TIGHTENS BUILDING LAWS AS MONSOON RAIN TOLL TOPS 200

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka pledged yesterday to tighten construction laws as the toll from heavy rains rose to 203, saying many landslide victims would have survived had their homes not been built on slopes. The government will also prosecute anyone violating existing rules by building on landslide-prone slopes, said Disaster Management Minister Anura Yapa. "If we don't stop this madness, we are going to end up with a bigger disaster very soon," he said, pledging to demolish all illegal structures including 10,000 in the capital alone. "About 30 to 40 percent of this disaster is due to illegal constructions," Yapa said. "The local councils should never have allowed homes to be built on (landslide-prone) mountain slopes."

More than 1,500 homes were destroyed and another 7,600 suffered structural damage in landslides triggered by heavy rain on Friday, according to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC). As the official death toll rose to 203 with another 96 still missing, Yapa said residents in the worst-hit Ratnapura and Kalutara districts had ignored persistent warnings to evacuate. "We have a cultural issue where people don't accept that they are at risk," Yapa said. "We are also considering laws to force people to leave when evacuation warnings are issued by the DMC."

The minister said decades of illegal con-

struction had worsened the flooding by blocking drains and eliminating natural rainwater stores, including marshland. More than 600,000 people remain temporarily homeless after the landslides and floods, the worst to hit the island in 14 years. As the waters recede, hundreds of volunteers have begun work on cleaning wells to bring fresh water to survivors, officials said.

Government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne said additional medical teams were also being deployed to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake said 16 countries had rushed relief supplies and medicine to assist those driven from their homes following Friday's monsoon deluge. "We also have a lot of enquiries from other countries and organizations wanting to know our immediate needs. We are moved by the spontaneous response," Karunanayake told reporters.

India and Pakistan also deployed medical teams on the ground in some of the worst-hit areas, he said. The flooding is the worst since May 2003 when 250 people were killed and 10,000 homes destroyed after a similarly powerful monsoon, officials said. Monsoon rains last year also caused flooding and landslides, killing more than 100 people. — AFP

TURKEY: US ARMING OF KURDISH MILITIA 'EXTREMELY DANGEROUS'

ANKARA: Turkey on Tuesday said the US arming of a Kurdish militia force deemed a terror group by Ankara was "extremely dangerous", and urged Washington to reverse its "mistake". "Such steps are extremely dangerous for Syria's unity and territorial integrity," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, after the United States began providing small arms to the Kurdish fighters. "If we are looking for stability in Syria, we should row back from those mistakes," he told a press conference with Slovenian counterpart Karl Erjavec.

The Pentagon on Tuesday said it had begun to transfer small arms and vehicles to the Kurdish elements of the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-Syrian Arab alliance fighting the Islamic State group and containing Kurdish Peoples' Protection Units (YPG) fighters. The weapons include AK-47s and small-caliber machine guns, Pentagon spokesman Major Adrian Rankine-Galloway said. Turkey views the YPG as a "terror group" linked to Kurdish separatists waging an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984 that has killed more than 40,000 people.

But Washington believes the YPG is the most effective fighting force against IS jihadists in Syria, thus causing tensions between the NATO allies. The US' weapons transfers began ahead of an upcoming offensive to recapture Raqa, the last major bastion for IS in Syria. The SDF have

now advanced to within a few miles of Raqa on several fronts, and this month captured the strategic town of Tabqa and the adjacent dam from the jihadists.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with US counterpart Donald Trump in Washington for the first time where the issue of US support for the YPG was discussed on May 16,

the Turkish foreign minister said. Less than a week before Erdogan's visit, Trump approved arming fighters from the YPG. "The president clearly expressed our position and concerns during his Washington visit. It was stressed how risky and dangerous the support given to the YPG was," Cavusoglu said. "These weapons could be used against all humanity, not just Turkey." — AFP



ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu (right) welcomes Slovenia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Karl Erjavec at his official residence yesterday. — AFP



This undated picture released on May 28, 2017 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center in white shirt) watching the test of a new anti-aircraft guided weapon system organized by the Academy of National Defense Science at an undisclosed location. —AFP

NEW BALANCE OF TERROR: WHY N KOREA CLINGS TO ITS NUKES

PYONGYANG TESTING BALLISTIC MISSILES FASTER THAN EVER

PYONGYANG: Early one winter morning, Kim Jong Un stood at a remote observation post overlooking a valley of rice paddies near the Chinese border. The North Korean leader beamed with delight as he watched four extended range Scud missiles roar off their mobile launchers, comparing the sight to a team of acrobats performing in unison. Minutes later the projectiles splashed into the sea off the Japanese coast, 1,000 km from where he was standing.

It was an unprecedented event. North Korea had just run its first simulated nuclear attack on an American military base. This scene from March 6, described in government propaganda, shows how the North's seemingly crazy, suicidal nuclear program is neither crazy nor suicidal. Rather, this is North Korea's very deliberate strategy to ensure the survival of its ruling regime.

Back in the days of Kim Il Sung, North Korea's "eternal president" and Kim Jong Un's grandfather, the ruling regime decided it needed two things to survive: Reliable, long-range missiles and small, but potent, nuclear warheads. For a small and relatively poor country, that was, indeed, a distant and ambitious goal. But it detonated its first nuclear device on Oct 9, 2006.

Today, North Korea is testing advanced ballistic missiles faster than ever - a record 24 last year and three in just the past month. With each missile and each nuclear device, it becomes a better equipped, better trained and better prepared adversary. Some experts believe it might be able to build a missile advanced enough to reach the United States' mainland with a nuclear warhead in two to three years.

So forget, for the moment, how erratic Kim Jong Un and his generals may seem. North Korea conducted two nuclear tests last year; one was of the strongest nuclear device it has ever detonated and the other, Pyongyang claims, of its first H-bomb. The US for its part is also escalating - in an explicit warning to Pyongyang, it successfully shot a target ICBM launched from a Pacific island out of the sky with a California-based interceptor missile on Tuesday.

The question is this: if war breaks out and North Korea launches a pre-emptive nuclear strike on an American military base in Japan - for real - would the US recoil and retreat? Would it strike back, and risk losing Washington DC in a second wave of nuclear attacks? For Pyongyang, forcing Washington to seriously weigh that calamity is a win. And it may become a real-world possibility on President Donald Trump's watch.

Rising from the Rice Paddies

The 7:36 am launch on March 6 was conducted in North Pyongan Province near North Korea's Sohae Satellite Launching Center. It sent the four Scuds into the ocean 300 to 350 km from the coast of Japan. Reporting on it the next day, North Korea's Rodong Simun, the ruling party's newspaper, stated it was not a test to see if the missiles would work, but rather a "drill" to train the troops who will "strike the bases of the US imperialist aggressor forces in Japan in a contingency."

To back that up, the North

released several photos of Kim in a black overcoat holding a plastic pointer to a map laid out on a wooden table that showed the missiles' flight path and other data. Analyst Jeffrey Lewis and his colleagues at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, California, quickly realized the Scuds were on a trajectory that, with a simple southerly tweak, would have sent them raining down on Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni.

Iwakuni, located 50 km southwest of Hiroshima on the southern tip of Japan's main island, is home to some 10,000 U.S. and Japanese personnel. It was used as a staging area during the 1950-53 Korean War, when it was called the "Gateway to Korea" by US and U.N. forces, and continues to be one of the largest and most important US military facilities in Japan.

Such an attack wouldn't need to be nuclear to be effective. The deadly Sarin nerve agent or some other chemical weapon could also cause tremendous casualties. But



In this April 15, 2017 file photo, Kim Jong Un is seen in silhouette as he waves during a military parade in Pyongyang to celebrate the 105th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung, his grandfather. —AP

training a nuclear attack on Iwakuni had a special psychological twist for those who follow the ceaseless military game of cat and mouse in the region. North Korea's media stressed Kim was accompanied at the launch by nuclear weapons specialists.

"Before the Iwakuni simulation strike, US and South Korean forces were conducting joint military drills, which involved F-35s based out of Iwakuni," said analyst David Schmerler, who works with Lewis. "As the US and South Korea were practicing their military drills in the event of a conflict on the peninsula, the North Koreans, in turn, practiced their strike plans." The US-South Korea drills reportedly included an F-35 stealth fighter "decapitation strike" on Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants. Kim, apparently, was practicing how to take them out first.

Why This Could All Go Nuclear: Three Scenarios

The Cold War concept of "mutually assured destruction" that kept the United States and the Soviet Union from attacking each other requires a "balance of terror" to encourage restraint: Once each side has attained a certain level of destructive power, neither will attack because they are convinced that neither will survive. North Korea doesn't have that assurance.

If a war were to break out now, it could very well be destroyed. That's the way things have been for decades.

But here's where the urgency comes in for the United States and its allies. If North Korea succeeds in building nuclear-tipped ICBMs that can reach the U.S. mainland, the dynamic in a contingency would be highly volatile. A nuclear-armed North Korea would have a strong incentive to go nuclear quickly and go nuclear first if it believed, correctly or not, that it was about to be attacked. But that also would increase Washington's first-strike incentive, since it doesn't want its strategic advantage taken away by a surprise attack on its own cities or military bases.

So both sides have good reason to be trigger happy. Bruce Bennett, a leading North Korea expert and senior defense analyst with the RAND Corporation, offers these possible scenarios:

- Consider a case in which North Korea has a stockpile of nuclear warheads and the ability to launch

people dead and major cities destroyed? "With the weight of history on his shoulders, how would a US president respond?" Bennett asks. "How should he respond?"

Goose-Stepping to the 'Final Victory'

It's mid-morning on April 15, the "Day of the Sun," the 105th anniversary of Kim Il Sung's birth. Some 100,000 North Koreans are amassed in Kim Il Sung square waving plastic bouquets and holding up lettered cards to create designs like the ruling party's hammer, sickle and brush logo when seen from the balcony of the Grand People's Study House. That's where Kim Jong Un is standing. Kim watches as military units from each branch of his million-man armed forces goose-step by in what North Koreans like to call "single-minded unity". He then smiles and applauds at the most varied array of missiles and their transport vehicles the North has ever displayed.

The message of the parade, held before reporters from all over the world, is clear. North Korea is, or is near to being, able to launch a pre-emptive strike against a regional target. It is preparing to withstand a retaliatory follow-up attack if it does, and it is building the arsenal it needs to then launch a second wave of strikes, this time at the US mainland. Unlike the Soviet Union, North Korea can't annihilate the United States. But if it can clear those three steps, it could conceivably destroy a major US military base in the region or a city on the US mainland.

This vision of a new "balance of terror" built to its crescendo as six submarine-launched "Pukgukong" missiles and their land-based cousin, the "Pukgukong 2", rumbled through the square. Submarines are the ultimate stealth weapon, mobile and notoriously hard to find. North Korea is believed to have one experimental ballistic missile submarine, and this missile would go in its silos. The Pukgukong 2, meanwhile, represents advances on the ground. It uses solid fuel, which means it can be stored and hidden, is ready for rapid launch and fits on a transport vehicle that can be deployed off-road in rough terrain. Kim Jong Un has ordered it be mass produced.

The big reveal came next. No one really knew what it was until, in its first flight test a month later on May 14, it was sent an astounding 2,111 km in altitude - higher than satellites in low Earth orbit. It remained airborne for 30 minutes before plunging to the Pacific. With great fanfare, the North's media declared it the "perfect weapon system" capable of carrying a "large-size heavy nuclear warhead".

Many analysts believe the missile - which the North calls "Hwasong 12" - could be a stepping stone to the ICBM North Korea needs to attack the US mainland. Kim Jong Un was on hand for its early morning launch, too. He hugged his elated rocket scientists and, according to his official media, claimed he can now hit the United States with an "all-powerful means for retaliatory strike". That is bravado. For now, the missile's estimated striking range is 4,500 km, give or take. But, put another way, it's halfway to Chicago. —AP

DAUGHTER OF 'RASPUTIN' RETURNS TO FACE CHARGES

SEOUL: The equestrian daughter of South Korea's "Rasputin", whose lavish lifestyle in Europe was allegedly funded by millions of dollars in bribes, returned home yesterday to face questioning by prosecutors investigating an influence-peddling scandal that has rocked the country. Chung Yoo-Ra is the daughter of Choi Soon-Sil, the close confidante of impeached ex-president Park Geun-Hye and the woman at the heart of the scandal which toppled Park.

Choi - dubbed "the female Rasputin" for her strong influence over Park - is on trial along with the ex-president. Prosecutors say cash for Chung's equestrian training came from electronics giant Samsung, which had handed over the money as part of an attempt to curry favor with her powerful mother. Chung, who was arrested by Danish police in January for overstaying her visa, dropped her appeal against extradition from Denmark last week.

She was arrested on a Korean Air flight from Amsterdam early yesterday and was escorted off the plane at Incheon by a team of prosecutors to face a handful of journalists and television cameras. She is accused of receiving bribes from Samsung, illegally moving money abroad and violating South Korean laws on the handling of foreign currency during her stay in Europe. "I thought it was best to tell my side of the story and resolve the misunderstandings," said Chung, 20, adding she had no knowledge of the "special treatment" she allegedly received. "I know nothing about what went on between my mother and the former president, but I feel I was wronged."

Park was kicked out of office in March amid public disgust at the influence of money on South Korean politics. Park and Choi are on trial for allegedly accepting or seeking millions of dollars in bribes from the country's huge conglomerates, including Samsung. Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong is being tried separately while Shin Dong-Bin

- the chairman of retail giant Lotte, the South's fifth-biggest conglomerate - also stands accused.

The spiralling investigation has now caught up with Chung, who was also allegedly granted a place at the prestigious Ewha Womans University and given top grades thanks to her mother's intervention. In highly competitive South Korea, admission to one of a handful of elite universities is seen as vital to a student's future and any perceived unfairness in the procedure sparks anger. Following months of protest by Ewha students, the school cancelled Chung's admission.

"I never attended classes so I accept the cancellation of my admission," said Chung, who is also accused by prosecutors of obstructing business at the school. "I don't even know what my major is and I never wanted to go to university so I have nothing to say about it but I'm sorry," she added, before being taken to Seoul Prosecutors' Office for questioning.

Prosecutors said yesterday they intend to seek a seven-year jail term for Choi for her involvement in Chung's illicit admission, while they said the former dean of Ewha - who has been arrested - could serve five years in prison. Sentencing for Choi on this charge was set for June 23. Choi could face decades in jail if convicted of other charges against her in a separate trial. These include abuse of power, coercion and bribery. Choi told a court yesterday she hoped people would forgive her daughter, saying: "Yoo-Ra is not such a bad person. I hope people forgive her so that she may live the rest of her life in a right manner."

Cosy and corrupt ties between South Korea's business and political elites have endured for decades. But the trial of Park and Choi could shed new light on the links between Park and the bosses of the family-run conglomerates that dominate Asia's fourth-biggest economy. —AFP



INCHEON: Chung Yoo-Ra (center), the daughter of Choi Soon-sil - the close confidante of impeached ex-president Park Geun-Hye, answers questions from the press after arriving at Incheon International Airport yesterday. — AFP

ACTIVISTS PROBING IVANKA CHINA SUPPLIER DETAINED

BEIJING: An activist investigating working conditions at a supplier for Ivanka Trump's fashion brand in China has been detained, his NGO said yesterday, putting a fresh spotlight on Chinese business activities linked to the US presidential family. Two other men working on the investigation have been missing since Sunday, according to China Labor Watch, a New York-based non-government-organization. "In 17 years (since our organization was founded), we have done countless such investigations and have never had any problems," the group's director, Li Qiang, told AFP. "But this is the first time we've investigated Ivanka Trump (manufacturers), so it may very well be related to the brand."

Ivanka Trump is US President Donald Trump's daughter and a White House adviser, whose fashion brand sells clothing, footwear and accessories. Her husband, Jared Kushner, has joined her as a top aide to the US president and his own family business has come under scrutiny over its financial dealings in China. Trump lambasted Beijing over its trade practices during the US presidential campaign, but he has established a friendly rapport with President Xi Jinping since they met at the US leader's Mar-a-Lago resort in April along with Kushner and Ivanka Trump. "We appeal to President Trump, Ivanka Trump herself, and to her related brand company to advocate and press for the release of our activists," Li said.

Hua Haifeng, 36, has been held by police and accused of illegally using "eavesdropping equipment," said Li, who rejected the accusation. The father-of-two was working undercover with the two other men, Li Zhao and Su Heng, in Jiangxi province. Deng Guilian, Hua's wife, told AFP her husband had planned to return to their home for a

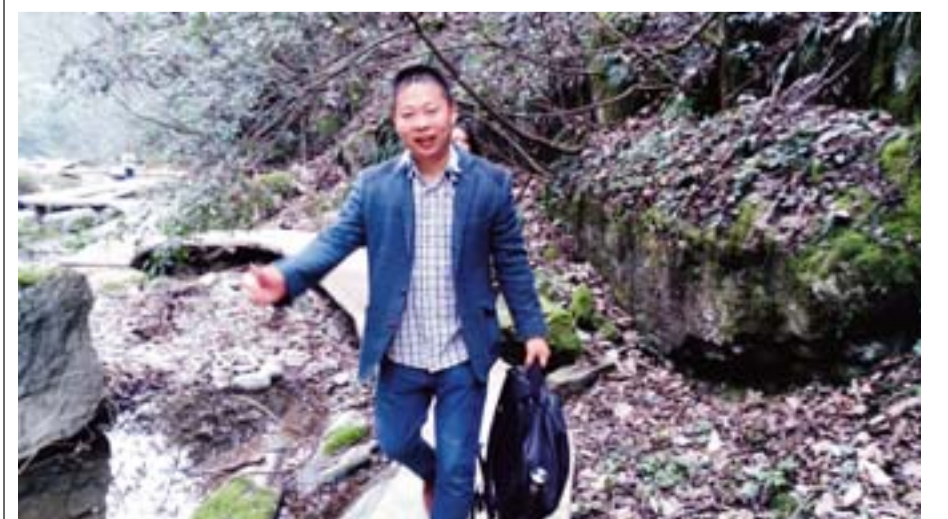
holiday earlier this week. She said she was notified of his arrest, but not where he was being held, on Tuesday in a phone call from a Jiangxi public security bureau.

Amnesty International said Hua was detained by mainland police last week after he tried to travel to Hong Kong to publicize the findings of his investigation. "The trio appear to be the latest to fall foul of the Chinese authorities' aggressive campaign against human rights activists who have any ties to overseas organizations, using the pretense of 'national security,'" said William Nee, China researcher at the human rights group.

'Extremely worrying'

Li said the activists were probing two factories owned by major footwear producer Huajian Group - one in the city of Dongguan in southern Guangdong province, the other in Jiangxi's Ganzhou. They discovered that employees were required to work overtime while being paid less than the minimum wage, according to Li, who alleged that the factory issued fake pay slips that showed wages greater than the workers' actual compensation. Aside from Ivanka Trump, the factory also manufactures products for Coach, Nine West, Karl Lagerfeld, and Kendall + Kylie, Li said.

Huajian Group, the Ivanka Trump brand and police in Ganzhou did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A spokesman for the company told AFP in October that it had made about 100,000 pairs of Ivanka Trump-branded shoes over the years. Huajian president Zhang Huarong also told AFP at the time that the company was moving production to Africa, saying "some manufacturers can't even survive in China anymore". —AFP



In this photo from March 2016, Li Zhao is seen at a scenic spot in Nanzhang county, Xianyang city, in central China's Hubei province. —AP



KABUL: A dog is seen running at the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul yesterday. At least 80 people were killed yesterday as a massive blast ripped through Kabul's diplomatic quarter, shattering the morning rush hour and bringing carnage to the streets of the Afghan capital. — AFP

PHILIPPINE TROOPS KILL 89 ISLAMISTS

MARAWI: Philippine troops have killed 89 Islamist militants during more than a week of urban battles but a final showdown is expected to be fierce as the gunmen protect their leaders and hold hostages, authorities said yesterday. Attack helicopters fired rockets yesterday morning into parts of Marawi, a Muslim city in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines, that were still controlled by the militants fighting under the black flag of the Islamic State (IS) group.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law across the entire southern region of Mindanao in response to the crisis, which he described as the start of a major campaign by IS to establish a foothold in the Philippines. Eighty-nine militants had been killed in the fighting and the amount of territory in the city that the remaining gunmen controlled had been cut to just 10 percent, military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said yesterday.

However Padilla warned of more intense battles ahead, with the military believing three of the militants' main leaders were likely still in the city. "That 10 percent is most likely the area that is heavily guarded and defended by any armed men if they are protecting any individual of high value," Padilla said. The militants are also holding an unknown number of civilians hostage, according to Padilla and other authorities. They initially took a priest and up to 14 other people hostage at the start of the crisis.

A video of the priest appeared on social media on Tuesday, in which he repeated the militants' demands to withdraw and said his captors were holding 240 people hostage. Padilla said the number of people cited in the video as being held hostage could not be verified. He insisted the release of the footage showed the militants were becoming increasingly desperate and said security forces would not back down. — AFP

A MASSIVE TRUCK BOMB KILLS 90...

Continued from Page 1

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, slammed by President Ashraf Ghani as a "war crime". The Taliban—currently in the midst of their annual "spring offensive"—tweeted that they were not involved and "strongly condemn" the blast. The insurgent group rarely claims responsibility for attacks that kill large numbers of civilians. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for several recent bombings in the Afghan capital, including a powerful blast targeting a NATO convoy that killed eight people earlier this month.

NATO said the bomb was a VBIED, or vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, which detonated near Kabul's Zandaq Square at 8.22am. "The vigilance and courage of Afghan security forces prevented the VBIED from gaining entry to the Green Zone, but the explosion caused civilian casualties," the alliance's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan said in a statement.

meters from India's embassy. All staff were safe, he said, though the blast left "considerable damage", including shattered windows.

The explosion also blew in windows at the Japanese embassy, leaving two staffers with mild injuries, a foreign ministry official in Tokyo said. France, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Bulgaria similarly reported damage to their embassies, while India and Pakistan joined in international condemnation of the blast. The NATO statement, which praised the "courage" of Afghan forces, slammed the attack as "barbaric". "It ... highlights the hypocrisy of the enemy who claim that they only target Afghan Security Forces and Foreign forces, yet continue to cause death and suffering amongst innocent Afghans," it said.

US ambassador to Afghanistan Hugo Llorens issued a scathing statement condemning the "complete disregard for human life", saying those behind the attack deserved our "utter scorn". Amnesty International warned that it "shows that the conflict in Afghanistan is not winding down but dangerously widening, in a way that should alarm the international community". Yesterday's blast was the latest in a long line of attacks in Kabul. The province surrounding the capital had the highest number of casualties in the country in the first three months of 2017 due to multiple attacks in the city, with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence.

Pentagon chief Jim Mattis has warned of "another tough year" for both foreign troops and local forces in Afghanistan. Afghan troops are backed by US and NATO forces, and the Pentagon has reportedly asked the White House to send thousands more soldiers to break the deadlock in the battle against the Taliban. US troops in Afghanistan number about 8,400 now, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies. They mainly serve in an advisory capacity—a far cry from the US presence of more than 100,000 six years ago. — Agencies

Embassies damaged

The explosion damaged a number of embassies in the area, which houses diplomatic and government buildings and is a maze of concrete blast walls, vehicle barriers and armed security guards. German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said the "despicable" attack killed an Afghan guard from the German embassy, and added that some employees had been injured, though he did not give further details. He said the bomb had detonated "in the immediate vicinity" of the German embassy.

The BBC said its Afghan driver Mohammed Nazir was killed and four of their journalists wounded. Local TV channel Tolo TV also tweeted that its staff member Aziz Navin was killed. Manpreet Vohra, India's envoy to Afghanistan, told media the bomb went off around 100

SAUDI KING EARNS MORE RETWEETS THAN...

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At 0910 GMT Trump's "covfefe" tweet had more than 120,000 retweets and had been shared 39,000 times, according to Twitter figures. Then, around 0945 GMT, more than five hours after it was posted, the mysterious tweet vanished. Soon after Trump himself joined the deciphering game. "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'covfefe' ??? Enjoy!" he tweeted, in an unusual display of self-deprecating humor. Since entering office, Trump has used Twitter to issue declarations on everything from Arnold Schwarzenegger's TV performance to an alleged "MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany."

Donald Trump may be lighting up Twitter with strange new words and attacks on allies but in the battle for most attention per tweet the US president is losing. The world leader whose original tweets generate the most retweets is Saudi Arabia's King Salman, according to the latest "Twiplomacy" study by communications firm Burson-Marsteller. In terms of output, there is no contest: the Saudi king only tweeted 10 times during the period covered by the study—April 2016 to May 20 of this year.

But those 10 tweets were each retweeted more than 147,000 times on average, dwarfing Trump's 13,100 average retweets per tweet, said the study, the sixth of its kind by Burson-Marsteller. "He (King Salman) posts exclusively in Arabic and without any visuals, but every tweet is a digital home run," said the report, which was based on analysis of 856 official and personal Twitter accounts of leaders in 178 countries. Retweets are only one measure of influence on the social media platform and Trump is gaining ground elsewhere.

With the internet poking fun at his use of the word "covfefe" in a post on Wednesday, which followed his assertion on Twitter that US-German trade was "very bad" for Americans, the report found that @realDonaldTrump could be the most followed world leader account by August. Pope Francis is currently in the lead with a combined 33,716,301 followers over his nine language accounts.

Trump lags by about 3.5 million followers but his account has grown by 5.7 percent per month during the US election and start of his presidency, putting him on track to overtake the pontiff, the report said. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood in third place with 30,058,659 followers. — Agencies

CLEANLINESS, HYGIENE

Continued from Page 1

Cleanliness in their bodies, clothes, dwelling places, and so on. Cleanliness impacts one's health and makes you more appealing to people who deal with you. Therefore, it's Sunnah (optional, recommended acts of worship that if done with good intentions will accrue many rewards) to wash your hands often, wash and iron your clothes, and to observe a modest dress code. Following are among the tangible benefits of personal hygiene:

Social acceptance

Good hygiene is critical for social acceptance, because most people don't want to be around those who are dirty or smelly. Children who practice good hygiene eliminate one major reason for other kids to mock or bully them.

Being a role model

Parents should set an example for their children by practicing good hygiene. Children are more likely to do what you do than what you say. Therefore, "practice what you preach." Professional Acceptance: Most employers prefer

colleagues who are clean and well-groomed. Good hygiene can make the difference in being hired and getting promotions, depending on where you work.

Pain prevention

Periodontal disease can cause chronic mouth pain in advanced stages, the American Academy of Periodontology reports. The main cause of gum disease is plaque buildup, which can be reduced with proper oral hygiene. Finally, it is important to note that everything Allah and His messenger enjoined upon us is beneficial to us in this world and the Hereafter. Our motivation for complying is to please Allah first, but also to seek our own vested interests.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

MPS OPPOSE BAN ON 'VISAS FOR RELATIVES'

Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, Kuwait Appeals Court yesterday overturned a 10-year jail term against seven young men and sentenced them to death for abducting and raping a mentally-retarded boy and filming their action. The seven men, four Kuwaitis, a Yemeni, an Iraqi and a stateless, abducted the 13-year old boy to a chalet last September and raped him. They filmed part of the raping and threatened the boy to post the videos on social media if he spoke up.

According to the victim's lawyer, Ibrahim Al-Bathani, the boy's parents were in France for medical treatment as the father was suffering from cancer. His sister took care

of him in their absence. The Criminal Court in April sentenced the men for a 10-year jail term each. Now the case moves to the court of cassation whose rulings are final.

The National Assembly yesterday approved the budgets and final accounts of 10 government bodies including the KUNA news agency, the Public Authority for Youth, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The approval came despite strong criticism by many lawmakers about alleged corruption and failure to rectify remarks by the Audit Bureau and the national assembly. With this, the National Assembly has only the state budget to pass before closing this term. The assembly will hold special sessions next week and close the term.

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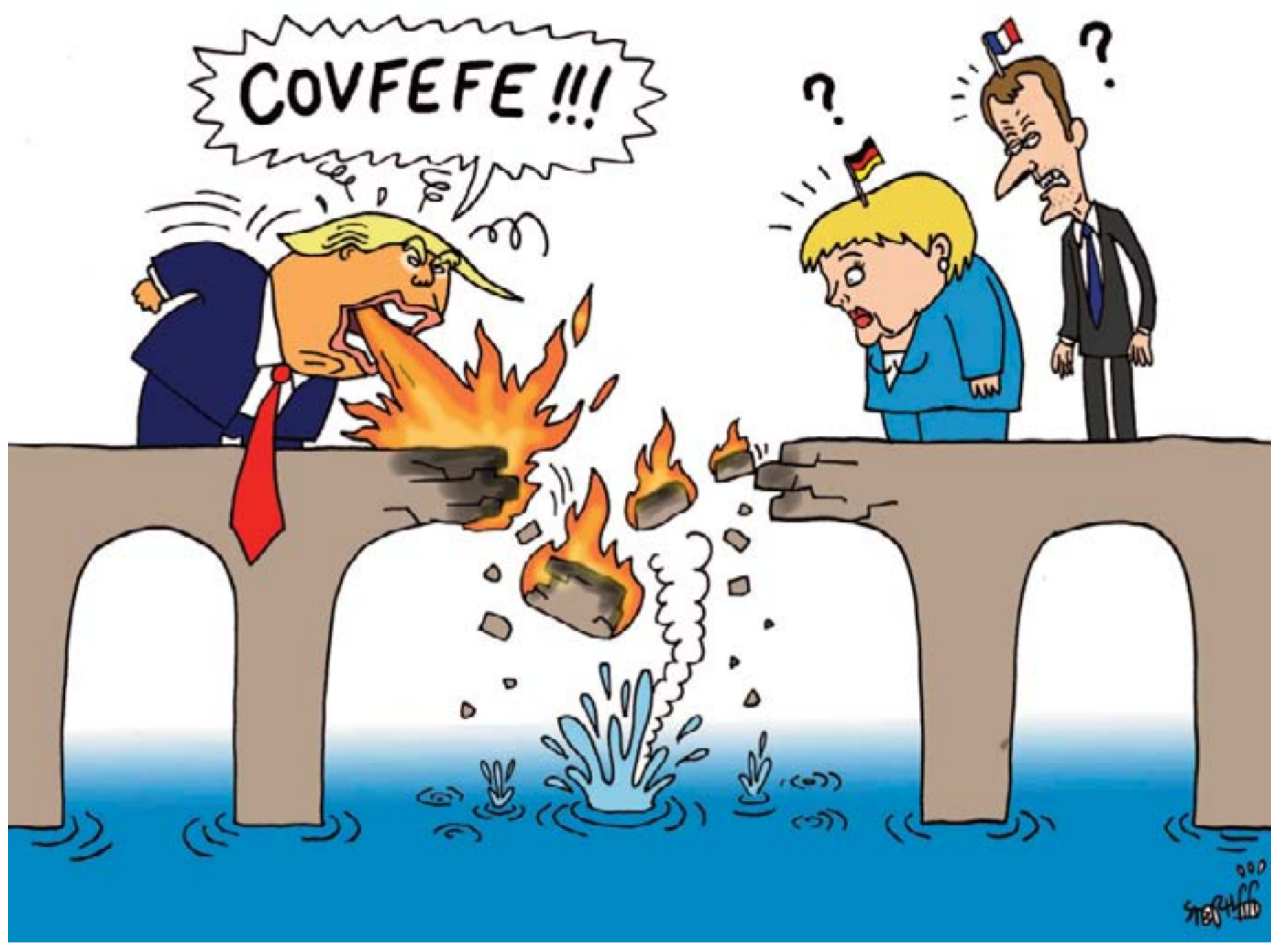
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TAIWAN BACKLASH OVER EMIRATES FLAG BAN

Emirates, the Middle East's largest airline, faced fierce criticism in Taiwan yesterday after it reportedly banned cabin crew from wearing the island's flag on their uniforms due to pressure from China. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had lodged protests with Emirates in both Dubai and Taipei. The airline's cabin crew traditionally wear the flag pin of their own country on their uniforms. But a leaked internal email, apparently from an Emirates manager and circulated by local media, ordered Taiwanese Emirates staff to replace the island's flag pin with a Chinese one.

"We have been instructed by the Chinese Government that with immediate effect, Emirates airline cabin crew are to follow the One China policy," the email read. China still sees self-ruling Taiwan as part of its territory waiting to be reunified. Tensions have rapidly worsened since Beijing-sceptic Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen took office last year. Beijing has

stopped all official communication with Taipei, increased military drills and sought to isolate the island internationally.

Beijing says Taiwan is part of "one China", but Tsai refuses to acknowledge that concept. Her Beijing-friendly predecessor Ma Ying-jeou recognized the policy, which led to an unprecedented cross-strait rapprochement. The foreign ministry said it "cannot accept" Emirates' decision. "China is sparing no effort to suppress us on the international stage," it added. Taiwanese Emirates workers were outraged by the move. "My initial reaction was shock, indignation, and anger," an employee at the airline told news website Taiwan Sentinel.

Apple Daily cited an unnamed staff member who believed the decision was made because Emirates was seeking to add more Asia routes, especially in China. Angry social media users took to Emirates' Facebook page, flooding it with the Taiwanese flag in the comment section. "Taiwan is Taiwan! How dare you force them to wear another (country's) flag. I along with many Taiwanese will never ride with this airline," one comment said. The Taoyuan Flight Attendants Union said yesterday it hoped Emirates would "respect the national identity of crew members from different countries and should not take a coercive or threatening approach".

According to Apple Daily, Taiwanese cabin crew on China flights were also requested to write "Chinese" as their nationality rather than "Taiwanese". Emirates later apologized in a follow-up internal message, asking Taiwanese crew to "refrain" from wearing their flag pins until further notice, the report said. The airline made no immediate comment when contacted by AFP. Emirates was also criticized last year when it asked Hong Kong cabin crew to wear the Chinese national flag as well as the semi-autonomous city's own emblem. —AFP

FIVE QUESTIONS ON MOVING OF US ISRAEL EMBASSY

By Joe Dyke

US President Donald Trump faces today's deadline to decide whether to move the US embassy in Israel to the disputed city of Jerusalem. Israelis are eagerly watching to see whether he renews a waiver due to expire just before midnight today delaying the move, as his predecessors have done. He is expected to sign the waiver, at least for now, as he seeks ways to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. Here are five questions and answers explaining the issue:

What is the dispute?

Israel seized control of Palestinian east Jerusalem from Jordan during a 1967 war and later annexed it. The move was never recognized by the international community but Israel declared the city its undivided capital. The Palestinians see east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. No countries have accepted Israeli sovereignty and have their embassies in the commercial capital Tel Aviv instead. Moving the embassy would be seen as the United States endorsing Israel's claim to the city and rejecting the Palestinian one.

What is the waiver?

In 1995 the US Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act calling on the country to move its embassy to the Holy City. "Since 1950, the city of Jerusalem has been the capital of the State of Israel," it said, demanding the government move the embassy. The act is binding on governments but there was a clause that presidents could delay it for six months at a time to protect "national security interests." Presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Barack Obama signed these waivers routinely every six months. Obama signed his final one in December which expires at 11:59 pm Washington time today (0359 GMT tomorrow).

Will Trump sign?

During the election campaign, Trump promised multiple times to move the embassy, and his new ambassador David Friedman is a strong advocate of the shift. However, Trump has appeared to back away from the idea

since taking office to power under pressure from the Palestinians and other Arab leaders. During a trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories last week he didn't mention moving the embassy. And as he seeks to inject new life into moribund peace talks, Trump may be wary of a move that would infuriate the Arab world.

"He will probably renew the waiver for another six months, but will come out with a statement saying he won't necessarily do it again depending on the way in which the parties behave," Alan Baker, a former Israeli ambassador turned analyst said. What happens if he doesn't? If Trump chooses not to sign the waiver, the embassy wouldn't move

immediately, but there are rapid repercussions. Under the 1995 act, the US State Department would see a 50-per cent cut in all its future budgets for "acquisition and maintenance of buildings abroad" until the new embassy opens. In 2016, \$968 million was spent on embassy security, construction and maintenance, according to State Department figures.

What would be the impact?

Eugene Kontorovich, a law professor at Northwestern University in the United States and a backer of the move, says doing so would earn Trump credit with his supporters. "It was an explicit campaign promise; doing it would help

solidify his base and would help shore up support from congressional Republicans," he said. US evangelical Christian leader Laurie Cardoza-Moore, president of Proclaiming Justice to the Nations, said many of Trump's religious voters were watching carefully to ensure he didn't renege on his promise. "The embassy move pledge was a game changer for many evangelicals," she said. Palestinians have warned of potential violence and even a new intifada, or uprising, if the embassy were to move, saying it would strengthen radicals. An official earlier this year said moving the embassy would open up "the gates of hell," claims Israel rejects. —AFP



JERUSALEM: Palestinian women pray in front of the Dome of the Rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem during Ramadan. —AFP

Focus

THINGS TO NOTICE IN THE NBA FINALS

Five Things to Notice in the NBA Finals, the league's best-of-seven championship final that starts today:

Historic Finals trilogy

Golden State and Cleveland meet in the NBA Finals for the third year in a row, with the Warriors taking the title in 2015 but being dethroned in 2016 by the Cavaliers, who rallied from 3-1 down to win the best-of-seven series in the greatest comeback in finals history. Each major North American sports league has now had a "Threepeat" championship round, the NHL between Detroit and Montreal from 1954-56, the NFL from 1952-54 between Detroit and Cleveland in the pre-Super Bowl era, and Major League Baseball in 1921-23 between the New York Yankees and New York Giants, who later moved to San Francisco.

The Warriors seek a fifth NBA title in franchise history on the 70th anniversary of their first, which came in 1947 when the team was based in Philadelphia. The Cavaliers seek their second NBA title overall and in a row. It comes 10 years after Cleveland's first NBA Finals appearance, when the team was coached by Mike Brown, the Golden State assistant coach who has guided the Warriors in the playoffs due to complications following back surgery for Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

Hot playoff start rolls on

Golden State became the first team in NBA history to start the playoffs 12-0. Eight prior teams have reached the title round unbeaten, but none had so many games to win to get there. And three of those clubs then lost the finals. The most recent prior team to enter the NBA Finals unbeaten was the 2001 Lakers, which went 11-0, lost the opener of the finals, then won four in a row to defeat Philadelphia. On that Lakers squad was current Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue. Cleveland went 12-1 in this year's playoffs after entering the post-season on a four-game losing streak to end the regular season. It's the first final with teams having a combined one loss since the 1950s. If the Warriors win in five or the Cavaliers sweep Golden State, the champion would have the best one-season playoff win percentage in NBA history.

All-Star player matchups

The NBA Finals feature seven of the past eight NBA Most Valuable Players—Cleveland's LeBron James (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013), Golden State's Kevin Durant (2014) and Stephen Curry (2015, 2016). There are seven 2017 NBA All-Stars and 11 players who have been All-Stars in their careers, as well as winners of seven of the last eight MVP awards, the most in either category since the 1983 NBA Finals. All-Star personal matchups will feature LeBron James against Kevin Durant at small forward, Kyrie Irving versus Stephen Curry at point guard, and Kevin Love against Draymond Green at power forward. In an international matchup at center, Cleveland's Tristan Thompson of Canada will go against Zaza Pachulia of Golden State, who could become the first player from Georgia to win an NBA crown. Golden State's Klay Thompson set the record for most points in an NBA quarter with a 37-point third quarter against Sacramento on January 23, 2015. Cleveland's Kevin Love ranks second after a 34-point first quarter against Portland on November 23, 2016.

Durant-James rivalry sparks

LeBron James had not won an NBA title when he and Kevin Durant first collided in an NBA Finals. That was in 2012 when James and the Miami Heat beat Durant's Oklahoma City Thunder in five games, giving "King" James his first crown. James averaged 28.2 points, 10.2 rebounds and 7.4 assists in the NBA Finals that year. Durant has not reached the finals since until now. This will be James's seventh in a row and eighth overall, but he is only 3-4 in finals. James has 17 NBA Finals game wins, two shy of the active leader mark of 19 shared by San Antonio's Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker. LeBron James ranks seventh among all scorers in NBA Finals history with 1,079 career points, needing 98 points to pass Michael Jordan for third place on the all-time list, which would put him behind only Jerry West (1,679) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,317). James passed Jordan as the top playoff scorer in NBA history last week. James is a three-time NBA Finals MVP, with Jordan at six the only player to win the award more often.

Korver, West reach Finals

Cleveland's Kyle Korver and Golden State's David West are both 36-year-old former All-Stars who will each play in the NBA Finals for the first time in their careers. Each does so in his first year with his club. Among active NBA players, only Utah's Joe Johnson has played in more playoff games (112) without playing in the NBA Finals than Korver (104) or West (95). Korver, in the top five among all-time NBA regular-season 3-point shotmakers, is one of only two active NBA players from the second round of the NBA Draft, the other being Golden State's Pachulia. —AFP

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ESPIRITO SANTO NEW WOLVES BOSS

LONDON: Championship club Wolves appointed former Porto boss Nuno Espirito Santo as their new manager yesterday. Espirito Santo is the fourth manager to work under Wolves' Chinese owners in just 10 months following the departure of Paul Lambert on Tuesday. The 43-year-old former goalkeeper recently parted company with Porto after failing to win a trophy with the Portuguese side, but Wolves' owners Fosun hope he can lead them into the Premier League next season. "I first got to know Nuno two years ago, and, at that time, we hadn't taken over Wolves," Wolves director Jeff Shi said. "When talking to him, I was impressed by his football tactics. "Since the very beginning of the Wolves project, Fosun has been very clear on our strategic thinking and philosophy, and has huge ambition and confidence to achieve our goals. "In a sense, we are very glad to find Nuno with a football philosophy that is similar to ours.—AFP



PICAMOLES RETURNS TO MONTPELLIER FROM SAINTS

MONTPELLIER: France No 8 Louis Picamoles will return to Montpellier on a three-year deal after the Top 14 club bought out his contract at Northampton, it was confirmed yesterday. Northampton said the 31-year-old Picamoles had "received a proposal from Montpellier which will underpin the future financial stability of his family". "The club has therefore reluctantly agreed to the transfer and accepted a significant transfer fee for his services," Saints said in a statement. "This fee will be reinvested into the playing squad to ensure Northampton Saints continues to strive for success on the pitch." Picamoles, who had signed a three-year deal with Northampton last summer, added: "I am proud to have played for Northampton Saints and I have enjoyed my time with the club. "I am grateful for all the support and friendship I have received from the club, the coaches, my teammates and supporters." Capped 61 times by France, the abrasive forward came through the Montpellier youth section and quickly made his name at the southern club before leaving for Toulouse in 2009. "Montpellier approached me to know if I had the desire to return to France," Picamoles said. —AFP

ROSSI TARGETS MUGELLO RETURN

MILAN: MotoGP star Valentino Rossi said yesterday he is fighting to be fit in time for this weekend's world championship race at Mugello after injuries sustained in a training accident. Rossi, known on the circuit as 'The Doctor', was discharged from a Rimini hospital last weekend after treatment for chest and stomach injuries suffered while he was training in motocross. Desperate to get back into contention after crashing out of the French Grand Prix at Le Mans two weeks ago and dropping to third in the standings, the 38-year-old star said he remains optimistic but won't fully know if and when he trains on the track on Friday. "It won't be easy to be there," Rossi said on Wednesday in a website report on Gazzetta dello Sport. "Unfortunately I hurt myself while training in motocross, the pain in my abdomen and chest is still intense. "Fortunately I'm getting better by the day and that makes me optimistic for the end of the week at Mugello. — AFP



OVER 180 DISABLED ATHLETES PARTICIPATE IN 9TH RAMADAN TOURNEY

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Shafi Al-Hajri said competitions of the 9th Ramadan tournament for the disabled games, being organized by the club under the patronage of Iqbal Behbehani in basketball, table tennis, fencing, weightlift-

ing, and boccia has more than 180 players participating. Al-Hajri said in a press statement that this large participation by disabled athletes of mobile, mental and visual disabilities in and out of the club, and organized by the club for the ninth time, contributed to having competitions being at the highest level.

He said the club is keen on organizing this

tournament annually to entertain its members with sports and give them a distinguished atmosphere during the month of Ramadan, that besides the opportunity of discovering skilled players who can be prepared to represent Kuwait abroad.

Competitions, that will continue for four days saw the Kuwait team led by Essa Al-

Fadhly winning twice in a row in the wheelchair basketball against the teams of Ittihad and Noukhatha, while the losing teams will compete for second and third places today.

Meanwhile in basketball for the mentally challenged Ittihad beat Al-Shaheed and Al-Nasser teams and is very close to win the tournament while Al-Shaheed and Al-Salam have

one win each, as Al-Nasser suffered two defeats.

In fencing Epee Abdallah Al-Haddad won first place followed by Abdallah Al-Khalidi in second and Faisal Al-Kandari in third.

In the florets Sanad Al-Beloushi won first place ahead of Abdallah Al-Haddad and Abdallah Al-Khalidi.



AL-QABAS AND AL-DANAH IN QUARTER FINALS

KUWAIT: Within Annahar Ramadan Soccer Tourney for newspapers and magazines, Al-Qabas and Al-Danah soccer teams qualified

to the quarter finals after respectively beating Kuwaityah and Al-Aljarida by 4-3 and 3-1. The matches were played at the High

Institute for Navigation and Communication in Shuwaikh.

Notably, the tourney held in collabora-

tion with KJA and under auspices of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information, Sheikh

Mohammed Al-Abdullah will last till next Saturday.



WOODS FOUND ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL, NO ALCOHOL IN HIS SYSTEM

LOS ANGELES: More disturbing images of Tiger Woods emerged Tuesday in the black-and-white details of police reports, depicting him sound asleep behind the wheel of a car parked awkwardly on the side of a six-lane Florida road with two flat tires, the engine still running and a blinker flashing.

When a police officer woke him, Woods was so disoriented that he initially said he had just returned from playing golf in Los Angeles. Then, he said he didn't know where he was or how far away he was from his home in Jupiter Island. He kept falling back asleep.

Eventually, he failed a sobriety test so badly that at one point officers moved toward him to ensure he didn't fall over.

There was no evidence of alcohol, however, confirming what Woods said Monday

night when he issued a statement saying he had had an "unexpected reaction" to prescription medicine. Jupiter police said he took a breath test that showed no alcohol in his system. He later agreed to a urine test.

Still to come is potential video evidence from dashcam footage showing his arrest on suspicion of DUI in the morning darkness of Memorial Day.

An affidavit and an incident report from the four officers at the scene were released a day after Woods spent nearly four hours in the Palm Beach County jail. His mug shot from the jail - showing lifeless eyes and scraggly facial hair - provided a stark illustration of how much Woods' mystique has been shattered since a decade of domination that golf had never seen.

It left players on the PGA Tour hopeful

for better times, and not just on the golf course. "I feel bad for Tiger," Jack Nicklaus said. "Tiger is a friend. He's been great for the game of golf, and I think he needs all our help. And we wish him well. ... I hope he gets out of it and I hope he plays golf again. He needs a lot of support from a lot of people, and I'll be one of them."

Woods remains a favorite among players young and old. When he was an assistant captain at the Ryder Cup last September, the American team presented him a red shirt that said, "Make Tiger Great Again."

"I'm concerned about him," said Steve Stricker, the Presidents Cup captain who chose Woods as one of his assistants. He said he exchanged texts with Woods on Monday and that Woods told him no alcohol was involved.

FUSION SURGERY

"Whether this is just a misunderstanding ... or if he had some medication problems, a mixture of some - I really don't know," Stricker said. "And I'm always the guy to give the benefit of the doubt, and we're just going to have to wait and see. But I'm pulling for him. I'm hoping that he gets things turned around and back out there playing well again."

Woods has not competed in four months, and he had fusion surgery on his lower back last month - his fourth back surgery in three years - that will keep him off the PGA Tour for at least the rest of the season.

He told police he had taken several prescriptions. The affidavit listed four medications, including Vicodin, that Woods reported taking.

Vicodin is an opioid pain medication.

The other three drugs appear to be misspelled. One is similar in spelling to Solax (a muscle relaxer) or Solox (for acid reflux). Another is similar in spelling to Etorix, a painkiller not currently approved in the United States.

Painkillers are generally prescribed after such surgeries, and many carry warnings to avoid driving while taking them. Other medicines, including over-the-counter allergy medicine or anti-anxiety medicines, can also cause drowsiness and include warnings about driving.

The FDA warning for Vicodin says it "may impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery; patients should be cautioned accordingly." —AP

GOLF

OKLAHOMA TO FACE OREGON IN NCAA GOLF FINALS

SUGAR GROVE: Oregon and Oklahoma will play for the NCAA men's golf title, two teams that at times had every reason to think they wouldn't be there.

The Sooners trailed in all five of their quarterfinal matches through 10 holes of their quarterfinal match against Baylor on Tuesday morning at Rich Harvest Farms until they rallied, with Brad Dalke finishing off the Bears with a par on the 19th hole.

The Ducks were outside the top eight teams trying to qualify Monday for match play when Ryan Gronlund closed with four straight birdies that allowed Oregon to advance. The Ducks took it from there, beating Oklahoma State in the quarterfinals and riding the clutch play of Sulman Raza in the afternoon.

In the fifth and decisive match against top-seeded Vanderbilt, Raza protected his 1-up lead on the par-5 18th hole with a 6-iron on the back of the green. Matthias Schwab, the Commodores' top player, went left of the green, chipped well past the hole and made par, and he conceded to Raza.

That gives the Ducks a chance to join Alabama and Augusta State as the only back-to-back winners since the match-play era began in 2009.

"I guess there is something to never quitting," Oregon coach Casey Martin said. "I told the guys that, and they bought in. I kept telling them the weather is tough, but never quit. Hang in there somehow. And we got it done in match play. It will be a great match tomorrow and I'm really

stoked that we get a chance to defend."

Oregon won last year at Eugene Country Club, its home course. The Sooners will go for their first NCAA title since 1989, when they won at Oak Tree in stroke play by 40 shots over Texas.

Grant Hirschman never led in his quarterfinal match until he won the final hole for a 1-up victory that kept the Sooners alive. Rylee Reinertson took the lead with a birdie on the 17th in a 1-up victory, and then Dalke added to the suspense. He lost the last two holes to Matthew Perrine of Baylor, but won with a par on the first extra hole.

Oklahoma had a much easier time in a 3-1-1 victory over Illinois, which earlier had eliminated Southern California.

"Unlike this morning, we got off to a great start this afternoon," Oklahoma coach Ryan Hybl said. "We had some Sooner magic this morning and built off of that this afternoon."

Vanderbilt had a tough time in the morning, beating UNLV when Patrick Martin holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole and Theo Humphrey outlasted Justin Kim for a 3-2 victory. The Commodores weren't so fortunate in the afternoon.

They were down to the Ducks until freshman John Augenstein made a 30-foot birdie putt from just off the green to win his match in 19 holes. That gave Vanderbilt hope, but only as long as it took Raza to close out his match over Schwab. —AP

49ERS' BOWMAN REMEMBERS URGING KD TO SHOOT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

OAKLAND: Imagine Kevin Durant as a skinny, timid teen being told to shoot by his middle school point guard who saw so much potential all those years ago. He needed a little urging back then. Much of it came from star San Francisco 49ers linebacker NaVorro Bowman, who fondly recalls his days passing to the future NBA star. Bowman, who claims he was the superior player at Drew Freeman Middle School in Prince George's County, Maryland, used to encourage the lanky Durant to be aggressive, to take it to the hoop with authority. Durant already measured more than 6 feet tall at the time and would rapidly add inches in the upcoming years.

"Can you believe we had to tell him to shoot?" Bowman recalled with a grin last week at Levi's Stadium while relaxing after football practice in Santa Clara.

"Yeah, we had to tell him to shoot. We knew that he could play the game and he would eventually get better, but how tall he was, back in the day if you were that tall you would be in the post or you would be in the paint. This guy was on the wing. You could see the talent there. Eventually, as you see now, he grew into it and became a great player."

Durant insists all he wanted to do was create opportunities for others.

"I would just always want to please my teammates, so I would pass up a shot to get somebody else a look," Durant said. "I always had that trait and that kind of turned into not being aggressive, if that's what it was called. But I was more so just catering to my teammates, trying to make them feel comfortable. And at a young age, NaVorro being such a leader that he is, he

knew that I had some pretty good talent at that age and he just told me, 'Go out there and just play! As a kid, you need that, you want that validation from your teammates. Especially starting off early when I started to take basketball really, really serious, just a couple words from him meant a lot.'"

They've since reunited in the Bay Area, Bowman cheering for KD to win his first championship with the Warriors. Bowman plans to be there in person at Oracle Arena this week. Game 1 against the defending champion Cleveland Cavaliers is Thursday night. The Maryland boys' paths crossed before middle school, as opponents in AAU ball - Durant figures around age 11.

As each chased professional dreams over the next decade, they pushed one another from afar without even knowing it, taking great pride in their shared "DMV" - D.C., Maryland, Virginia - roots and making it big in their respective athletic pursuits.

"We really grew up together. He always played Pee Wee football and you would walk to the field and you'd see NaVorro wearing a No. 99 jersey, all black on with a visor, just bigger than everybody else," Durant said. "You didn't really know who he was until he took his helmet off. But you could tell that he was on another level, just his focus, just how much he wanted it, his energy as a kid and then it just continued to grow. I knew we kind of inspired and pushed each other without even having to say anything."

From age 12 through high school, Bowman would play basketball all day at a 24-hour gym, sometimes going from 8 am until midnight. Durant would join him sometimes, though he lived on the opposite side of town. —AP



BOSTON: In this May 25, 2017, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers, from left, Kevin Love, LeBron James, Kyle Korver and Iman Shumpert celebrate a basket during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals against the Boston Celtics, on Thursday, May 25, 2017, in Boston. This was the seventh straight time that LeBron James advanced to the NBA Finals. —AP

BASKETBALL

WARRIORS WARY OF LEBRON AS CAVS ARRIVE FOR FINALS

OAKLAND: Cleveland superstar LeBron James, as versatile and dangerous as any NBA player, is a focus of the Golden State Warriors as they prepare for today's start of the NBA Finals.

The Cavaliers are defending champions after James sparked the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history, rallying Cleveland from 3-1 down to win last year's best-of-seven series in a dramatic winner-take-all showdown at Oakland, California.

James became the first player to lead an NBA Finals in every major statistical category with 29.7 points, 11.3 rebounds, 8.9 assists, 2.6 steals and 2.3 blocked shots a game last year.

This season, at age 32, James averaged 26.4 points plus career highs of 8.6 rebounds and 8.7 assists as well as a league-high 37.8 minutes on the court a game.

As dangerous a scorer as he is from outside or driving to the hoop, James also threatens by being able to find teammates such as Kyrie

Irving and Kevin Love with passes when defenders focus too much on him.

"You can't stop LeBron," said Mike Brown, the Golden State assistant coach guiding the team while head coach Steve Kerr recovers from complications after back surgery.

"He's going to score. He's going to get other players involved in the scoring by passing the ball off. So you've got to make him work as hard as he can. He can't have an easy game."

Brown, who once coached James with the Cavaliers, has emphasized perseverance when dealing with James, especially since Kevin Durant will be dealing with him much of the time.

STRONG TEAM

"LeBron is going to get his points and so is Kyrie. You've just got to try and make it tough on them," Durant said. "You can't get discouraged. They are a strong team and they are playing

well. They have chemistry. It has only gotten better all year. We've got to work hard at practice and when the game comes on, get out there and go play."

The Cavaliers flew into San Francisco on Tuesday, taking a team photo once they arrived that Cleveland forward Kevin Love posted on Instagram. Oddsmakers have the Warriors favored to dethrone Cleveland as the Cavaliers did to them a year ago, but the snub gives the Cavs something else to prove.

"We'll use it as fuel, use it as motivation," Love said. "We're defending our title. We're trying to repeat, which is so hard to do. I don't feel like we're underdogs. We match up well with them. I think they would say the same thing about us."

Golden State, which boasted the NBA's top scoring squad this season, is off to a record 12-0 playoff start with an average win margin of 16.3 points. Cleveland is 12-1 in the playoffs, winning by an average of 13.6 points. —AP

POSITION-BY-POSITION MATCHUPS FOR NBA FINALS

OAKLAND: A position-by-position look at the matchups in the NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers:

CENTER: Zaza Pachulia vs. Tristan Thompson. Pachulia is back and ready to go after missing two games in the Western Conference finals with a heel injury. He may not be out there long if the Warriors decide they need more mobility against Thompson, who is nearly averaging a double-double and shooting 60 percent while creating plenty of extra possessions with his offensive rebounding for the Cavaliers. Edge: Cavaliers.

POWER FORWARD: Draymond Green vs. Kevin Love. Green wanted the matchup with the Cavaliers after Golden State fell short last year despite his brilliant Game 7, and now here it comes. On top of his versatility and defense that is so important to Golden State, he's shooting 47 percent from 3-point range in the postseason, tops on a team that has some of the best perimeter shooters in the world. Love broke out in a big way in the Eastern Conference finals after opening the playoffs with two quiet rounds, averaging 22.6 points and 12.4 rebounds against Boston. Edge: Warriors.

SMALL FORWARD: Kevin Durant vs. LeBron James. Durant has been terrific in his first postseason with the Warriors, averaging 25.2 points on 55.6 percent shooting. James has been even better, putting up 32.5 points on nearly 57 percent shooting, and adding 8.0 rebounds and 7.0 assists per game. James won his first NBA title five years ago at Durant's expense, and now Durant tries to get his first playing against James. Edge: Cavaliers.

SHOOTING GUARD: Klay Thompson vs. J.R. Smith. Thompson's shot has been off in the postseason, hitting just about 38 percent from the field, but his defense is probably more important than his offense now anyway as the usual pri-

mary defender against Kyrie Irving. Smith has had a quiet postseason, playing more than 30 minutes and taking more than eight shots just once in the Eastern Conference finals. Edge: Warriors.

POINT GUARD: Stephen Curry vs. Kyrie Irving. With his big performance in Game 5 that helped start Cleveland's comeback, his 3-pointer in Game 7 and then his go-ahead basket in their Christmas Day matchup, Irving has repeatedly hurt the Warriors. Now he comes into this series off a sizzling conference finals series, shooting 62 percent against Boston. Curry is averaging 28.6 points in the playoffs and looking like a different player now than heading into last year's NBA Finals after a knee injury earlier in the postseason. Edge: Warriors.

RESERVES: Andre Iguodala, Shawn Livingston, JaVale McGee, Ian Clark, David West, and Patrick McCaw vs. Channing Frye, Iman Shumpert, Kyle Korver, Deron Williams and Richard Jefferson. Iguodala has shot the ball poorly in the postseason but the 2015 NBA Finals MVP will be on the floor plenty anyway because of his other contributions. Meanwhile, McGee (74 percent), Livingston (61), West (57) and Clark (52) have shot it great. Frye and Korver had their minutes slashed in the last round but the Cavaliers figure to need their 3-point shooting now against the tougher Golden State defense. Advantage: Warriors.

COACHES: Steve Kerr or Mike Brown vs. Tyrone Lue. Kerr is still trying to determine if his back is healthy enough to return to the bench. If not, Brown, who replaced him midway through the first round, faces the team he led to the 2007 NBA Finals. Lue tries to build on the terrific start to his coaching career by becoming just the second NBA coach to win titles in his first two seasons. Edge: Even. —AP



SAN ANTONIO: In this Monday, May 22, 2017 file photo, Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) handles the ball during the first half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs in San Antonio. — AP



SANTA CLARA: In this Aug. 14, 2016, file photo, San Francisco 49ers inside linebacker NaVorro Bowman stands on the sidelines during the second half of an NFL preseason football game in Santa Clara, Calif. Imagine Kevin Durant as a skinny, timid teen being told to shoot by his middle school point guard who saw so much potential all those years ago. San Francisco 49ers linebacker NaVorro Bowman, the superior player at the time, used to tell tall-and-lanky Durant to be aggressive, to take it to the hoop. "Can you believe we had to tell him to shoot?" Bowman recalled with a grin. — AP

BRYCE HARPER, HUNTER STRICKLAND SUSPENDED FOR PUNCH-UP

NEW YORK: Washington Nationals star Bryce Harper and San Francisco Giants pitcher Hunter Strickland were hit with suspensions on Tuesday for their role in a spectacular bench-clearing brawl during their Memorial Day game.

Harper was suspended for four games for charging the mound after

Strickland plunked him with a fastball to the ribs.

Strickland was banned for six games after league chiefs deemed his pitch at Harper's body during Monday's game intentional.

The fight, which saw both players connect with blows to the head, cleared the benches at AT&T Park.

Both players have been fined an undisclosed amount but have signalled their intention to appeal.

Monday's flare-up was the first meeting between the two players since the 2014 playoffs, when Harper blasted Strickland for two consecutive home runs. Harper later expressed incredulity that Strickland could still

be nursing a grudge. "It's not even relevant anymore," Harper said of his 2014 exploits. "They won the World Series that year. He's got a ring on his finger. He shouldn't be worried about what happened in the first round."

Nationals manager Dusty Baker defended Harper for his fiery response to a plunking he believed was inten-

tional. "What's a man supposed to do? He's not a punching bag," said Baker, who also said he did not believe Harper should be suspended.

"If anybody gets suspended, the pitcher should get suspended," Baker said. "Our guy just responded to getting hit. We don't start anything, but we don't take anything." —AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: Ryan Zimmerman #11 of the Washington Nationals scores sliding past the tag of Buster Posey #28 of the San Francisco Giants in the top of the first inning at AT&T Park on Tuesday in San Francisco, California.— AFP

BASEBALL

CHRIS SALE MAKES SHAKY RETURN TO CHICAGO

RED SOX BEAT WHITE SOX

CHICAGO: Chris Sale made a shaky return to his former home, but Deven Marrero hit two of Boston's season-high six home runs and the Red Sox beat the Chicago White Sox 13-7 on Tuesday night. Mookie Betts, Jackie Bradley Jr., Xander Bogaerts and Mitch Moreland also went deep. The Red Sox won for the seventh time in nine games after an anticipated duel between aces never materialized. Sale (6-2) got a warm reception from the crowd and a rude welcome from his old team. The five-time All-Star gave up six runs and 10 hits - both season highs - over five innings in his first appearance against the White Sox. Chicago left-hander Jose Quintana (2-7) got pounded for seven runs and 10 hits in 2 2/3 innings. It was his shortest outing since he lasted one inning against the New York Yankees on Sept. 2, 2013.

BLUE JAYS 6, REDS 4

Kendrys Morales hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning for Toronto, and Josh Donaldson belted an upper-deck drive. All six Toronto runs came on homers. Jose Bautista and Russell Martin also connected for the Blue Jays, who have hit 47 homers in May. Cincinnati's Zack Cozart hit two solo home runs and Joey Votto had a third. Morales broke a 4-all tie with a two-run blast off Blake Wood (0-3), his 10th. Joe Smith (1-0) worked one inning for the win and Roberto Osuna finished for his 10th save. Toronto has won seven of eight.

DOGERS 9, CARDINALS 4

Chase Utley, Logan Forsythe and Chris Taylor combined to reach base 11 times and totaled six runs, helping the Dodgers rally for their sixth straight win. Utley finished a homer shy of the cycle. Forsythe reached five times, including three walks, and Taylor reached three times. Adrian Gonzalez's sacrifice fly and Utley's RBI double started the Dodgers comeback in the third. Enrique Hernandez tied it at 3 with a single, and Paul DeJong's throwing error on the same play scored Utley to give the

Dodgers a 4-3 lead. Brandon Morrow (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Michael Wacha (2-3) needed 77 pitches to get through three innings, the shortest outing for a St. Louis starter this season. The Cardinals have dropped 10 of 13.

INDIANS 9, ATHLETICS 4

Trevor Bauer struck out an AL-best 14 in seven innings, leading Cleveland to the win. Bauer's career-best strikeout total was one shy of this season's major league-high of 15 by Washington's Stephen Strasburg against San Diego on Saturday. Bauer (5-4) allowed three runs and seven hits with one walk. Four Cleveland pitchers combined to strike out 19, tying a franchise record for a nine-inning game. Rookie Bradley Zimmer had a career-high four RBIs for the Indians, hitting a two-run double in the fourth and a two-run homer in the eighth. Sonny Gray (2-2) allowed seven runs in 4 2/3 innings for Oakland, which dropped a season-high seven games below .500.

YANKEES 8, ORIOLES 3

Brett Gardner and Matt Holliday each homered twice, Aaron Judge drove in two runs and the Yankees received a solid pitching performance from Luis Severino. Gardner set the tone for the AL East leaders by connecting on the third pitch from Chris Tillman (1-2), who had not allowed a home run in his previous four starts this season. Holliday went deep in the first inning and again in the third for his 22nd career multihomer game. Gardner's second solo shot sparked a three-run fourth that made it 8-0. Severino (4-2) gave up one run and seven hits over 6 1/3 innings. Trey Mancini had three hits and an RBI for the Orioles, who have lost eight of nine and 14 of 18.

METS 5, BREWERS 4, 12 INNINGS

Jay Bruce lined a game-ending single in the 12th inning and the Mets rebounded to beat the Brewers 5-4 after shortstop Asdrubal

Cabrera allowed the tying runs to score in the seventh when he flubbed a bases-loaded popup with two outs. Willy Peralta (5-4) pitched a perfect 11th in his fourth relief outing since he was dropped from Milwaukee's rotation in mid-May, but then allowed a single to pinch hitter T.J. Rivera leading off the 12th. Michael Conforto walked and Jose Reyes grounded into a forceout that left runners at the corners. With the infield at double-play depth, Bruce singled up the middle to end a game that lasted 4 hours, 24 minutes. Josh Smoker (1-2) pitched three scoreless innings in New York's third straight win. The NL Central-leading Brewers lost for the seventh time in nine games.

MARLINS 7, PHILLIES 2

Giancarlo Stanton hit his third homer since moving into the No. 2 spot in the batting order, a change that has revived Miami, which won its third game in a row. Marcell Ozuna also homered for the Marlins, whose modest winning streak is their longest since mid-April. Stanton hit a two-run homer, his 14th, in a five-run third. Since he moved up to the No. 2 spot, Stanton is 12 for 29 (.414) with three homers and seven RBIs in seven games, and the Marlins are 5-2 while outscoring opponents 48-22. Both starting pitchers departed with injuries. Phillies right-hander Vince Velasquez (2-5) left in the second inning because of a right elbow flexor strain, and Marlins left-hander Justin Nicolino exited after three scoreless innings due to a bruised left index finger. Dustin McGowan (2-0) replaced Nicolino and allowed one run in three innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, PIRATES 0

Arizona left-hander Robbie Ray pitched a four-hitter in his first career complete game. Ray (5-3) struck out 10, walked none and threw 115 pitches. The left-hander set a career high by winning his third straight start and has pitched 23 2/3 scoreless innings during that run, all on the road, while also beating the San Diego Padres and Milwaukee Brewers. Chris Owings snapped a scoreless tie with a double in the sixth inning, and the Diamondbacks ended a three-game losing streak. Ivan Nova (5-4) allowed three runs in seven innings, losing for the just the second time in nine starts.

ROYALS 1, TIGERS 0

Eric Skoglund pitched 6 1/3 innings of two-hit ball in his major league debut, helping the Royals beat Justin Verlander and the Tigers. Skoglund, a 2014 third-round draft pick out of Central Florida, struck out five and walked one. The left-hander was promoted from Triple-A Omaha when the Royals placed Danny Duffy on the disabled list Monday with an oblique strain. Verlander (4-4) left after seven innings, allowing one run and six hits. He struck out five and walked one. Eric Hosmer hit a two-out RBI single in the sixth for Kansas City, and Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 14 opportunities.

MARINERS 10, ROCKIES 4

Kyle Seager homered and drove in four runs for Seattle, and Robinson Cano also connected. Jean Segura had four hits and Ariel Miranda (5-2) pitched five solid innings to help the

Mariners sweep two games in Denver. It was just the Rockies' third loss in 17 series and first since April 24-27 against Washington. They also fell out of first place in the NL West, dropping a half-game behind the streaking Dodgers. Ben Gamel, who replaced slugger Nelson Cruz in the second inning, and Guillermo Heredia each had three of Seattle's season-high 19 hits. The Mariners jumped on Rockies lefty Tyler Anderson (3-5). Seager hit a two-run homer in a three-run second, and his two-run double in the third helped the Mariners go up 6-0.

RANGERS 9, RAYS 5

Elvis Andrus had a career-high five RBIs for Texas, including a tying three-run homer in the seventh inning. Andrus' two-out drive deep into the visiting bullpen ended a stretch of five scoreless innings from the Tampa Bay bullpen after Matt Andriese left in the second with a mild groin strain. Jared Hoyle's liner off the top of the wall in right came with the bases loaded and one out in a four-run eighth

against Chase Whitley (1-1), breaking a 5-5 tie. After a sacrifice fly from Shin-Soo Choo, Andrus' single to left scored two more. Keone Kela (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth, and closer Matt Bush had a perfect ninth in a non-save situation.

ASTROS 7, TWINS 2

Jose Altuve had four hits and two RBIs, Mike Fiers struck out eight over six innings in his bid to retain a spot in Houston's banged-up rotation, and the major league-leading Astros earned their sixth straight victory. Alex Bregman homered and drove in two runs, providing further support for Fiers (2-2) in his best of 10 starts this season. Fiers fell behind 2-0 in the first when Eddie Rosario drew a bases-loaded walk and Byron Buxton followed with an infield single, but Astros hacked their way back against Jose Berrios (3-1). Buxton had two hits and drove in a run. Berrios gave up five hits and four walks in five innings, the shortest of his four starts this year. —AP



SAN DIEGO: San Diego Padres left fielder Allen Cordoba, left, right fielder Hunter Renfroe, center, celebrate with center fielder Franchy Cordero after the Padres defeat the Chicago Cubs 6-2 during a baseball game in San Diego, Tuesday. — AP

MLB results/standings

San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 2; LA Angels 9, Atlanta 3; Kansas City 1, Detroit 0; Boston 13, Chicago White Sox 7; Houston 7, Minnesota 2; Texas 9, Tampa Bay 5; NY Mets 5, Milwaukee 4 (12 innings); Miami 7, Philadelphia 2; Seattle 10, Colorado 4; Toronto 6, Cincinnati 4; Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 0; LA Dodgers 9, St. Louis 4; NY Yankees 8, Baltimore 3; Cleveland 9, Oakland 4.

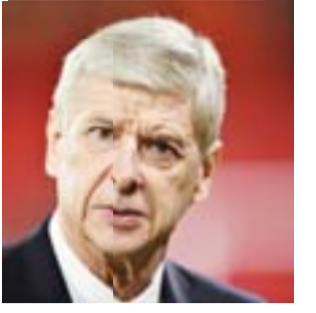
American League				National League			
Eastern Division				Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	NY Mets	Atlanta	Miami
NY Yankees	30	19	.612	-	32	19	.627
Boston	28	23	.549	3	23	27	.460
Baltimore	26	24	.520	4.5	22	28	.440
Tampa Bay	28	27	.509	5	20	30	.400
Toronto	25	27	.481	6.5	Philadelphia	17	.340
Central Division				Central Division			
Minnesota	26	22	.542	-	Milwaukee	27	.519
Cleveland	27	23	.540	-	Chicago Cubs	25	.490
Chicago White Sox	24	27	.471	3.5	St. Louis	24	.490
Detroit	24	28	.462	4	Cincinnati	24	.471
Kansas City	22	29	.431	5.5	Pittsburgh	24	.453
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	37	16	.698	-	LA Dodgers	33	.623
LA Angels	27	28	.491	11	Colorado	33	.611
Texas	26	27	.491	11	Arizona	32	.593
Seattle	24	29	.453	13	San Francisco	22	.407
Oakland	22	29	.431	14	San Diego	21	.389

Sports

Warriors wary of LeBron as Cavs arrive for Finals



Arsene Wenger signs new two-year Arsenal contract



THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

BRYCE HARPER, HUNTER STRICKLAND SUSPENDED FOR PUNCH-UP

Page 17



PARIS: France's Kristina Mladenovic reacts as she plays Italy's Sara Errani during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, yesterday. — AP

MUGURUZA SURVIVES, NO PROBLEMS FOR DJOKOVIC

PARIS: Reigning champion Garbine Muguruza survived a tough French Open second-round challenge from Anett Kontaveit, while men's title-holder Novak Djokovic stormed into the last 32 yesterday. Muguruza's patchy form this season included a loss to the world number 53 in Stuttgart, with the Spaniard again in dire trouble in Paris after falling a set and a break behind against the Estonian. But the fourth seed recovered to claw out a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2 win and book a third-round clash with Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan. "I have a different spirit here, I'm going to fight for every ball to try and win," said Muguruza, who defeated Serena Williams in last year's final. "She was playing so good first two sets, I was just hanging there waiting for my moment and in the third set it came."

Djokovic needed little over two hours to see off Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 as he bids to become the first man in the Open era to win each Grand Slam twice.

The world number two broke his 59th-ranked opponent six times to make it four wins in as many meetings with Sousa.

Djokovic goes on to face Argentina's Diego Schwartzman for a place in the last 16. "In the first and second rounds I'm the favourite, but it's sport and nothing is predictable," said Djokovic.

"I think the first two sets went very well, the third was more difficult." Rafael Nadal's quest for an incredible 10th Roland Garros title continues later against Dutchman Robin Haase later.

But Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion and part of coaching Nadal's coaching team, admitted talk of another triumph was causing pressure for his fellow Spaniard.

"Clearly there is a bit of pressure. We don't pay much attention to making it number ten," Moya told AFP. "We take it into account but we try to ignore it. We try to coexist as best as possible with the pressure."

THIEM THROUGH, TSONGA OUT

Sixth seed Dominic Thiem charged into round three with a routine win over Simone Bolelli, sweeping the Italian aside 7-5, 6-1, 6-3. The Austrian, who is the only player to defeat Nadal on clay this season, will meet American 25th seed Steve Johnson next as he looks to build on last year's run to the semi-finals.

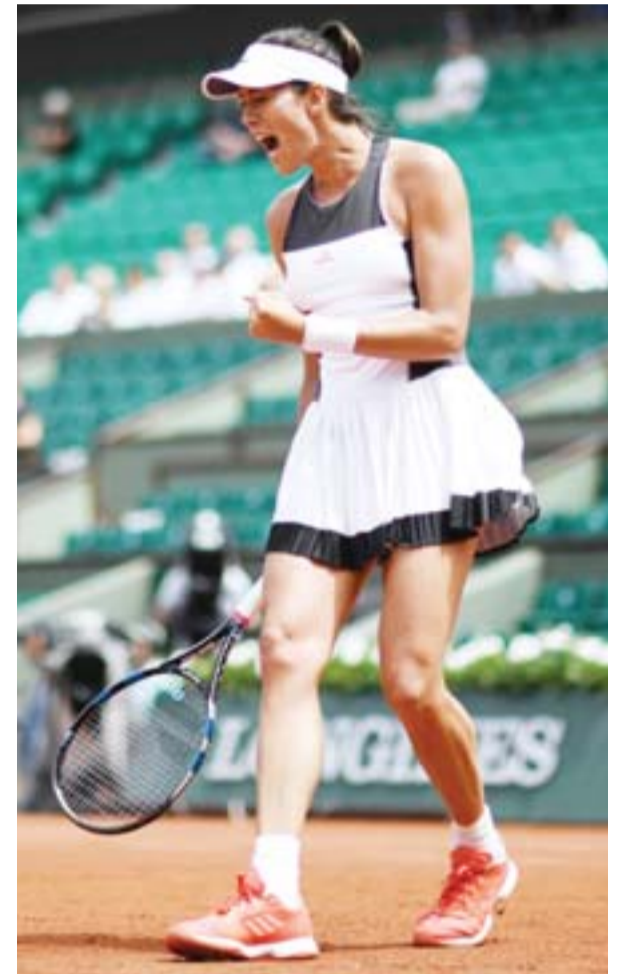
Hopes of a first French men's champion since Yannick Noah in 1983 suffered a huge blow as 12th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga crashed out in his opening match. The Frenchman won his first clay-court title in Lyon last week but slid to a four-set defeat to Roland Garros debutant Renzo Olivo in a tie held over from Tuesday.

Serving to stay in the match when play resumed, Tsonga was broken immediately by the Argentine world number 91 as Olivo wrapped up a 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4 win.

American qualifier Bethanie Mattek-Sands halted Petra Kvitova's comeback, defeating the popular Czech 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) in her first tournament since a horrifying knife attack in December. "I'm disappointed, for sure. I came here to win the matches," said twice former Wimbledon champion Kvitova.

"But I really fight. I mean, after the match, I didn't feel that bad as normally I probably do. "I'm still happy I'm here and playing. The fairytale ended. Now, in upcoming weeks, I think it will be business as usual." Venus Williams shook off a slow start to ease into the third round with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Japan's Kurumi Nara. Williams, the 2002 runner-up who turns 37 next month, will play Belgium's Elise Mertens or Dutch qualifier Richel Hogenkamp in the third round.

"Do I sense (the draw) is open? I just am really focused on me and nothing's a given, or else I'd win every match," said Venus, who has sister Serena in Paris supporting her. — AFP



PARIS: Spain's Garbine Muguruza celebrates after winning a point during her tennis match against Estonia's Anett Kontaveit at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP



Oats For Heart ... Oats For Life

Ramadan Kareem



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AGILITY EXPANDS OVERLAND FLEET ACROSS GCC REGION



BEIJING: People buy fruits at a stall in Beijing. Activity in China's key factory sector expanded in May, official data showed yesterday in a sign of stabilization in the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

BRUSSELS MAPS OUT MORE UNIFIED EUROZONE

EURO AREA INFLATION FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL THIS YEAR

BRUSSELS: Encouraged by the victory of French President Emmanuel Macron, the EU yesterday unveiled a raft of controversial ideas for improving the often dysfunctional European single currency. The so-called reflection paper from the European Commission maps out proposals, including the partial bundling of sovereign debt from across the eurozone, that will face suspicion in Germany, the bloc's most powerful member.

Berlin has historically snubbed French-influenced ideas for reform of the eurozone and further integration, but the Brexit vote last year and the rise of Trump-style populism has given the idea of more Europe new momentum. "The status quo is not an option," said EU Economy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici at a news briefing announcing the paper. "It is clear ... that we must move forward," the former French finance minister said.

The commission, usually reluctant to provoke Berlin, made the announcement amid a spat between Germany and the Trump administration, with Chancellor Angela Merkel urging Europe to "take our destiny in our own hands". The euro is a "promise of prosperity," said European Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis. "To keep that promise ... we need

the political courage to work on strengthening and completing Europe's economic and monetary union now," the former Latvian prime minister said. One big idea floated by the commission is to introduce a permanent president of the Eurogroup, the grouping of eurozone finance ministers that decides common policy for the currency area.

Full-time chief

Currently, the ministers name one of their own as head of the group, with Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem set to end his term later this year after five years of handling the Greek debt crisis.

The job could be merged with that of economic affairs commissioner, currently shared by Moscovici and Dombrovskis, the paper argues. The paper urges the completion of the eurozone banking union that was created in the heat of the debt crisis amid catastrophic bank failures in Ireland, Spain and Greece.

The trickiest parts of the banking union, a common deposit insurance scheme, is resisted by Germany and other richer eurozone states that are concerned about the fragility of banks in countries such as Italy. The commission's ideas are part of a larger project to reform the

eurozone and would require a tough adoption process. Just days after reformist Macron's victory against anti-EU Marine Le Pen, France and Germany promised a joint plan to accelerate eurozone integration, with other member states also contributing to the debate.

Inflation

Inflation across the 19-country eurozone has fallen to its lowest level this year, official figures showed yesterday in a development that may temper speculation that the European Central Bank will soon consider easing up on its monetary stimulus.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, said that inflation fell to 1.4 percent in the year through May from 1.9 percent the month before. May's rate is the lowest since December 2016 when inflation stood at 1.1 percent.

The most important reason why inflation has been so volatile in recent months is connected to the price of oil, which is off the lows recorded last year but still swinging fairly widely. In the year to May, energy prices were up 4.6 percent. However, May's increase was the smallest this year and down sharply on April's equivalent rate of 7.6 percent.

The decline in the rate, which was slightly

sharper than anticipated, means that inflation has fallen away from the ECB's target of just below 2 percent. The rise in inflation in April to the target had stoked talk in financial markets that the central bank would soon be in a position to at least start mulling the possibility of withdrawing some of its stimulus, possibly at next Thursday's policy meeting.

The ECB has slashed interest rates, including its main one to zero, and embarked on a big bond-buying stimulus program to keep a lid on market interest rates. Its primary aim is to get inflation back toward its target and then to start easing off the bond-buying program.

A major reason why inflation fell back sharply in May was the decline in the core rate, which strips out the volatile items of alcohol, food, tobacco and energy. That slipped back to 0.9 percent from the previous month's 1.2 percent. Modest underlying rates of inflation point to sluggish wage demands even at a time when the eurozone economy is performing relatively strongly and unemployment has been dropping. ECB President Mario Draghi has pointed to the subdued core rate in recent months to urge caution over the bank radically changing tack soon.

"That should allow the ECB to continue to

stress that underlying inflation pressure in the euro area remains weak, despite strengthening growth, when it meets next week," said Cathal Kennedy, European economist at RBC Capital Markets. As a result, Kennedy says that while the ECB is likely to upgrade its economic forecasts today, it will probably remain cautious about any talk of tapering off the stimulus program. Some economists think Draghi may drop any reference in his statement to the possibility of lowering interest rates or increasing stimulus going forward. A raft of indicators over recent weeks has shown that the eurozone economy has picked up steam, particularly in France and in many of those countries that have been at the heart of Europe's debt crisis, including Spain and Ireland.

The rebounding economy was evident in unemployment figures from Eurostat. The agency found that the eurozone's jobless rate fell 0.1 percentage point in April to 9.3 percent, its lowest level since March 2009, when the region, like the world economy, was in the midst of a savage downturn following the global financial crisis. During April, Eurostat said 233,000 people came off the eurozone's jobless register, taking the total unemployed down to 15.04 million. — AFP

INDIA'S GROWTH SLOWS TO 7.1% AFTER CONTROVERSIAL NOTE BAN

NEW DELHI: India's growth slowed to 7.1 percent last year, according to official data released yesterday, weaker than analysts expected but still the fastest rate of growth of any major economy.

GDP growth for the 12 months ended March 31 was well below a revised figure of eight percent for the previous year, and follows the government's shock move last November to ban most of the currency in circulation. "This is a sharper deterioration than what I expected," Ashutosh Datar, economist at IIFL Institutional Equities, told AFP. "The fourth quarter (6.1 percent) is a bit weaker than what I expected." However the country of 1.25 billion is still reporting faster growth than rival China, at 6.7 percent in 2016.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has defended his move to remove all 500 (around \$7.50) and 1,000 rupee notes from circulation as a necessary strike against corruption. The government argues it will boost revenues by dissuading people from using cash, which makes it easier to avoid tax. The move hit cash-dependent sectors like real estate, jewellery and agriculture, and



HYDERABAD: Indian traders and vendors negotiate prices of vegetables at a wholesale vegetable market in Hyderabad. India's economic growth slowed to 7.1 percent for the 2016-17 financial year, according to official data released yesterday. — AFP

triggered massive lines outside banks in the weeks afterwards as authorities struggled to print replacement notes fast enough.

While the full impact of the note ban is still not known, analysts had expected a pick-up in the fourth quarter as consumers who had held back in the weeks after the cash ban stepped up spending. "[The fourth quarter] clearly shows that demonetization has had an impact on the overall growth for the economy," Sunil Sinha, principal economist at Fitch India told AFP.

"Now that cash is by and large back in place, that confidence is back with consumers that they no longer have to stand in queues and that cash will be available when they need it," he added.

In a report earlier this week the World Bank said the fundamentals of India's economy remained strong and predicted an uptick in the economy with a national goods and services tax due to be introduced on July 1.

The move will likely "yield substantial growth dividends from higher efficiencies" and increase state revenues in the long term, according to the bank. — AFP

SAUDI ARAMCO AND HYUNDAI IN \$5.2BN SHIPYARD VENTURE

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco is to build the region's biggest shipyard in a \$5.2 billion joint venture with South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries and others, the partners said yesterday. The yard, to be constructed on the kingdom's Gulf coast, will have the capacity to produce four offshore rigs and 40 vessels, including three supertankers, a year, the state-owned oil giant said in a statement. Lamprell, a United Arab Emirates-based provider of services to the energy industry, and Bahri, the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia, have also signed on to the venture.

"The integrated maritime yard will be the largest in the region in terms of production capacity and scale," Saudi Aramco said. Located in the new industrial port city of Ras al-Khair, the yard will also provide maintenance services for rigs and vessels.

"Major production operations are expected to commence in 2019," with full capacity reached by 2022, Aramco said. In a separate statement, Lamprell PLC said the yard will cost an estimated \$5.2 billion to build, of which roughly \$3.5 billion will come from the Saudi government.

The rest will be funded by the joint venture. It said the deal was conditional on approval by its shareholders. Saudi Arabia has launched a program to diversify its industrial base after its revenues were badly hit by a 50 percent fall in world oil prices since 2014. Around five percent of Saudi Aramco is to be floated on the stock market next year to help form the world's largest state investment fund. — AFP

GLOBAL STOCKS PUSH HIGHER ON CHINA FACTORY DATA

LONDON: Global equity markets mostly rose yesterday after forecast-beating Chinese factory data raised hopes for the world's number two economy.

China said yesterday that its purchasing managers' index of manufacturing activity held up in May, beating expectations for a decline.

China's growth slowed to its weakest level in a quarter of a century in 2016. It is expected to ease this year as leaders try to address huge debt

and switch from trade and investment to consumer demand as the driver of expansion. "More compelling economic data came out of China, the manufacturing sector expanded more than expected in May, and provided much comfort to investors about the health of the second biggest economy in the world," noted analyst Naem Aslam at trading firm Think Markets.

Shanghai, which was closed Monday and Tuesday for a holiday, ended up 0.2 percent, Sydney added 0.1 percent and Seoul was 0.2 percent higher. Singapore put on 0.2 percent and Jakarta gained 0.2 percent. However, Tokyo ended 0.1 percent lower and Hong Kong shed 0.2 percent after a one-day break. Across the Atlantic, Wall Street opened higher, with the Dow

Jones Industrial Average up 0.1 percent, ahead of Friday's release of closely watched US jobs data, which is used as a guide for the Federal Reserve's plans for interest rate rises.

Weak pound lifts London

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Theresa May was fighting yesterday to shore up her election campaign after a shock projection by pollsters YouGov forecast a hung parliament in which the Conservatives would fall short of a majority.

favor of often maligned Jeremy Corbyn, with the latest YouGov survey pointing towards a distinct chance that we could see the Tories fail to maintain an outright majority." Sterling rose in recent weeks on the prospect that May would win a landslide in the June 8 poll, giving her a stronger hand in Brexit talks.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.4 percent to 5,319 while Germany's DAX gained 0.5 percent at 12,659. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 percent to 7,561. US shares were set to rise, with Dow and S&P 500 futures both up 0.1 percent.

Flynn has decided to provide documents to the Senate intelligence committee, while Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, has rejected a House intelligence committee request for information.

An official monthly survey showed that growth in China's factory activity was steady last month in a sign that the recovery in the world's No 2 economy is holding up. The purchasing managers index, or PMI, released yesterday came in at 51.2 for May.

with CMC Markets Singapore, said of the China data.

British race

The pound was volatile after polls and surveys suggested the general election of June 8 might be closer than many had expected. Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative party had been expected to win by a landslide but recent polls have shed doubt on that.

KUWAIT EQUITIES RALLY

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait, the country's official stock exchange, ended yesterday's trading in the green zone. The benchmark went up by 58.5 points to settle at 6,785.37 points.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Wednesday 31 May 2017. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Trades, Last, Change. Includes sub-sections for Trades, Basic Materials, Industrials, Consumer Goods, Health Care, Consumer Services, Banks, and Insurance.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.

BURGAN BANK OFFERS CARDHOLDERS CHANCES TO WIN CASH BACK

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank recently launched a new summer promotion offering its cardholders the chance to win back their spending when using their cards locally and internationally.

The summer promotion is designed as a three month campaign starting from today (June 1st to 31st August 2017), creating opportunities for more winners, where five winners will be announced every month who will be refunded with their transactions' amount at a maximum refund of KD 1,000.

Customers who spend more will have higher chances of winning. As such, with every international transaction, they will receive two chances to enter the draw while every local transaction provides them with one such opportunity. All credit card holders who make local or international transactions will be eligible to participate in the draw, while ATM cardholders will be eligible with international transactions only. Borgan Bank ATM and credit cards accommodate customers' different needs with flexibility and convenience for all financial transactions.

Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services



and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years. Borgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.



TOKYO: A delivery service worker pushes a cart along a street in Tokyo yesterday. Japanese employers are scrambling to find staff, unemployment is at its lowest level in more than two decades and the labour market is tighter than it was during Japan's booming bubble economy years. — AFP

JAPAN'S ULTRA-LOW JOBLESS RATE MASKS GRIM REALITY

TOKYO: Japanese employers are scrambling to find staff, unemployment is at its lowest level in more than two decades and the labor market is tighter than it was during Japan's booming bubble economy years. This should be great news for the world's number three economy, but analysts are warning not to pop the champagne quite yet because it is mostly due to a shrinking labor force. And many jobs are temporary and pay very little.

Japan tied with Iceland in 2016 for the lowest annual unemployment rate-3.1 percent-among 35 member nations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This week Japanese government figures showed the jobless rate at 2.8 percent in April for the third consecutive month and the lowest since 1994. Another key labor market measurement-the ratio of job offers to job seekers-hit 1.48, meaning there were 148 positions available for every 100 job hunters.

This is the strongest level in 43 years and is higher than before Japan's once-booming economy collapsed from a stock and real estate price bubble in the early nineties. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may claim Japan's employment picture as a win for his Abenomics growth policy-the jobless rate was 4.4 percent in 2012, the year he swept to power on a ticket to reignite the laggard economy. But analysts are not convinced. "Low unemployment is not an

achievement of Abenomics," said Ivan Tselichtchev, an economics professor at Japan's University of Niigata. "It is a structural phenomena and, unlike most other developed countries it looks quite independent, or autonomous from the business cycle and economic growth rates."

Shrinking population

Examples of labor shortages are everywhere in Japan these days. Some 24 restaurants are cutting back their hours because they don't have enough staff, while delivery service Yamato has been forced to trim services citing a lack of drivers.

A lack of formal immigration is part of the story. Bringing in foreign workers is a tough sell politically so Tokyo has focused on luring even more seniors and women into the workforce-many women quit jobs after marrying. But Japan's population is expected to fall by almost a quarter between 2010 and 2050 to below 100 million. And over-65 seniors are set to make up almost 40 percent of the population from 26 percent in 2015, the highest in the OECD.

This is a worrying demographic picture for the labor market. "Japan faces increasing labor shortages in the face of a falling working-age population," said Randall Jones, head of the OECD's Japan/Korea desk. Staff shortages have translated into higher wages in certain sectors, but the broader impact has been more limited. — AFP

ETIHAD OFFERS FREE STOPOVERS TO ALL ECONOMY CLASS GUESTS FROM MIDEAST, AFRICA AND PAKISTAN

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, will offer one night's free accommodation at the Radisson Blu hotel on Abu Dhabi's Yas Island to all guests travelling in Economy Class from the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan, and stopping over in the national capital. The offer is valid from now until 15 September 2017.

Mohammad Al-Bulooki, Etihad Airways Executive Vice President Commercial, said: "Etihad Airways is delighted to invite guests to experience Abu Dhabi for themselves. The capital of the United Arab Emirates has so much to offer all types of travellers, whether they are after culture, a beach break or sports and adventure.

"As the national airline, Etihad Airways is an integral part of this incredible city and those who transit through Abu Dhabi should be encouraged by us to experience it. This offer is for guests to make time to explore the many attractions Abu Dhabi has to offer during their stopover. The beautiful desert; a visit to the spectacular Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque - among the world's biggest; a tour of the many attractions on Yas Island, or sampling the emirate's world class hotels and restaurants are all part of

the Abu Dhabi experience." More than 4.4 million guest arrivals were recorded in Abu Dhabi in 2016, proving that the emirate is becoming a favourite hub for stopovers.

Guests can take advantage of world-famous leisure and business attractions, include miles of beautiful white sand beaches, theme parks such as Yas Waterworld and Ferrari World, unforgettable desert safari expeditions, arts and cultural institutions such as Manarat Al Saadiyat and the soon-to-be-opened Louvre Museum, exquisite local and international dining, world-class golf, and the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and its race track, Yas Marina Circuit.

Abu Dhabi also offers a wide range of shopping opportunities to suit all tastes with a large choice of popular outlets and brands. The city boasts a selection of spacious high-end shopping malls such as Yas Mall, Abu Dhabi Mall, Marina Mall, and The Galleria - one of the world's most luxurious shopping centres.

Etihad Airways has been running stopover programs since 2011, and offering guests a variety of services including airport meet & assist, transportation, accommodation, tours, and visa processing services.



AGILITY EXPANDS OVERLAND FLEET ACROSS GCC REGION

LOGISTICS PROVIDER RECEIVES 95 TRUCKS IN ABU DHABI, KUWAIT, AND BAHRAIN

KUWAIT: Agility, a leading global logistics provider, has expanded its regional overland fleet by adding 95 new Mercedes-Benz Actros 20415 4x2 tractors to its Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Bahrain operations.

The expansion represents an investment of more than \$7.5 million and is part of Agility's regional growth strategy. The trucks will be used for both domestic and cross-border trucking across the Gulf.

Agility's new trucks are equipped with a spark-prevention mechanism that meets strict safety requirements in the oil and gas and petrochemicals industries. The vehicles also emit less carbon dioxide than older trucks, supporting Agility's commitment to the environment. Elias Monem, Agility CEO for the MEA region, said: "Thanks to increased investment in infrastructure and construction projects across the Gulf, we have witnessed a steady increase in demand for goods to be transported by road across the GCC. We expect this trend to increase in the coming years. Our investment in the latest additions to our regional fleet allows us to meet the increasing demand for overland logistics, while ensuring that our drivers have a safe and comfortable working environment."

As part of its investment in overland transport, Agility has deployed its own fleet and transport management system, called MicroTransport.

The system includes several features, providing accurate tracking and reporting to safety adherence requirements, along with information on the mechanical condition of the truck and its location. The system enables Agility to minimize downtime and offer customers unique visibility of their goods at all times.

Agility's long-term vendor, Emirates Motor Company (EMC), the authorized distributor of



Mercedes-Benz in Abu Dhabi and the flagship company of Al-Fahim Group supplied the Abu Dhabi fleet. In Kuwait, 20 new trucks were supplied by Abdul Rahman Al-Bisher & Zaid Al-Kazemi Company. The 25 trucks purchased in Bahrain were supplied by Al Haddad Motors, Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Bahrain.

Agility brings efficiency to supply chains in some of the globe's most challenging environments, offering unmatched personal service, a global footprint and customized capabilities in developed and developing economies alike. Agility is one of the world's leading providers of integrated logistics. It is a publicly traded company with more than \$4.1 billion in revenue and

more than 22,000 employees in over 500 offices across 100 countries. Agility's core commercial business, Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), provides supply chain solutions to meet traditional and complex customer needs.

GIL offers air, ocean and road freight forwarding, warehousing, distribution, and specialized services in project logistics, fairs and events, and chemicals. Agility's Infrastructure group of companies manages industrial real estate and offers logistics-related services, including e-government customs optimization and consulting, waste management and recycling, aviation and ground-handling services, support to governments and ministries of defense, remote infrastructure and life support.



FORD 'CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE' FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

KUWAIT: In the spirit of reconnecting with nature for World Environment Day on June 5, Ford Motor Company yesterday announced the launch of the 17th Conservation and Environmental Grants program, with \$100,000 being made available to the successful entries.

Accepted from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen, the touted projects focused on three main areas: Environmental Education, Protection of the Natural Environment and Conservation Engineering.

Having been very well-received in the most recent edition of the grants programme, two further categories will receive financial support for the winning projects: Best in Research - projects that show use of research in finding, and implementing, solutions to a specific environmental issue - and Best in Community Engagement, for the project that best demonstrates community engagement during its undertaking.

Individuals or organizations with on-going non-profit projects focused on any of the main categories are invited to apply by downloading the form here, and email it to FMEGrant@ford.com. Closing date for applications is July 13, 2017 at 9pm AST (Arabian Standard Time). The winners will be announced in September of this year.

"The continued success and quality of projects that are submitted for consideration each year truly highlights the importance of the Ford Conservation and Environmental Grants programme," said Jacques Brent, president, Ford Middle East and Africa. "We are proud to support the committed individuals and organizations

whose aim it is to preserve our environment for future generations."

Success stories

Earlier this year, the big winners of Ford's Conservation and Environmental Grants were those which championed raising awareness of, and inevitably saving, the Green Mangroves in Qatar; seeking to save the traditional beehives of Morocco by developing and managing them with organic production method; and comprising a database and mapping system for sites of natural significance and degraded environmental resources in 70 communities across Lebanon. Past projects that have benefited from the Ford Grants include whale and dolphin research projects in Oman, saving coral reefs in Saudi Arabia, saving Arabian Leopards in the mountains of Oman, irrigation system for Algeria, water conservation awareness in Morocco, use of industrial plants to fight soil pollution in Tunisia, and conservation of endangered tree species in Egypt.

In its 16 years of existence, Ford Grants has become one of the largest corporate initiatives of its kind in the region, created to empower individuals and non-profit groups that are donating their time and efforts to preserve the environmental well-being of their communities. Since its inception, the Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants programme has received support and recognition from various governmental and non-governmental environmental authorities from around the Middle East, including the

World Wide Fund for Nature, the Emirates Wildlife Society, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) and UNESCO Doha. Recipients are chosen by an independent panel of judges consisting of academics and leaders from regional environmental organizations. The judges are seasoned environmentalists or academicians from the region carefully selected based on geographical coverage, age and gender equality. They look for initiatives that demonstrate a well-defined sense of purpose, a commitment to maximizing available resources, and a reputation for meeting objectives and delivering planned programs and services.

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action and takes place every June 5. Since it began in 1972, global citizens have organized many thousands of events, from neighborhood clean-ups, to action against wildlife crime, to replanting forests.

The theme for 2017 is 'Connecting People to Nature', which implores us to get outdoors and into nature to appreciate its beauty and importance, and to think about how we are intimately dependent on it. Ford's Conservation and Environmental Grants programme echoes those sentiments, providing necessary funding and visibility to individuals and non-profit groups donating time and effort to preserve the environmental well-being of their communities. It is hoped a multiplication of similar grassroots efforts that will serve as catalysts of change across the globe will be encouraged to harmonize humanity and nature so that both can thrive.

GOP SENATORS CAST DOUBTS ON HEALTH CARE LAW REPEAL

ALTOONA, Iowa: Lowering expectations, Iowa's two Republican senators say the long-promised repeal of "Obama care" is unlikely, and any final agreement with the Republican-controlled House is uncertain. The comments Tuesday by Sen Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst come as the Republican-controlled Senate moves forward on its work to dismantle the 2010 health care bill while facing conflicting demands within their own party and lockstep Democratic opposition. Both senators are active players in the health care debate. "You can't repeal it in its entirety," Ernst told reporters after a joint appearance with Grassley in suburban Des Moines. It was a frank admis-

sion from loyal conservatives representing a state Republican Donald Trump carried in November.

The Senate's filibuster rule means that Republicans who control the Senate with 52 seats can't repeal the entire law. "You've got to have 60 votes and we don't have 60 votes at this point," Grassley said. Grassley, in his seventh term, is a senior member of the Finance Committee, which oversees the law's tax and Medicaid provisions. Ernst, elected in 2014, says she has been part of an informal GOP health care working group's discussions.

"As much as I'd love to go back and scrap the whole darn thing, we're simply

unable to do that," Ernst said. Other Senate rules permit the GOP majority to repeal portions of Obama care without Democratic support but render other parts of the law off limits. "That just allows us to tinker around the edges," Ernst earlier told Eric Borseth, an Altoona, Iowa, businessman who implored her to "get rid of that monstrosity." What Grassley and Ernst did not mention are divisions within the Republican caucus in the Senate. Getting every Republican on board is proving arduous.

House Republicans passed a measure May 4 axing major parts of the 2010 Affordable Care Act, including hundreds of billions in extra Medicaid money that

31 states now receive for expanding to cover more lower-income Americans under the federal insurance program. Such provisions, as well as the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's estimate that 23 million Americans would lose health insurance, make the House bill a non-starter with several Republican senators. Erasing Obama's health care law was a top promise of Donald Trump during his presidential campaign, and by congressional GOP candidates since its 2010 enactment. But writing legislation that can pass with only Republican votes has proven agonizing.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., canceled a March vote after opposition from

party conservatives and moderates would have sealed its defeat, and the two wings of the GOP spent weeks blaming each other for the bill's demise. The House subsequently passed it by a narrow margin. Ernst says the Senate will be able to make individual changes to Obama's law where only a simple majority vote is required.

For instance, she mentioned changing mandatory health care benefits required by insurers as ripe for Senate action. Ernst stopped short of saying whether any legislation passed in the Senate would be accepted by the House. "We will be working with the House," she said. — AP



MALUALKUEL: Some of thousands of people walk for hours to reach a food distribution site in Malualkuel, in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan. — AP

UN FOOD AGENCY WARNS SUDAN CONFLICT IS FUELING FAMINE

BRUSSELS: The head of the UN's food and agriculture agency warned that conflict in South Sudan could undermine hopes of avoiding a new famine next year.

Around 100,000 people face starvation in South Sudan, where crop production has plummeted since 2013 as conflict has killed tens of thousands and forced 3.5 million people from their homes. Food and Agriculture Organization chief Jose Graziano da Silva told The Associated Press that the ethnic violence pitting forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, from the Dinka majority, against those loyal to Riek Machar, his former vice president who is a Nuer, is threatening the agency's work. "If they don't stop the war, what we are doing will be in vain," he said, lamenting the destruction of crops and attacks on the FAO premises and warehouses. "We cannot continue that way. We are wasting money and time if we don't stop

the war." Da Silva said the UN agency is trying to provide food, seeds and livestock simultaneously to farmers to take advantage of the rainy season. "This is the time for farmers to plant.

They don't have seeds. They have eaten the seeds. Even the seeds that the FAO provided last month, they have eaten them," he said, during a visit to Brussels to drum up support at EU headquarters. Da Silva warned that if South Sudan farmers "lose their cattle, their goats, they will move out, they will become migrants." More than 1.8 million people who fled their homes have left South Sudan altogether, sparking what has become the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis. Food insecurity in South Sudan, which declared independence in 2011, reached record levels last year, hitting 67 percent of the population. Cereal production was at its lowest level since the conflict started. — AP

DOZENS JAILED IN HEALTH-CARE PROTEST IN NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH, NC: The head of the North Carolina NAACP was among more than 30 people arrested on Tuesday during a demonstration against Republican lawmakers' refusal to expand Medicaid coverage the latest in a long string of protests the NAACP and members of the Moral Monday movement have waged since the GOP returned to power in 2013. With zip-ties on their wrists, the Rev. William Barber and 31 other protesters were led away by police as supporters continued protest chants in support of health care for all.

Before Tuesday's arrests, a group compris-

ing doctors, health care workers, clergy and others marched through the hallways and gathered near the offices of House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger, where other protesters sat outside. Police also arrested some protesters who had entered Brunswick County Republican Sen. Bill Rabon's office. Demonstrators wanted the General Assembly to expand health coverage to poor and disabled people. They also protested in support of preserving the federal health care law passed under former President Barack Obama "We never come to get arrested," Barber told the media. — AP

RELIVING COMMUNIST PAST HELPS EAST GERMAN DEMENTIA PATIENTS

REMINDERS FROM BYGONE DAYS TRIGGER MEMORIES

BERLIN: Every weekday morning, white-haired women patiently line up before a door at a Dresden retirement home, step in, and quickly step back nearly six decades into their past in Communist East Germany. Most of the women in their late 70s at the youngest are suffering from severe dementia, but the reminders from bygone days trigger memories and skills once thought lost, and produce surprising levels of happiness and comfort.

They park their walkers next to a Kaufhalle sign from the former East German grocery chain, put on their colorfully-patterned nylon aprons and start the day just like they did some 50 years ago. They chop up bell peppers, tomatoes and sausages for the popular Hungarian salad of their youth, wash dishes in an original 1960s metal sink and iron their laundry with old-fashioned pressing irons while happily humming along to schmaltzy East German tunes coming from a record player. It's hard to imagine that many were not so long ago bedridden and unable to eat or use the bathroom on their own, said Gunter Wolfram, the director of the Alexa home in the former East German city of Dresden.

"From the first day on, this room has been a big success story," Wolfram said. "The people are very happy to recognize things from the old times. They immediately feel comfortable." The 49-year-old, who grew up in East Germany himself, said it was sheer coincidence that he found out that Communist kitsch and other memorabilia brought comfort to some of his 130 residents.

The revelation came two years ago when he decided to decorate the home's movie theater with a vintage flashy Troll scooter that was once very popular in East Germany. "Instead of paying attention to the movie, these people got so excited about the motorcycle. They could all of a sudden remember how to start the ignition, and chatted with bright eyes about outings to the Baltic Sea on their own Trolls a long time ago it was amazing," Wolfram said. Inspired by this, he set out to create an entire room in 1960s East German style.

Laundry detergents

He scoured the region's flea markets and soon had an impressive collection of well-known Ossi slang for anything and anybody from East Germany, products. He gathered Spee and Fewa laundry detergents, yellowed magazines and the plastic pepper-and-salt shakers that almost every family in East Germany owned. He also found a wooden wall unit that only the well-to-do could afford at the time. Together with his colleagues, he set up the 1960s room and the home's residents were so eager to spend time in a place that felt like home they started coming in droves.

Because of the room's success, the waiting list for future residents is full and directors from other retirement homes have called Wolfram, asking for advice. Soon the demand for the daily trip back into the past had become so popular that Wolfram



DRESDEN: A resident reads a GDR magazine in the Alexa Seniors' Residence in Dresden, eastern Germany, Wednesday. The words read: 'Good advice'. — AP

added a second room, this one designed in East German 1970s style including psychedelic-patterned curtains, tasseled floor lamps and a bright-orange rotary dial phone.

In West Germany, capitalism ruled and U.S.-style consumerism flourished only a few years after the end of World War II, but materialism was frowned upon in the Communist East and consumer goods were scarce. Since only a few brands were sold in the country's Kaufhalle supermarkets, they have very high recognition value among former East Germans. Some of the items also feature prominently in the 2003 Golden Globe-nominated German movie "Good-bye Lenin!" in which the son of a woman, who had slipped into a coma before the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, desperately tries to re-create the old East Germany after she finally wakes up in a reunited Germany. The boy stacks the home with the famous Spreewald pickles and other products from the DDR as the German Democratic Republic was called in German trying to obliterate all signs of capitalism.

Memory Therapy

Herlind Megges, a gerontologist from Berlin's Charite university hospital who has not been involved in the Alexa home project, said such memory therapy can help improve the capabilities and well-being of dementia patients. "Memory therapy is often used because it activates exactly what's still there and still working well," Megges said. "It's important for these people, who don't feel

well in this world because it doesn't match their current memory, that there's an environment where they feel comfortable." Objects from earlier phases of a patient's life that are connected to comfortable feelings can lead to physical and cognitive improvement, Megges said. Often patients can still retrieve memories from their childhood and early adulthood even when their short-term memory fails. Millions of elderly around the world suffer from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in which they lose their ability to respond to their environment.

While there's no cure yet, research institutions worldwide are trying to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset and improve the quality of life for dementia patients. "We're treating the symptoms, we currently cannot treat the causes of the disease," Megges said. For Gerda Noack, a 92-year-old retired hat maker born and raised in Dresden, the yesteryear room has been a blessing. The elegant Noack, who always wears a carefully knotted silk scarf around her neck, used to roam the hallways of the retirement home all day, says Wolfram. She was restless and frustrated, always looking for something she thought she had lost until she started visiting the 1960s DDR room. While standing in the room's kitchen last week, she peacefully stirred the chopped-up peppers in an old frying pan, then later cleaned up dishes with an expression of contentment. Asked if she was happy, she nodded cheerfully, waiting for the nurses to dish up the Hungarian salad she had helped to prepare. — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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

Cooking on Deadline: Herb-Roasted Fingerling Potatoes



By Katie Workman

I roast potatoes all the time, usually taking thin-skinned larger potatoes and cutting them into manageable chunks. Which are delicious, if somewhat utilitarian on the plate. To kick up the presentation a notch, with no extra work, grab a couple of pounds of fingerlings instead. Fingerling potatoes are small, slim, stubby potatoes - finger-shaped, as it happens. They have thin skins

and roast up fairly quickly, especially if you slice them in half- 25 minutes in a fairly hot oven and done. And they have the added plus of looking quite winsome, while still crispy-on-the-outside/creamy-on-the-inside and all of that. You can stick with olive oil and salt and never be disappointed, or you can add in some fresh herbs, garlic and various spices, and fancy them up a bit. I can't think of a meal that these wouldn't make a little bit nicer.

HERB ROASTED FINGERLING POTATOES

Serves 6
Start to finish: 35 minutes (25 minutes hands off)
2 pounds fingerling potatoes
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon finely minced garlic
2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
1 tablespoon minced thyme leaves

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil, and lightly spray with nonstick spray (or lightly oil the foil). Cut the fingerling potatoes in half lengthwise, and place them on the prepared baking sheet. Drizzle with the oil, and sprinkle the garlic, rosemary, thyme,

salt and pepper over them. Toss to thoroughly combine, and spread out on the baking sheet so the potatoes are in a single layer. Roast for about 25 minutes, until the potatoes are tender and lightly browned. Serve hot or warm.— AP



FABULOUS FLAKY FISH TACOS

By Katie Workman

A good fish taco is in a class by itself. My kids tried their first in a beachside restaurant in Florida, and suddenly the world of tacos had a new category. And as any mother will tell you, when fish comes in a form your kids can embrace, that's a beautiful thing.

Sometimes the fish is fried (fabulous), sometimes it is grilled (also fabulous), and easiest and most accessible of all, sometimes it is pan-seared (still, fabulous). And the very best part of cooking fish for tacos? If it falls apart when you are sautéing or flipping it, who cares? You're going to flake that sucker up anyway.

This recipe calls for any white, flaky fish, allowing you the flexibility of seeing what's freshest where you are shopping. Don't be shy - talk to that fishmonger. He or she will be only too happy to tell you what to buy. The fish in these tacos is topped with a chopped vegetable salad that adds brightness and crunch. Use either flour or corn tortillas, whichever you prefer, but do take those extra few minutes to warm them up in a skillet so they soften and get a bit more flavorful.

Flaky Fish Tacos With Vegetable Slaw

Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Serves 4
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
4 (6-ounce) filets tilapia, cod, barramundi or other flaky white fish

1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
8 radishes, thinly sliced
1 cucumber, peeled, halved lengthwise, seeded, and cut into thin half moons
1/2 red onion, cut into wedges, then sliced
1/2 cup chopped fennel
1/4 cup chopped olives (optional)
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
8 6-inch flour or corn tortillas
Crumbled queso fresco to serve

Preparation

Heat a large heavy skillet, preferably nonstick, over medium high heat. Add one tablespoon of the oil. While the oil is heating, sprinkle both sides of the fish filets with the coriander, cumin, salt and pepper. Sear the fish for about three minutes per side, until browned and cooked through. Transfer the fish to a plate and break it into small chunks. Tent with foil to keep warm. Wash the skillet out.

While the fish is cooking, combine the radishes, cucumbers, red onion, fennel, olives (if using), lemon juice and the remaining tablespoon of oil. Season with salt and pepper. Return the clean, dry skillet to medium high heat and cook the tortillas for about 20 seconds on each side for flour, 45 seconds on each side for corn, until lightly browned in spots and softened. Stack them on a plate. Serve the tortillas with the fish and the vegetable relish, along with the queso fresco on the side. Let everyone assemble their own tacos. — AP



EXOTIC MEDITERRANEAN TOMATO WHEAT BERRY SALAD

By Katie Workman

Wheat berries are great little nuggets - a whole grain, containing the germ, endosperm and bran. They have a nice dose of fiber and protein, as well as the B vitamins and several minerals. Though you can cook them just until they are crunchy, I prefer to let them get a bit more tender.

They take at least an hour to cook (often longer, despite what many packages say), though you want to make sure they have a bit of chew to them and don't get too soft. The basic ratio is 1 3/4 cups water or broth to 1 cup dried grain. I often use them cool, in salads, and to cool them without them getting gummy I spread them out on a rimmed baking sheet lined with foil or parchment paper.

If you make a nice-size batch early in the week, you can throw them into all kinds of side dishes and salads for extra texture. They kind of remind me of barley, but with even a bit more chew. I'm going to revisit this salad in the belly of late summer, with chopped big ripe tomatoes and basil.

MEDITERRANEAN TOMATO WHEAT BERRY SALAD WITH FRESH HERBS

Serves 8
Start to finish: 1 1/2 hours (including time for cooking the wheat berries)
3 cups cooked wheat berries (cook accordingly to

package directions)
3 cups quartered cherry or grape tomatoes
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup roughly chopped olives (black, green or a combination)
1/2 cup chopped scallions
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme leaves
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard, preferably coarse
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Preparation

Place the wheat berries in a large mixing bowl, and add the tomatoes, onion, olives, scallions, parsley and mint. Toss to combine. In a small bowl or container, place the olive oil, thyme, lemon juice, rice vinegar, mustard, and salt and pepper. Stir or shake to combine well, then pour the dressing over the grain salad. Toss to combine. Transfer to a serving bowl and serve at room temperature. — AP



NSH OBSERVES UNO'S "NO TOBACCO DAY"

In connection with the UNO's "No Tobacco Day", the GCC Best CSR Award winning organization, NSH conducted an awareness session for their employees and the community. The decision was taken in its board meeting chaired by its President Sabu, among those present were PV Santhosh, Abdul Rahman, Dileep Kumar, VG Nair.

NSH said in a statement, it is proceeding with its strategy of medical care and health education for the community in Kuwait, with a view to advancing the health conditions of this important segment of society and improving their personal hygiene. In this regard, NSH conducted informative sessions for the community members in different places including work locations that involved theoretical and practical training in how to observe personal hygiene standards and prevent health problems, particularly the consequences of Tobacco and Smoking. The purpose of these sessions was to raise health awareness among

the beneficiaries, change their common wrong practices and reduce their morbidity rates, thereby helping increase safety and productivity that would ultimately reflect positively on the savings at large, NSH said in a statement.

A multilingual team - English, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Odiya - to ensure clear and effective delivery of information said the health education given to community members is beneficial for both members and their work itself; they commended the efforts undertaken for the benefit of community, directing the volunteers to go on with the moral support by the Indian Embassy. The session was handled by Pani J Anthony.

NSH has urged other organizations operating in Kuwait to pursue its health education program for their members involved in their projects, as well as secure hygiene kits for

the health of workers. This is in the best interest of the beneficiary companies themselves. This prolonged program is inspired by NSH's commitment to social development and health promotion in the Kuwaiti society.

With lower illness rates, particularly among workers, there will be less demand on health-care services and fewer sick leaves. This, in turn, will translate into shorter absenteeism and higher productivity. Posters highlighting the dangers of consuming tobacco were displayed. The matter of pride is that several members, towards the end of the session, came forward and pledged that they would not eat tobacco and smoke anymore. NSH Global Village Harmony (NSH GVH), a voluntary organization registered under the Indian Embassy in Kuwait is the GCC Best CSR Gold Award winner- 2017, and National Excellent CSR Award - 2016.



MCDONALD'S IMPROVING EVERYDAY WITH A SERIES OF MAJOR FOOD ENHANCEMENTS

In a move to enable consumers to make better food choices, McDonald's has announced the launch of significant enhancements to its menu across the GCC. Introduced as part of its 'Every Day - A Better Day' campaign, consumers can now enjoy better nutritional value with the same great taste for their favorite cravings including the World Famous Fries, McChicken, and Filet-O-Fish, amongst others.

Following the earlier milestone of reducing trans fats in McDonald's fried food to 0.01%, the brand has now successfully completed the transition of its cooking oil to a sunflower and canola oil blend at all of its 500+ restaurants in the GCC, as well as across the entire supply chain. In fact, in Kuwait, McDonald's has been exclusively using a high quality 100% vegetable oil blend since 1994. This lighter oil blend is better for consumers as it comes with an 80% reduction in saturated fat content.

As part of its commitment to continually improve the nutritional content of its meals, McDonald's GCC has also successfully reduced the fat content in its Classic Mayonnaise. After extensive research and product testing, the new recipe now contains 50% less calories, yet does not compromise on the delicious taste that customers love. Making sustainability the new normal is one of McDonald's top priorities - both globally and in the region. As part of its sustainable fish policy, the company has also announced that in the GCC all the fish it sources comes from well-managed fisheries that only use sustainable fishing practices.

Luai Al-Kilani, Vice President of McDonald's Kuwait said, "At McDonald's, the happiness



and well-being of our customer is at the core of what we do. As industry pioneers, we constantly strive to be better, so that every person who orders from one of our restaurants can feel good about the food choices they make. This is evident in the changes we announced today, which signify yet another step forwards in our ongoing journey of food innovation and enhancement."

In line with the company's core values of Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value, McDonald's GCC has always strived to set a precedent in the food and beverage industry, whether it's through the launch of its 'Your Right to Know' platform in 2015 or by becoming the first Quick Service Restaurant in the Middle East to provide nutrition labeling directly on its food packaging in 2013. With the announcement of these new enhancements, McDonald's continues to lead the way with food innovation in the GCC.

AOU EARNS INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM ACCREDITATION FOR FOURTH TIME

Prof Moudi Al-Humoud, President of the Arab Open University (AOU), announced that the AOU has earned institutional and programme accreditation by the Open University Validation Service of the Open University in the United Kingdom for a period of five years (2017-2022) for the fourth time. It has earned validation of seven programs in Business Administration, five programs in Computing and Information Technology, and two programs in English Language and Literature.

On behalf of all AOU staff, Al-Humoud expressed her congratulations to the Chairman of the AOU Board of Trustees, HRH Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, the Board Members, the AOU staff and students, for this achievement. She also thanked all heads and members of accreditation committees and teams from the AOU and the OU for their efforts to accomplish all the stages of re-accreditation.

Prof Al-Humoud commended the efforts of all of Prof Marwan Al-Akaidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs, all workers in the academic sector, Branch Directors, Program Coordinators, and Quality Assurance Director. She also extend-

ed her appreciation for the contributions of directors and employees from different work sectors and the commitment of the AOU students to achieve this success. This accreditation indicates the credibility and commitment of the University regarding the quality of its academic programs, added Al-Humoud. In addition, she commended the partnership between the AOU and the OU, which is one of the internationally prestigious universities in the field of open education.

Prof Al-Humoud said the AOU is proud of adopting a high-quality educational system that is based on combination of traditional education, self-learning, and electronic education, adding that all the AOU staff feel proud of that their University is the first one in the region that has earned international accreditation for 15 years. The accreditation signifies a qualitative shift in the track of higher education, which meets needs and grants wishes. On his part, Prof Marwan Al-Akaidi said the accreditation is a result of a series of visits by the experts from the British Accreditation Council to the Headquarters of the AOU and its branches in



in addition to a number of meetings and comprehensive reviews of the educational process in the University.



INAUGURAL CEREMONY AT SMART INDIAN SCHOOL

Smart Indian School, a synonym for quality education, is the youngest child of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Kuwait. Marking the decennial celebrations of Bhavan's existence in the Middle East, BVB gave birth to SIS. Standing tall in the sands of Kuwait is this latest edition of Bhavans Kuwait, a learner centered school which aims at creating proactive global citizens. The official ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 marked the celebration of the occasion.

The galaxy of intellectuals from the Ministry of Private Education, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, Sponsor of Smart Indian School Mr. Ali Jedyyan Al Beghaily, Chairman of Bhavans Middle- East NK Ramachandran Menon and many other eminent guests adorned the splendid auditorium with its best acoustics.

Mohammad Khamis, Manager Sponsor's office welcomed this august gathering in Arabic. The welcome dance by SIS students set the mood in awe and merriment as they swayed their arms to the Arabian Opera dance. The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait in his address wished all Kuwaiti friends and sent warmest greetings to the sponsor and the chairman. He extolled the new best possible facilities of the school and thanked the management. As he rendered his support and blessings for producing the best of minds in the world he urged the students to reach their aspirations and goals in life.

Bhavan's 'Transformation' documentary illustrated the roots of education as envisioned by the visionary Sponsor Ali Jedyyan Al Beghaily and his association with our true philosopher and the man of wisdom, the Chairman Ramchandran Menon and his mission of this new member of Bhavans - SIS as the best among the best of schools in Kuwait, having the capacity of accommodating 4000 and more students providing quality education facilitated by well-equipped technology and virtual campus. Hospitality is SIS specialty. In addition to this, captivating mementos in memory of the inaugural day of the school were given to the entire team invited guests. The paradise family of Bhavans' head Mahesh Iyer, the principal during his vote of thanks felt inadequate to express his thankfulness to all the Chief guest who had made the inaugural day a memorable one in the history of Smart Indian School, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kuwait and to the management team composing of the Vice Principal Marie Christiane, Administrative Manager Shaimaa Zaki & KG supervisor Rajni Menon, teaching and non-teaching staff who were the backbones to the success of this mega function.



Birthday wishes

Mohammad Imran turns 3 today! God Bless you and may you have a prosperous and happy future ahead. Best wishes and lots of love from your parents and friends.



CLASSIFIEDS

55

Kuwait Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/06/2017 TO 07/06/2017)

Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:45 PM	FANAR-5	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	10:15 PM	360°-3	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM
	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	11:15 PM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:45 PM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:00 PM
				AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	1:15 AM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:30 PM	MARINA-1	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	THE EXCEPTION	10:00 PM
	THE EXCEPTION	11:00 PM		Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	12:30 AM		Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	12:15 AM
	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	1:15 AM					FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM
	FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM					AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM
	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM	MARINA-2	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	9:45 PM
SHARQIA-3	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:00 PM		Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	11:00 PM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:15 PM
	Mantaqah Mahzourah (Re-Release)	12:30 AM		Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	1:00 AM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	9:45 PM	MARINA-3	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	9:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	10:15 PM
	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:05 AM		THE EXCEPTION	11:45 PM		KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM
MUHALAB-2	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:30 PM	AVENUES-1	MINIONS (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	AL-KOUT.4	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:30 PM
	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	11:00 PM		ALIEN: COVENANT	11:30 PM		Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)	11:00 PM
	AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:30 AM					Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)	1:00 AM
MUHALAB-3	THE EXCEPTION	10:00 PM	AVENUES-2	MINIONS(Re-Release)-3D-4DX	10:00 PM	BAIRAQ-1	MINIONS (Re-Release)	9:45 PM
	Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release)	12:15 AM		KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (2D-4DX)	12:05 AM		THE BOSS BABY	11:45 PM
FANAR-1	SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi	10:00 PM	AVENUES-3	THE BOSS BABY	10:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	10:00 PM
	Mantaqah Mahzourah (Re-Release)	12:45 AM		FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM		DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL	11:30 PM
				HERE ALONE	12:30 AM			
FANAR-2	MINIONS (Re-Release)	9:30 PM	AVENUES-4	ALIEN: COVENANT	10:15 PM	BAIRAQ-3	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:30 PM
	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	11:30 PM		Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release)	12:45 AM		AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:05 AM
	FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM	360°-1	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:45 PM	PLAZA	GODHA -Malayalam	9:30 PM
	Abu Shanab (Re-Release)	12:30 AM		NO SAT			SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi	12:05 AM
FANAR-3	FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie	9:45 PM		FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM	LAILA	MINIONS (Re-Release)	10:00 PM
	KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:15 PM		SAT			AL FERAN (KUWAITI)	12:05 AM
FANAR-4	THE EXCEPTION	10:15 PM	360°-2	THE EXCEPTION	10:15 PM	AJIAL.1	GODHA -Malayalam	9:30 PM
	FOOTBALL MATCH-"Real Madrid vs Juventus"	9:45 PM		THE EXCEPTION	12:45 AM		GODHA -Malayalam	12:05 AM
	THE EXCEPTION	12:30 AM						

REQUIRED

Executive Secretary

(from Indian Sub-continent)

- At least 10 years of experience required
- Fluent in English Language
- Knowledge of Computer Skills.
- Short Hand typing.

Work requirement

Good Communication, Banking LC's and Correspondence

Send CV's to Email: yazco@email.com

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS



Fajr:	03:15
Shorook:	04:49
Duhr:	11:46
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	18:43
Isha:	20:13

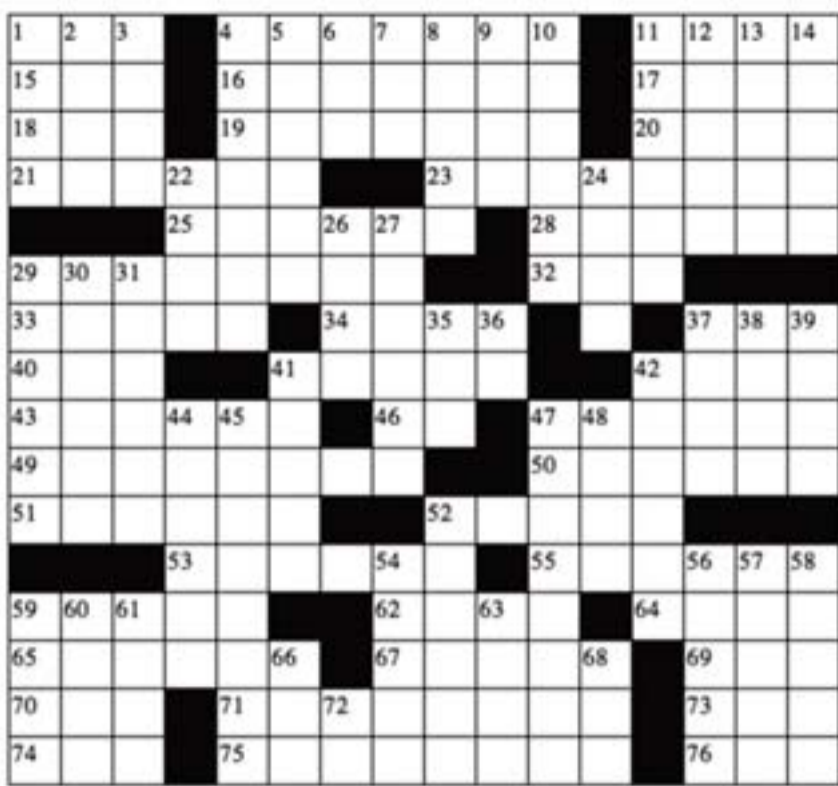
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Thursday 1/6/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 1/6/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:20
KAC	102	London	00:15	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:25
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	KAC	562	Amman	15:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	CLX	856	Luxembourg	15:20
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	118	New York	16:55
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	QTR	1080	Doha	18:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	744	Dammam	19:05
KAC	524	Al Najaf	07:30	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:45
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	20:20
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	KAC	564	Amman	21:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	168	Paris	21:05
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
JZR	239	Amman	12:40	NIA	161	Cairo	22:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
MEA	406	Beirut	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	22:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
KAC	514	Tehran	13:10	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KAC	522	Al Najaf	13:40	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55				
KAC	792	Madinah	13:55				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	352	Kochi	14:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	618	Doha	14:20	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40

CROSSWORD 1625



ACROSS

1. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
 4. A large mass of ice floating at sea.
 11. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
 15. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
 16. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris across from the modern city of Mosul in the northern part of what is now known as Iraq.
 17. Avatar of Vishnu.
 18. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
 19. A poem consisting of 3 stanzas and an envoy.
 20. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology. The person who delivers personal property (goods or money) in trust to the bailee in a bailment.
 23. A pocket-size case for holding papers and paper money.
 25. Waterproof hip boots (sometimes extending to the chest) worn by anglers.
 28. Blood-sucking African fly.
 29. (zoology) Of or resembling a goose.
 32. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
 33. Done or occurring in a brief period of time.
 34. An inn in some Eastern countries with a large courtyard that provides accommodation for caravans.
 40. A sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain.
 43. The capital and largest city of Zimbabwe.
 46. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
 49. Fix firmly or securely.
 50. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
 51. An immunoglobulin E that is formed as an antibody against allergens (such as pollen).
 53. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
 55. The Mongol people living in the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
 59. The skin that covers the top of the head.
 62. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
 64. A branch of the Tai languages.
 65. An amount of time.
 67. Cactus having yellow flowers and purple fruits.
 69. A master's degree in business.
 70. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
 71. Confidently optimistic and cheerful.
 73. Tag the base runner to get him out.
 74. Type genus of the Muridae.
 75. An imaginary place of great wealth and opportunity.
 76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- DOWN**
1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 2. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
 3. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
 4. Located within the hull or nearest the midline of a vessel or aircraft.
 5. United States poet and critic (1916-1986).
 6. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
 7. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
 8. United States anatomist who identified four pituitary hormones and discovered vitamin E (1882-1971).
 9. Make anew.
 10. The quarter of many European cities in which Jews are required to live.
 11. An investigator who is employed to find missing persons or missing goods.
 12. Egyptian statesman who (as President of Egypt) negotiated a peace treaty with Menachem Begin of Israel (1918-1981).
 13. Collect or gather.
 14. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
 22. 100 lwei equal 1 kwanza.
 24. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
 26. (Sumerian) Water god and god of wisdom.
 27. Old material that is slightly reworked and used again.
 30. A tranquilizer (trade name Navane) used to treat schizophrenia.
 31. An ancient Greek city famous for military prowess.
 35. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
 36. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
 37. English tennis player who won may women's singles titles (born in 1945).
 38. Injure or wound seriously and leave permanent disfigurement or mutilation.
 39. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
 41. (archaic) The emperor of Japan.
 42. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
 44. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
 45. Impose anew.
 47. A laborer who loads and unloads vessels in a port.
 48. Not only so, but.
 52. A visible suspension in the air of particles of some substance.
 54. A small drum.
 56. A genus of Lamnidae.
 57. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
 58. Jordan's port.
 60. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
 61. Weapons considered collectively.
 63. The capital of Western Samoa.
 66. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
 68. A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.
 72. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are the one that is most popular for executing a job this day. You might suggest that you be placed in a teaching position so that others can learn what you do so well. This would allow you to actually schedule in some time for a vacation. Self-discipline and a sense of self-worth radiate from your personality. Higher-ups may take you up on your suggestion and you may be able to choose the co-workers you would like to teach. If you want a management job, this teaching or guidance will show off your abilities to produce the best employees. One day at a time, you can do anything. You could come up with new solutions or inventions. You enjoy neatness and organized people and you seem happiest when you are part of a team that works together.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find that your personal and career growth depends on how you handle the very sensitive psychological material coming up. You will benefit from diagnostic insights and uncovering any secrets or new knowledge. Work and career should be a primary focus. An opportunity to make good decisions and clear choices is yours now-higher-ups are watching. The pressure to succeed is not present and you will find that you will do well. The results today will have a positive effect on your professional and perhaps, life direction. Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life. You could gain from subordinates or young people this afternoon. Your home environment, friends and surroundings receive encouragement. Your personal life is positive.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Whether you are in education, big business or running a business or household you will find yourself looking forward to a debate with some respected people. All the people involved in this debate will be learning and teaching simultaneously. You could be an instructor on how to debate and the subject matter is interesting to all. If you are not participating, it is a process you want to learn for better problem-solving techniques, and you will be wise to observe. There are new and fascinating ideas regarding your hobby this afternoon, and friends will lend their thoughts if you ask, sometimes if you don't ask. All in all, this is a memorable day. Consider taking pictures for reference later. Enjoy the festivities today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are optimism and foresight. You may find that success comes by concentrating on your outward manner-the way others see you. As you work, you will find yourself working in groups under favorable conditions. A project this day depends on your presence as you lecture, teach, tutor, or guide others in tours. You have quite an outward personality and can be very convincing if you stay with the facts and use references. Companionship with others is most gratifying and you should take every opportunity to be with people that know you at the end of the day so that you can relax. This is a great time to deepen a love relationship. Your fun side may kick in this evening and after a great meal you may enjoy a couple's walk through the neighborhood.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time to pursue a more lasting set of values-be they religious or philosophical. Everything external and business-oriented should prosper, provided that honesty and truth are your guides. You may find everyone is as busy as you are today and stopping to chat or pass the time of day is a little more difficult just now. If you are in need of a break, take one out-of-doors, if possible, in order to have a different view, a distraction from the usual and perhaps, to recharge your own batteries. You might rethink a presentation or some information you heard and then offer your own input through a printed report. You have a great deal of mental drive and can lavish great energy on mental pursuits of all kinds. You are in a creative mood this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This day has the possibility of being an easy, calm day that should flow along in a smooth manner. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be in the forecast. Working with rather than against the flow of energy should be easy to manage. This is a real time to buckle down and consolidate your career. Opportunities are available now to make good use of your time. Your sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Whether you are working in a job, earning money or having the responsibility of raising a family, you will give it your full attention and you will create a successful outcome. Tonight, you may find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter or making a special phone call.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Positive energies are stirring with regard to your career or life path at this time. Success depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong. You are able to use good common sense and can feel the trends in order to make the right moves. This is the perfect time to get ahead by taking action. This could be some kind of high-water mark for your career, recognition, etc. At the same time, a change of direction may be in order, finding you in a gradual curve toward more inwardness. You will find that you can really use your mind to make clear choices and you are able to think clearly. Career decisions or ways in which to improve finances are straightforward and easy to make. A secret love or a lost love is on your mind this evening-romance is near.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your work is productive and your kind nature wins friends and influences people. This is a good day for increased business that results from your hard work. Your creativeness is expressed this afternoon in your problem-solving abilities. Someone needs money and has asked for your help. You will be able to help solve the problem, but loaning out money is not the answer. Lending money now could set you up for some negative results. This is a good day for increasing your own finances through an investment or by the sale of a personal possession. Young people will be in your life this evening. You love to be needed and these young people seem to fill that need with questions and problem-solving requests with which you can help-perhaps some homework.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a great day to gain positive results from your hard work. You may find ways in which to secure a promotion or new job today. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. The good life and all that is fine and luxurious may be what you value just now. Material things are foremost on your mind in many respects. You could enjoy making your own way and finding solutions to whatever problems present themselves. Health and work goals take on a great deal of importance at this time. You are at your mental best with sharp ideas and clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions. After your workday has ended, your own plans could be put on hold by friends that want your attention.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself planning a garage sale for this upcoming weekend to put a little cash in your pocket. In the workplace, co-workers as well as higher-ups seek you out for your psychological insight. You do seem to have a grasp for abstract and spiritual ideas, and the ability to reach wise conclusions. Work goals are important and you work very hard to meet your goals or quota for this day. Since you have been overworking lately, your loved ones may decide to occupy your time this afternoon. This is a great time to be with those you love, in quiet and pleasant surroundings. You may talk about dreams or visit a pond and feed the birds or do any number of things that are conducive to sharing each other's company. There is talk of ufos.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Work flows in an uneventful way today. The most beneficial item that your company sells, produces or helps to produce may be in the process of improvement. The afternoon finds you busy with projects. You seem a bit impractical today and this is an excellent time to enlist others to your cause. Great rewards may come from group efforts, particularly if this continues for the remainder of the day. A young person may learn a little about money today from observing you. If you have checked other prices in town you might want to go ahead with some purchase you have been thinking about lately. There are emotions that can manifest themselves in self-analysis or deep emotional experiences in romance-for good or ill. Remain objective.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Taking care of business is a major theme this Thursday. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. You may also want to yell, scream and stomp your feet about some financial injustice. Instead, see what you can do to make the accounting difficulties come back into balance. Most people take pride in the fact that they are your friends and that they do business with someone as conscientious as you. People value you for your independence as well as your exceptional qualities. This is a great time to be with others and to work together, regardless of any delays or feelings. There is much mental busyness. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you now.

WORD SEARCH

Clothing

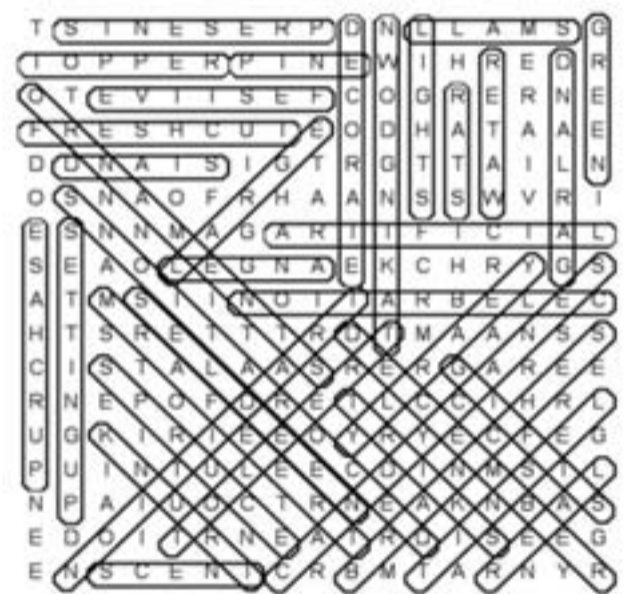
Find and circle all of the clothing items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional piece of clothing.



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| BELT | JACKET | SCARF | SWEATER |
| BLOUSE | JEANS | SHIRT | TANK TOP |
| BOOTS | MITTENS | SHOES | TIE |
| CARDIGAN | OVERALLS | SHORTS | UNDERWEAR |
| CORDUROYS | PANTS | SKIRT | VEST |
| DRESS | PARKA | SLIPPERS | |
| GLOVES | ROBE | SOCKS | |
| HAT | SANDALS | SUIT | |

Yesterday's Solution

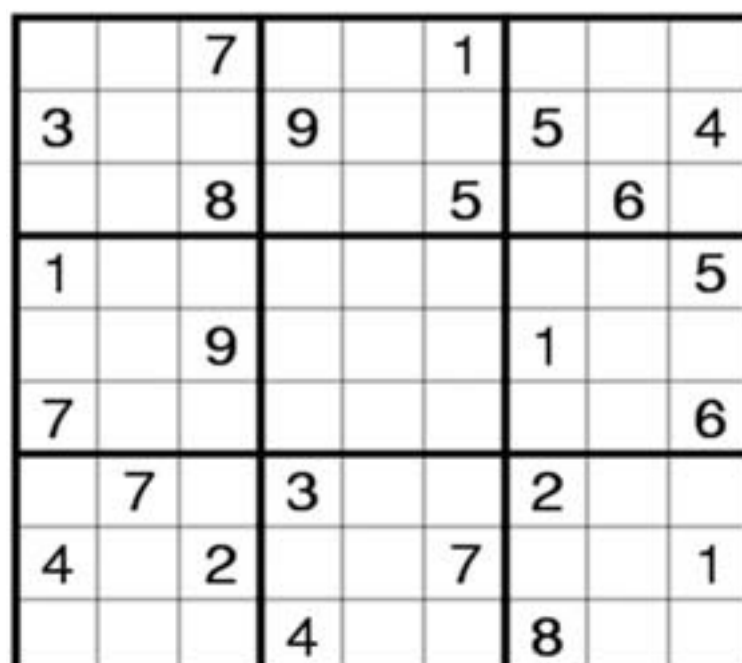
Christmas Tree



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|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| ANGEL | GARLAND | REAL | TOPPER |
| ARTIFICIAL | GIFTS | SCENT | TRADITION |
| BRANCHES | GREEN | SETTING UP | TREE FARM |
| CANDY CANES | LARGE | SKIRT | TREE LOT |
| CELEBRATION | LIGHTS | SMALL | TRUNK |
| DECEMBER | NEEDLES | SPRUCE | WATER |
| DECORATE | ORNAMENTS | STAND | YEARLY |
| DECORATIONS | PINE | STAR | |
| FESTIVE | PRESENTS | TAKING DOWN | |
| FRESH CUT | PURCHASE | TINSEL | |

The hidden message is: THE TRADITION OF HAVING A CHRISTMAS TREE ORIGINATED IN GERMANY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



GOSSIP



Disciples to team up with Justin Bieber for track?

Disciples may have a collaboration with Justin Bieber on the horizon. Nathan Vincent Duvall of the EDM trio - also comprised of Gavin Koolmon and Luke McDermott - has revealed that one of them had been swimming in a pool and literally bumped into the 23-year-old pop megastar and said the conversation they had "might transpire into something". The group are currently riding high on the success of their single 'On My Mind', but Nathan says they never know when they are on to a big hit and that the track has "surpassed their expectations". Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "To be honest, we don't know. We just know that it has to be good for us. You know whether it does well or not, that's just a by-product. We need to be happy with the product."

It's just a bonus. Like with 'On My Mind' things surpassed our expectations, we knew it was great, because we loved it." He also teased that they are creating "a lot more music" and said to "watch this space". Disciples are best known for their chart-topping song 'How Deep Is Your Love?' which featured Scottish superstar DJ Calvin Harris. Speaking about their bond, Gavin of Disciples previously said: "He's more a friend. He showed a big interest in our music and careers so he does have that side to him but he's just a great person to have around. We've all been influenced by him in different ways over the years."

ARIANA GRANDE'S 'DEFIANT' BENEFIT CONCERT

Ariana Grande's is sending a message of "defiance" to terrorists with the One Love Manchester benefit concert. The 23-year-old singer was left devastated after a terrorist attack at her concert at Manchester Arena on May 22, which left 22 people dead and over 50 injured, but she quickly put plans in place for a benefit gig to raise money for the victims and their families. Festival Republic's Melvin Benn told Billboard: "The idea to host this event came from Ariana. She was very traumatized after the attack, but it was very important to her to support the victims and show a level of defiance that stands up to this bloodlust and ambivalence towards innocent individuals and tells the terrorists that they are not going to stop us." Ariana's manager Scooter Braun first secured Coldplay to perform at the gig before lining up a host of stars including Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Pharrell, Usher, Take That and Niall Horan. And Benn revealed that Greater Manchester Police enthusiastically embraced the idea, as they also want to show that Manchester will "not be defeated". He said: "The very first call we made was to the chief constable of the Greater Manchester Police - if he had said 'this can't happen', then it wouldn't have happened. But he instead said the exact opposite and told us, 'This is an amazing thing that Ariana wants to do and it shows we're not defeated, we're standing together united', and even though it's going to be a phenomenal amount of work, he fully embraced the idea. "There will be more than double the security personnel and police said they will resource this concert to an absolutely full level because they want people to feel safe attending events and visiting Manchester." Ariana Grande's One Love Manchester will take place at the cricket stadium at Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester on June 4.

Gallagher declares 'love' for Manchester during gig

Liam Gallagher declared his "love" for Manchester after he performed his debut solo show at the city's O2 Ritz on Tuesday evening. The 44-year-old rock star performed his new solo material during an emotional night in his home city, with all of the proceeds from Liam's sold-out concert going to the victims of the Manchester Arena blast last week. Speaking at the end of the gig, the musician - who performed in front of 22 candles in tribute to the victims of the attack - told the crowd: "Manchester, I love you. Look after yourselves". During the emotionally-



charged show, Liam performed a mixture of his former band Oasis' biggest hits and new never-heard-before material, including 'Greedy Soul', 'Wall Of Glass' and 'Paper Crown' from his solo album 'As You Were'. The show was watched by Manchester bands The Courteeners and Blossoms, as well as former boxer Ricky Hatton, who fought at the Manchester Arena a number of times. Daniel Moores, guitarist from The Courteeners, told the BBC: "They're massively important these gigs, to bring a bit of solidarity to Manchester. "We're all in same boat, aren't we? We all love each other. But he's the main man, Liam Gallagher." Meanwhile, Blossoms bass player Charlie Salt said: "I thought it was absolutely brilliant. The candles were a nice touch, the new tunes sounded great and his voice was top notch. "The support has been amazing. What more can you expect from Manchester?" The attack at Ariana Grande's concert last week killed 22 people and Liam previously spoke of his shock upon hearing the news. He said: "It's outrageous. Just so sad. What can you do? It's just out of order. There are kids and people dying all over the world. And for what? "I'd gone to bed early - about 10pm - then got up in the morning to a text from my other brother saying what had gone on and I put the TV on. It's just unbelievable."



Eminem: Jim Carrey basically wrote The Eminem Show

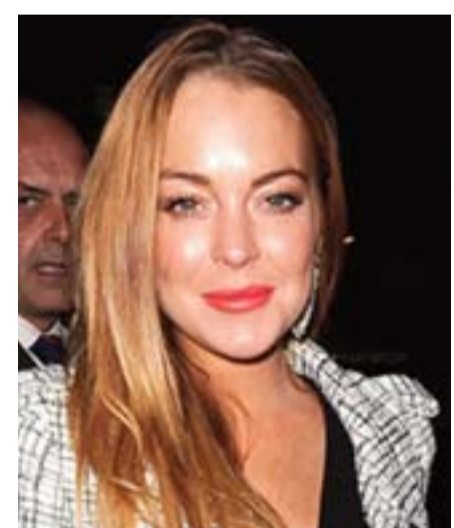
Eminem has revealed his 2002 album 'The Eminem Show' was inspired by Jim Carrey's character in 'The Truman Show'. The 44-year-old rapper - whose real name is Marshall Mathers - has shared with his 12.5 million followers how his life at the time was similar to the 55-year-old actor's alter-ego, Truman Burbank, whose life is part of a television set. The 'Lose Yourself' hitmaker has admitted he felt like he was in a goldfish bowl constantly being watched when he first found fame and so he has credited the comedian for "basically writing [his] album". Taking to Instagram to announce he's reissuing his seminal fourth studio to mark its 15th anniversary, he posted a photo of her handwritten note, which explained: "The concept 4 The Eminem Show was inspired by 'The Truman Show' because my life felt like it was becoming a circus around that time & I felt like I was always being watched."

Basically, Jim Carrey wrote my album. (sic) Fans of the 'Not Afraid' star will be able to receive the "special" 'The Eminem Show' anniversary capsule by signing up to Eminem's mailing list on his official website: shadyrecords.com. He captioned the post: "#TheEminemShow Anniversary Collection. Link In Bio For Early Access (sic)" Meanwhile, the hip-hop legend is gearing up for his headline slot at Reading and Leeds Festivals, which takes place on the weekend of August 25 to 27 at Richfield Avenue, Reading, and Bramham Park, Leeds. It will be his first performance at the music extravaganza in four years. Reading and Leeds boss Melvin Benn said: "Eminem returning to Reading and Leeds is beyond exciting. "His 2013 headline performance was incredible and I can't wait to have him back."

Lindsay Lohan in talks for Life-Size 2

Tyra Banks wants Lindsay Lohan to cameo in 'Life-Size 2'. The 'America's Got Talent' host is working on a sequel to the 2000 movie, in which a widower's daughter (Lohan) accidentally brings her doll, Eve, (Banks) to life while trying to cast a spell to resurrect her mother, and Tyra has held talks with Lindsay, 30, about returning. Speaking on 'The Talk', she said: "I am having conversations with Ms. Lohan. Yes, and I want her to come back and I think that she does too. Actually, I know she does. So I really hope that she can be in it." Tyra, 43, also admitted she has been shocked by how excited people are for the sequel. She said: "Crazy, people want this so bad. I had no idea! But Eve is gonna grow up, honey." And Tyra already knows who she wants to take on the lead role in the new movie. She said: "I would love Zendaya. I think Zendaya would be really interesting." Tyra is also excited about showing a new, grown up, Eve, explaining: "Five years, four scripts, and finally we decided, Eve needs to grow up. She's been around for a while. She's been alive for a while. She needs to grow up and experience more adult things. So, you're going to see a very different Eve. "The idea was:

'Let's do a movie for young adults,' so this is going to be an edgy Eve that you see, an edgy 'Life-Size 2'. "The script is being written right now so even I don't know 100 percent, but it's definitely going to be like: 'Oh my God Eve does WHAT? Cover your eyes!'"



Winstone's prison trip for Hatton Garden heist movie

Ray Winstone met with Hatton Garden robbery ringleader Danny Jones to prepare for his forthcoming movie. The 60-year-old actor is set to star in a new crime film based on the infamous multi-million pound heist at the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit in central London's Jewelry quarter in 2015. The 'Sweeney' star went to Belmarsh Prison in south-east London on Tuesday to learn more about the biggest crime in British history. Winstone was spotted arriving at the jail at around 7.30am ahead of a 9am visit to the 59-year-old robber - who he attended Edmonton County School in Enfield, north London with - who is serving a seven year prison sentence. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Ray takes every role very seriously so wanted to ask Danny if there was anything he should do in particular to get into character. "He's known Danny for years as they used to knock about together at school at Edmonton County. "It's not often that an actor finds himself in a position to be able to spend time in the presence of such a well-known criminal ahead of a job." The 'Point Break' star is reportedly

planning to return to the prison to quiz the criminal mastermind some more. The insider added: "His visit to Danny was supposed to go under the radar. He turned up really early and spent about two hours chatting with him before saying goodbye. He hopes to make the trips more regular as filming continues." Filming for the feature has begun and Winstone is set to star alongside Michael Caine, 84, Jim Broadbent, 68, Paul Whitehouse, 59, and Michael Gambon, 76. The script is expected to be centered on the real-life version of events, which saw the culprits drill through thick concrete to climb into a vault before cracking open 73 boxes containing cash, diamonds, sapphires and gold. The new movie from Working Title Films is directed by James Marsh, best known for 'Man on Wire' and 'The Theory of Everything' starring Eddie Redmayne. It will be the third version of the story to hit the big screen - the last was 'The Hatton Garden Job' starring Larry Lamb and Phil Daniels, which was released earlier this year. And Gabe Turner is helming 'Hatton Garden Heist'.

Alanis Morissette's 'Jagged Little Pill' becomes musical

"Jagged Little Pill," the blockbuster 1995 feminist rock album by Alanis Morissette, will take on a new form next year as a musical. The piece will turn the album's music into a story about "a modern and multi-generational family and their complex dynamics, touching on issues of gender identity and race," producers said in a statement. The "Jagged Little Pill" musical is set to open in May 2018 at the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The musical will be directed by Diane Paulus, the theater's artistic director who led Broadway revivals of "Hair" and "Pippin," with a script by Diablo Cody, who wrote the breakaway 2007 movie hit "Juno" about teen pregnancy. Morissette hailed the chemistry with Paulus and Cody and called the project "my musical theater dream come true." The director and writer "are already taking these deeply personal songs that are part of my soul's marrow to a whole other level of hope, freedom and complexity," Morissette said in a statement. "Jagged Little Pill" was one of the

seminal albums of the 1990s boom in alternative rock, with the Canadian-born singer bringing the rawness of the grunge era to a broader pop sound.

With hit songs such as "You Oughta Know," "You Learn" and "Hand in My Pocket," the album was considered a declaration of female empowerment as Morissette brought an assertive rock voice to tales of modern living and relationship angst. She won the Grammy for Album of the Year for "Jagged Little Pill" when she was 21, making her the youngest artist ever at the time to win the prestigious award. The album's songs will be worked into stage form by Tom Kitt, who also worked on the musical adaptation of Green Day's "American Idiot." The musical plans for "Jagged Little Pill" had been announced several years ago without details. Morissette recently reappeared in the news when her former business manager was sentenced to six years in prison for stealing nearly \$5 million from her.



MUSIC & MOVIES



This file photo shows singer Gloria Estefan (center) performing during New Year's Eve celebrations in Times Square in New York. — AFP



This file photo shows US President Barack Obama presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to singer Gloria Estefan as her husband Emilio Estefan (left), also a recipient, looks on at the White House in Washington, DC.

Estefan musical to leave Broadway

The musical "On Your Feet!" on the lives of Cuban-American crossover sensations Gloria and Emilio Estefan will close on Broadway after a respectable run of nearly two years, the production said Tuesday. The musical, which traces the lives of the husband-wife music team set to hits such as "Conga" and "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You," will close August 20, the Marquis Theatre said. But "On Your Feet!" will quickly

have a new life in October, with both a previously announced US tour starting in Miami, the Estefans' home, and an international production to open in the Dutch city of Utrecht.

Gloria and Emilio Estefan, who were both born in Cuba, became international stars with Miami Sound Machine as the couple discovered a new audience by infusing pop songs with Latin rhythms. The musical charts the profession-

al rise of the couple as well as off-stage drama, including Gloria's mother's initial reluctance to accept Emilio, and a 1990 bus crash that seriously injured Gloria and raised fears she would never perform again. "On Your Feet!", with actors playing the Estefans, premiered in Chicago in June 2015 before opening on Broadway in November that year following a month of previews. The nearly two-year run marks a

successful but not historic run on Broadway, where a number of major musicals show no sign of ever closing. After a strong opening, "On Your Feet!" was at two-thirds capacity during 2016 and slightly less so this year, according to the Broadway League trade group. — AFP



This file photo shows British-Australian singer Olivia Newton-John performing at the 58th Vina del Mar International Song Festival in Vina del Mar, Chile. — AFP

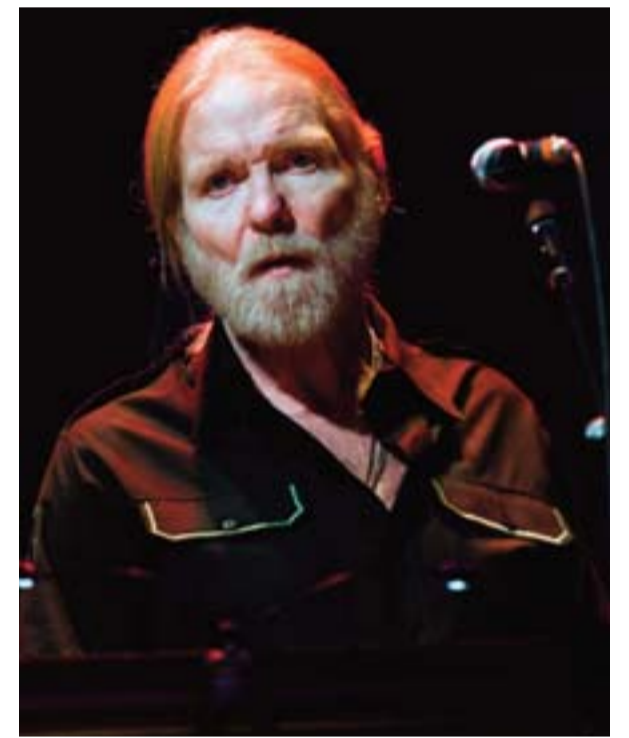
Keri Russell gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Actress Keri Russell, best known for her role as a ruthless KGB operative in the long-running series "The Americans," was honored on Tuesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The 41-year-old actress told AFP she was awestruck to receive the 2,613th star on the famous sidewalk alongside other celebrities such as Judy Garland or Marlon Brando. "It's such an incredible, iconic moment," she said. A native of California, Russell first garnered attention for her title role in the hit television series "Felicity," for which she won a Golden Globe Award in 1999.

She was again nominated last year-but did not win-for her role in FX's critically-acclaimed "The Americans," which is set in the 1980s and follows a husband and wife team of undercover Soviet operatives in the United States. The spy thriller, which wrapped its fifth season on Tuesday, has drawn parallels with the current frosty relations between the US and Russia, especially following allegations

that Moscow tampered with last year's presidential elections won by Donald Trump.

"It is very much in our world right now," Russell acknowledged. "Luckily our show is a period piece set in the 80s and the Cold War... the news now will not change the way the 80s ended. But it is interesting and fun it's all back in the news again," she added. "It's so relatable." "Felicity" creator J.J. Abrams lauded Russell's talent during the ceremony, describing her as someone who shied away from the limelight and one of the "sweetest" people he knows. "What she does so beautifully is become other people. And she does it in a way that most actors would only dream of being able to do," Abrams said. Russell's co-star on "The Americans" and real-life love, Matthew Rhys, also attended the ceremony. The couple welcomed their first child together last May. Russell also has two children with ex-husband Shane Deary. — AFP



In this April 13, 2013 file photo, Gregg Allman performs at Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival 2013 at Madison Square Garden in New York. — AP

Olivia Newton-John reveals new cancer 25 years later

Singing great Olivia Newton-John revealed Tuesday a return of breast cancer, 25 years after her first successful battle made her an advocate for fighting the disease. The British-born star said she was obliged to postpone a tour of the United States and Canada following her new diagnosis. The 68-year-old said she will undergo a short course of radiation, as well as natural therapies, upon the advice of specialists at a cancer research center named after her in her adopted home of Melbourne, Australia.

The singer "is confident she will be back later in the year, better than ever, to celebrate her shows," said a statement by her management. Newton-John has been a chart-topper since the 1970s with songs that stretch into pop, folk and country but she became best-

known for starring in the 1978 musical comedy "Grease" alongside John Travolta.

Newton-John was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, forcing her to halt her schedule. The experience had a major impact on Newton-John who became an advocate for research into cancer and for early detection. She has dedicated a series of albums and concerts to cancer and other charities and raised funds to build the health center in Melbourne. Newton-John had earlier postponed the first half of a North American tour complaining of back pain. After consulting doctors, she learned that the pain was connected with breast cancer which had spread to the sacrum bone of her back. — AFP



Actress Keri Russell poses on her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at the star unveiling ceremony. — AFP photos

Country stars to honor Gregg Allman at CMT Awards

Country's biggest stars will pay tribute to Southern rocker Gregg Allman at the CMT Music Awards with performances from Jason Aldean, Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum, Darius Rucker and more. CMT President Brian Philips said in a statement Wednesday that after Allman's death Saturday, artists started reaching out to see how they could honor Allman during the show, which will air June 7. Philips said the Allman Brothers Band created the "bedrock foundation of modern Southern music."

In addition, CMT announced that Little Big Town and Kelsea Ballerini, who is a leading nominee, will both be performing during the awards show. Previously announced performers include Florida Georgia Line with The Chainsmokers, Keith Urban with Carrie Underwood, Blake Shelton, Luke Bryan and Miranda Lambert. — AP



In this photograph Indian Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra poses during a promotional event in Mumbai. — AFP

Bollywood star dresses down critics over meet with PM

Bollywood superstar Priyanka Chopra hit back at critics yesterday for trying to shame her over a dress she wore during a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The actress was accused of "disrespecting" the prime minister by wearing a knee-length dress revealing her lower legs during an audience with Modi in Berlin. Chopra was attacked on social media by critics who found the outfit unsuitable for the occasion, with many offended the 34-year-old star had not chosen to wear Indian attire.

But the star of the hit American spy thriller "Quantico" was unapologetic, hitting back with a photo showing her and her mother wearing short dresses with the caption "legs for days... #itsthegenes". The former Miss World describes herself as a "strong-willed feminist" who has campaigned to close the gender pay gap in Bollywood and change attitudes towards women in her home country. "For so many years women were told to act a certain way, to dress a certain way, to think a certain way, even not to think at all," Chopra told AFP in an interview last year.

"People misconstrue the word feminism. It is not hating men, or making men small. It is just saying, 'We want our independence to make our own choices the way men have done for so long.'" Chopra has been landing bigger roles in Hollywood since boosting her international profile through "Quantico". The actress has been cast as a villain in the newly-released "Baywatch" film. — AFP

Box Office Top 20: 'Pirates 5' leads slow holiday weekend

The Memorial Day weekend box office was as creaky as an old pirate ship, with the lowest total industry grosses since 1999. Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" topped the charts with \$78.5 million for the holiday weekend, making it the second-lowest debut for the five-film franchise. Paramount's big screen take on "Baywatch," meanwhile, capped with only \$23.1 million across the four day weekend. The poorly reviewed Dwayne Johnson-starrer carried a hefty production price tag of nearly \$70 million.

"Baywatch" couldn't even beat "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," which took second place in its fourth week in theaters with \$27.2 million. Rounding out the top five were "Alien: Covenant," with \$13.4 million and "Everything, Everything" with \$7.7 million. The top 20 movies at US and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by comScore:

- "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," Disney, \$78,476,767, 4,276 locations, \$18,353 average, \$78,476,767, 1 week.
- "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2," Disney, \$27,189,151, 3,871 locations, \$7,024 average, \$340,505,078, 4 weeks.
- "Baywatch," Paramount, \$23,106,943, 3,647 locations, \$6,336 average, \$27,713,457, 1 week.
- "Alien: Covenant," 20th Century Fox, \$13,383,150, 3,772 locations, \$3,548 average, \$60,205,331, 2 weeks.
- "Everything, Everything," Warner Bros., \$7,666,282, 2,801 locations, \$2,737 average, \$23,022,395, 2 weeks.
- "Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul," 20th Century Fox, \$6,121,371, 3,174 locations, \$1,929 average, \$15,303,332, 2 weeks.

- "Snatched," 20th Century Fox, \$5,085,158, 2,658 locations, \$1,913 average, \$41,364,783, 3 weeks.
- "King Arthur: Legend Of The Sword," Warner Bros., \$4,302,088, 2,503 locations, \$1,719 average, \$34,957,290, 3 weeks.
- "The Boss Baby," 20th Century Fox, \$2,460,939, 1,342 locations, \$1,834 average, \$169,718,129, 9 weeks.
- "Beauty And The Beast," Disney, \$2,013,748, 1,076 locations, \$1,872 average, \$501,014,183, 11 weeks.
- "The Fate Of The Furious," Universal, \$1,891,515, 1,358 locations, \$1,393 average, \$222,942,385, 7 weeks.
- "How To Be A Latin Lover," Lionsgate, \$1,307,097, 669 locations, \$1,954 average, \$31,217,677, 5 weeks.
- "The Lovers," A24, \$842,001, 443 locations, \$1,901 average, \$1,489,460, 4 weeks.
- "Lowriders," OTL Releasing, \$790,630, 334 locations, \$2,367 average, \$5,378,765, 3 weeks.
- "Norman: The Moderate Rise And The Tragic Fall Of A New York Fixer," Sony Pictures Classics, \$643,875, 324 locations, \$1,987 average, \$3,150,101, 7 weeks.
- "Paris Can Wait," Sony Pictures Classics, \$560,574, 70 locations, \$8,008 average, \$964,517, 3 weeks.
- "Gifted," Fox Searchlight, \$517,599, 380 locations, \$1,362 average, \$23,761,037, 8 weeks.
- "The Wedding Plan," Roadside Attractions, \$411,773, 98 locations, \$4,202 average, \$696,271, 3 weeks.
- "Sachin: A Billion Dreams," Viva Entertainment, \$411,643, 100 locations, \$4,116 average, \$411,643, 1 week.
- "Smurfs: The Lost Village," Sony, \$379,387, 362 locations, \$1,048 average, \$43,711,826, 8 weeks. — AP



Veneers and dental hygiene

By The Real Fouz

Everyone wants a beautiful, healthy smile. Your smile is one of the first things someone will notice when they meet you. Having a bright and beautiful smile can improve your confidence and make people perceive us in a better way. As some of you may know, my journey to having a beautiful smile was a long one. It all started when I got porcelain veneers done very badly which resulted in inflamed gums that totally ruined my smile as well as my self-confidence.

For those of you who don't know what veneers are, they are a thin piece of porcelain that fit over your natural teeth and can alter the shape, size, shade, and length of your teeth. After getting my teeth done, I was so unhappy with the way they looked because they didn't look like natural teeth at all-which is what I wanted. I finally got them fixed with Dr Micheal Apa, which was one of the best decisions I made. I regained my confidence and the beautiful, natural smile that I always want-

ed. This time round, I made sure to prioritize taking care of my teeth and to always make sure that they are looking their best. Dental veneers are a big investment, so if you are thinking about getting them done, make sure to be ready to adopt some new habits into your daily routine to keep your smile healthy and lasting as long as possible.

Veneers require good oral health in order for them to last. Brushing, flossing, and rinsing multiple times a day is a must. Flossing is extremely important because it will avoid the accumulation of bacteria and plaque around your veneers, which can lead to gum diseases as well as tooth decay. Another thing to take into consideration is to avoid foods and drinks that could stain your veneers. A lot of people think that veneers are completely stain resistant, which isn't true. They are to a certain degree, but consuming things like coffee regularly, which we all do, can lead to permanent stains on your veneers. Rinsing your mouth right after you drink coffee or eating staining foods can help to immediately remove the

stains. Getting regular checkups at the dentist is also very important for the maintenance of porcelain veneers.

The dentist will be able to inspect your veneers, teeth, and gums and check for potential problems and detect them before they happen. Also, getting deep cleanings at the dentist regularly can help the longevity of your veneers. Dental visits every 6 months should be enough for your dentist to properly care for your teeth and gums. Caring about having a nice smile doesn't make you vain or insecure; it means you value how others perceive you, and how you perceive yourself. Making one positive change, like fixing your teeth, can create a ripple effect on your life, and investing in a gorgeous smile could be where it all starts. Seeing a change in your confidence may lead to other positive changes in your life, like applying for job you always wanted or letting go of other insecurities you may have. When you're confident in your smile, you radiate the best version of you!

Color block gardens find drama, artistry in saturated hues

Some of the most striking gardens aren't a riot of multiple colors but a carefully curated assemblage of hues. Using foliage and flowers, gardeners can create drama and artistry. A lake of blue salvia, perhaps. A swath of feathery green grass. The idea is to mass-plant so the color becomes a living brush stroke along the landscape. Architect Peter Marino used the technique on his 12-acre property in Southampton, New York. Among the apple orchards, art objects and hundreds of evergreens, his garden includes a "color wheel," with purple flowers at the north end, pink at the south, and red and mixed hues to the east and west.

Yellow is off on its own

"The yellow garden is a separate, one-acre 'room,' bordered by European chestnuts and George Peabody arborvitae," Marino writes in his new book, "The Garden of Peter Marino" (Rizzoli). "I don't care for yellow flowers mixed with other colors, so I planted them all together in what is intended to be one big explosion of color."

Melissa Ozawa, features and garden editor for Martha Stewart Living, says that when designing a color block garden, "don't just think about flower color, but look at foliage too. For example, if you're going to create a blue-themed border or bed, opt for plants with blue-green leaves like 'Hadspen Blue' hosta, silvery ghost fern, or 'Frosty Blue' agave, rather than varieties with golden or yellow undertones." Include a few versions of your color, she says, to keep things from being too literal.

"If you want a yellow garden, don't just stick to the one shade of yellow," she says. "Choose a mix of hues, and even add a pop of orange, to keep things interesting. Choose vibrant chartreuse or yellow-green foliage, and look for cultivars with variegation, such as hakonechloa grass or drought-tolerant euphorbia."

Or instead of sticking with one color, consider a theme. "For a sophisticated and

romantically moody dark garden, combine deep purple, brown, and burgundy foliage plants like heuchera, cimicifuga, elderberry, and elephant ears with dark red, burgundy, and purple flowers, such as 'Queen of Night' tulips, 'Black Barlow' columbine, Knautia macdonia, and 'Windsor' sweet peas," says Ozawa.

Gold Japanese forest

For those with green thumbs but little outdoor space, similar effects can be created using planters, baskets and pots. Better Homes & Gardens' April issue suggests loading up a cayenne-hued container with "hot"-hued heuchera, croton, Swiss chard, bloodleaf and Fireworks fountain grass. A deep purple basket gets dramatically dressed with the rich grape-y leaves of oxalis, Purple Flash peppers and Persian shield.

Or marry a couple of complementary colors, like greens and golds. Dwarf lemon cypress, Carolyn's Gold mini hostas and All Gold Japanese forest grass positively glow in a bold and brawny chrome yellow ceramic pot. Says the magazine's editor, Kathy Barnes: "When you use a narrow color palette - for plants and container - it's nearly impossible to end up with an arrangement that doesn't look sophisticated and pulled-together." As you plan a color block garden, keep in mind your hardiness zone and seasonal fluctuations. Experts at your local garden center should be helpful.

"Go equipped with photos of the space you're planting, and know what kind of light your plot gets," advises Ozawa. "As with any border or bed, make sure you vary texture and plant heights, and consider the bloom time of each plant you're adding. You don't want a spectacular show in spring only to have it peter out and stop blooming once the weather warms up in summer." — AP



This undated photo provided by Rizzoli shows the purple garden on Architect Peter Marino's property and is featured in the book 'The Garden of Peter Marino,' by Peter Marino. — AP



This combo shows photos of rickshaw drivers riding in a touristic area in Beijing.

Beijing's rickshaws teeter between tradition, survival

The makeshift red-canopied vehicles are ubiquitous in Beijing: Rickshaws traversing narrow alleyways and skyscraper-lined avenues alike. A historic mode of transport, they have survived China's modernization, and remain an integral part of city living-but for the drivers, life remains a struggle. Near the lofty Forbidden City, where emperors once lived, a man surnamed Guo has worked as a rickshaw driver for 10 hours every day for the last 30 years.

The boom of cars, electric scooters, and, more recently, shared bikes, has not managed to kill his business. "It hasn't changed anything," Guo said with a smile. Appearing in China at the end of the 19th century, rickshaws originally had two wheels and were pulled by their driver on foot, with passengers seated at the back. Today, most of the vehicles are tricycles. Some still have pedals and are propelled by physical force, but the majority are equipped with electric or gas engines. The drivers must be licensed and operate within government-defined zones, mainly around scenic downtown lakes.

But others tinker with their own vehicles and work illegally, without licenses. They are targeted by police officers who accuse them of dangerous driving, traffic disruptions, and tourist scams. Li Wei is among them. A young father hailing from the

impoverished central Henan province, he drives from 8:00 pm until dawn. Working in constant fear of being caught by the traffic police, Li speeds up when he sees a uniformed officer. The 29-year-old has been caught six times in four years, each time having to pay a fine of 1,000 yuan (\$145).

Unlicensed work also carries the risk of having the rickshaw-worth 2,000 yuan (\$290)- confiscated. But for Li the rewards are worth the gamble. On weekends, he takes home partygoers spilling out of bars, earning 500 yuan (\$73) a night. Though this is a hefty sum in China and his wife also works-she is an assistant at a clothing store-but they can still only afford a tiny, dilapidated apartment in Beijing. His father, also a rickshaw driver, lives with them. It has been four years since Li first took the job, and he confesses he is already tired of earning a living this way. But having worked in factories and restaurants in Shanghai, he concedes that driving for a living is far better. Asked what he would do instead, if he could, he shrugs his shoulders in defeat. He explains: "I have no idea how I would make a living otherwise." — AFP



Rickshaw driver Li Wei riding in the streets of Beijing. — AFP photos



A rickshaw driver (center) posing in Beijing.



A rickshaw driver riding in a touristic area in Beijing.



Rickshaw driver Li Wei starting his night shift in the streets of Beijing.



Rickshaw drivers waiting for customers in a touristic area in Beijing.



A rickshaw driver riding in Beijing.

FEATURES



People walk past the 'End of the Trail' for Route 66 sign at Santa Monica pier in Santa Monica, California. — AFP photos



A Route 66 sign is seen along Foothill Drive in Monrovia, California.

Route 66, America's 'Mother Road,' revs back to life

'It's the road of adventure, nothing on Route 66 is predictable'



A Route 66 sign is seen in Arcadia, California.

For decades, Route 66 captured the imagination of travelers the world over, offering a glimpse of a bygone era of American history, when people hit the road in search of adventure and a better life. The two-lane highway established in 1926 and coined the "Mother Road" by John Steinbeck seemed to encompass the essence of America, threading through eight states from Chicago to Santa Monica.

But after it was decommissioned in the 1980s in favor of larger and faster thoroughfares, Route 66 appeared headed for the dustbin of history as the mom and pop stores, kitschy motels, diners and petrol stations that lined the road gradually shut down. "Entire towns folded up and what had been a 2,400-mile (4,000 kilometer) carnival became to a large extent a 2,400-mile ghost town," explained David Knudson, founder and executive director of the non-profit National Historic Route 66 Federation. In recent years, however, the iconic road that has been immortalized in countless books, movies, music ("Get your kicks on Route 66"), and a TV series has been experiencing a nostalgia-driven revival that is attracting tourists from around the globe.

open road about 10 years ago when he traveled it. "I think the legend is growing like crazy."

Bob Russell, the mayor of Pontiac, about two hours southwest of Chicago, said his small community of about 12,000 people is a prime example of the resurgent interest in the road. "It has been an amazing transformation," he said of the town which boasts four museums, 27 large murals and is considered one of the jewels of Route 66. "There is a special aura for Route 66 to the overseas people because it represents freedom, the open road, your scarf around your neck and your hair blowing in the wind."

'Sundown towns'

Driving today along stretches of the fabled highway — 85 percent of which can still be traveled — one can see renovated motels with blazing neon signs, newly opened museums, quirky sights and souvenir shops galore. There are also half-abandoned communities and crumbling ghost towns that echo Steinbeck's epic 1930s novel of the great depression, "The Grapes of Wrath," the story of a family that embarks on a journey along Route 66, fleeing the Oklahoma dustbowl for California. And while the road for many may evoke images of a more innocent America, as encapsulated in Norman Rockwell's paintings, Route 66 had a more sinister side for black travelers.

Half of the 89 counties that lined the highway were known as "sundown towns" where African Americans were banned after dark. The author Candacy Taylor was researching a travel guide on Route 66 when she stumbled on "The Negro Motorist Green Book," which listed safe places along the road and notably revealed that the Ku Klux Klan ran Fantastic Caverns, a popular tourist attraction in Springfield, Missouri, and held cross burnings inside. "All of the American narratives around what it means to hit the open road and the freedom and the symbolism that comes along with that was a dramatically different story for black people," said Taylor, who encourages people to "look beyond the bobby socks, the Chevys and the chrome" to experience the real Route 66. "It's an American icon, just like Marilyn Monroe or Elvis," she said. "But Route 66 is not perfect and shiny, there are a lot of cracks in that metaphor, in that illusion of what America is." — AFP



A Route 66 sign is seen along Huntington Drive in Arcadia, California.



A sign on the wall recognizes the history of the Arcadia News Journal building on Route 66 along Huntington Drive, in Arcadia, California.

Ultimate road trip

"Foreigners come to travel the road because it gives them a chance to experience America before we became generic," said Michael Wallis, a historian and author of "Route 66: The Mother Road." "It's still the road of adventure because nothing on Route 66 is predictable," he added. "I often say, 'You know what you are going to get at McDonald's ... but if you are on an old two-lane such as Route 66, you could go into a cafe, a greasy spoon, a pie place, a diner and you don't know what you're going to get.'" Wallis said the fastest growing groups of tourists on Route 66 are Chinese and Brazilians, as well as Europeans drawn by the idea of the open space and the "road trip of a lifetime."

"I have clients in their 20s and 70s who are fascinated by this road and everyone is looking for convertible Mustangs and Harley Davidsons to experience it," said Zsolt Nagy, who twice a year organizes Route 66 road trips that cost up to \$8,000 per person. "Business is booming, the roads are better, the signs are better, it's coming back to life," said Zsolt, who is from Hungary and who fell in love with the



A Route 66 sign is seen along Huntington Drive in Arcadia, California.



A sign on the wall recognizes the history of the Arcadia News Journal building on Route 66 along Huntington Drive, in Arcadia, California.



Route 66 signs on an overpass above Huntington Drive in Arcadia, California.

RIGHT AT HOME: WATER-THEMED DECOR



This undated photo provided by Cle Tile and Penni Gladstone Photography shows some of the Tides collection for Cle Tile on the wall, which is part of their collection inspired by Luca Osburn's favorite Northern California surfing spots. — AP photos

Summer for many of us means reconnecting with water — lakeside hikes, paddles in the sea, luxuriant floats in some relaxing pool. And that connection isn't confined just to the outdoors, either. Watery hues and motifs are all over home decor. "Water imagery adds a beautiful dimension to a room," says designer Ohara Gaetano-Davies of Laguna Beach, California. Her projects include beachfront homes in Southern California and Cape Cod. In a seaside home in Laguna Beach's Emerald Bay area, she painted the interior of some open cabinetry a serene pale blue, evoking beach glass. A collection of white coral sits on the shelves. A large, contemporary painting of a woman diving fills one crisply painted white wall. For a small powder room, Gaetano-Davies went with Phillip Jeffries' Fade Sea Spray wallcovering, a textural rendition of gently rolling waves in soft blues.

"The gradation of color and tone adds beautiful dimension and movement to a relatively small space," she says. "Your eye focuses on the movement of the pattern and not the scale of the room." For Trove's new wallpaper collection, designers Randall Buck and Jee Levin used Chilean poet Pablo Neruda's "Water" poem as inspiration. Their watercolor paintings evoke both the serenity and explosive nature of water. In the three-pattern "Ode to Eau" collection, the Drift pattern is a cool horizon of gently lapping waves; Mazu carries us into a tumble of frothy waves; Estuary brings us right to the edge of a thundering waterfall, full of kinetic energy.

Sometimes a stylized pattern successfully brings the theme home in a subtle way. Momeni's simple geometric repeat of a wave motif works beautifully on an indoor/outdoor rug at Target. An aqua-hued wavy scallop makes a

chic and modern tray at HomeGoods. And then there are less subtle renditions of the water theme. For Deny Designs, Las Vegas artist Lisa Argyropoulos' vivid photographs of sun-sparked oceans, bubbly wave curls and crystalline droplets make dynamic throw pillows.

Australian photographer Beata Czyzowska Young's macro shots of rain, and of dewdrops on plant stems, are the stuff of fairy fantasy. Contemporary artists explore the aquatic in the abstract at Crate & Barrel; check out prints like Kelly Ventura's "Pool," Lauren Adams' "Deep Water Ripple" and Deb Haugen's "Tide Pools."

Gray Malin's aerial shots of beaches filled with sun lovers, and reef-dotted azure waters, are now available on acrylic trays. The transparent frames give the illusion that the ocean vistas are being held in place by the material.

If you're ready to make a bigger commitment to the watery trend, consider Luca Osburn's Tides ceramic tiles, part of Cle's Watermark collection. Osburn is a passionate surfer, and his designs are inspired by the changing waves on the Northern California coastline. Zazzle's Water Abstract Sea Tile is a close-up, digital image of a clear water pool, printed on ceramic. A dozen or so might make a pretty border in a bathroom. Can't quite dive right into the idea? The image is also available on a mug, pillow, wrapping paper, even a nightlight. — AP



This undated photo provided by Trove shows their Mazu pattern wallpaper.

Lifestyle

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Route 66, America's 'Mother Road,' revs back to life

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A picture taken with a fisheye lens at the Dubai Marina neighborhood on May 30, 2017 shows Muslims waiting prior to breaking fast at an 'iftar' outside a mosque during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. — AFP

New US writers museum puts modern spin on literary history

At Chicago's newly-opened American Writers Museum, Jack Kerouac's biographer tells an audience how the Beat Generation's bible was inspired by the author's deep affection for his country. "On the Road" is a love letter to America," says Dennis McNally, standing just steps from the 120-foot (36.5-meter) scroll on which Kerouac typed out his best-known book. "He loved being an American and he romanticized it," he said of the novel depicting a post-World War II generation looking to break out of the societal constraints of the 1950s.

The first-of-its-kind museum is dedicated to writers who helped shape America's history and culture—from Ernest Hemingway to chef Julia Child to rapper Tupac Shakur. "The theme of the museum is to really look at American writing and American writers, and celebrate them in the way that we celebrate all kinds of people, like sports heroes and movie stars," said museum president Carey Cranston.

An outsider's perspective

This museum is in fact the brainchild of an Irish immigrant. Malcolm O'Hagan, a retired businessman, was surprised to discover that the United States had no institution dedicated to its authors. It took seven and a half years to make plans and raise the necessary funds to get the project off the ground. "I think it took someone with an outsider perspective," said Cranston,

adding that Chicago was chosen for its rich literary past and tourist draw. The museum's exhibits breeze through hundreds of years of American literature, culture and history, offering quick glimpses into the works of writers in various genres and media.

A timeline exhibit begins with Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, born in 1490, who penned a memoir depicting Native American life. It concludes 500 years later with Oscar Hijuelos, the son of Cuban immigrants, who wrote about assimilating into American culture. "To see the ways in which the words of so many people have moved populations throughout time, I think it's really inspiring," said Nura Mazmabi, 38, who was visiting the museum with members of her writing group.

'We celebrate their words'

The museum also includes a "surprise bookshelf" — an interactive wall that reveals morsels of information about authors through video, sound or text. The late rapper Shakur is featured for the lyrics to his 1995 song "Dear Mama," exploring, as the exhibit puts it, "the realities of addiction, violence and poverty."

Nearby is a tribute to Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel dealing with race inequality. "Even though a lot of people are suppressed at some point in their lives or at some point in our history,

their words are still out there, and we celebrate their words. And, I think that's what makes it American," said visitor Alex Messina-Schultheis, 25.

One thing conspicuously understated are books themselves, as museum organizers wanted to avoid replicating a library. While there are rooms with books and places to read, the space is dominated by touch screens, multimedia exhibits and interactive elements such as manual typewriters on which visitors can hammer out a few sentences. "When you think American writing museum, you think: 'I'll just be reading a wall of text. But, it's very interactive,'" said Jennifer Depoorter, 24, who was playing a word game on a touchscreen table.

Also inconspicuous is the museum itself, which occupies the second floor of a nondescript downtown Chicago office building, marked by only one sign. The humble real estate is a function of the private museum's relatively small annual budget of \$1.9 million and a staff of 10. By contrast, the world-renowned Art Institute of Chicago, just a few blocks away, has an approximately \$250 million annual budget. "Our initial goal was to raise enough to build this," said Cranston, adding that plans are for the institution to grow over time. — AFP

Bizarre News

Newborn baby walks within minutes of being born

A newborn baby has been spotted walking moments after being born. A video has captured a tiny tot being held upright by a midwife whilst it clasps her wrist and puts its feet along the counter in an attempt to stand on its own and waddle along. The footage, which has been obtained by The Sun Online, has gone viral and has been viewed more than 50 million times. A woman can be heard shouting in Portuguese, which has been translated to mean "Oh my gosh, the girl is walking". In the clip the baby continues to put one foot in front of the other before falling down. The infant is placed back down and she attempts to climb back to her feet and walk again, although children are usually 10 months old when they start walking on their own. The midwife told the publication: "I was trying to wash her here and she kept getting up to walk."

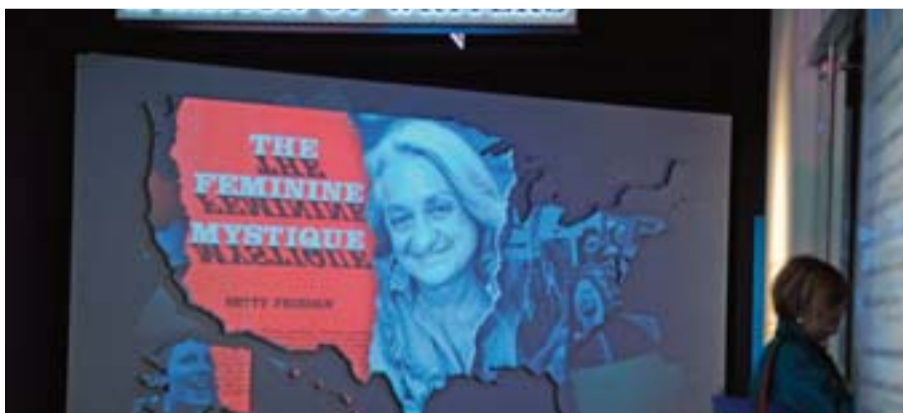
Majority of Brits judge book by its cover

A survey has found over 50 percent of Britain choose a novel based entirely on its cover. First impressions have been proven to count as a new study has revealed 52 percent of British people judge a book by its cover design with the majority opting for a text with dark and mysterious sleeve, whilst one third of people pick a novel based on its title and merely 19 percent are drawn in by the author. The poll, which has been commissioned to mark the paperback launch of 'The Obsession' by best-selling author Nora Roberts, has revealed animals and men on the cover were deemed the least attractive text, whilst scenic artistry are more attractive. Despite personal recommendations (36 per cent), immersive plots (44 per cent) and surprising twists (29 per cent) being most likely to appeal to readers' interests, only four percent of those surveyed said they would be willing to wait until the final page before casting judgment, but more than half of bookworms would stop reading if they were bored by the first chapter. 'The Obsession', featuring number one bestselling author Nora Roberts' unique combination of suspense and passion, is now available at all good book stores nationwide.

Almost half of UK adults secretly snack at work

A study has shown 50 percent of UK adults snack in secret whilst at work. According to new research carried out by IronmongeryDirect, 47 percent of Britons hide their workplace eating habits from their partners, whilst one fifth of those have admitted lying to their partner about their meal choices in the office. The treat that was the most popular feast to indulge in was a bacon sandwich, which was popular with 49 percent of those who took part in the survey, whilst biscuits were ranked the second most popular workplace snack, followed by crisps, sweets and pastries. The research into office eating habits comes after recent comments by the Faculty of Dental Surgery who claimed "workplace cake culture" was the cause of growing health problems. And the worst workplace culprits for secret snacking were those with "demanding" careers. Wayne Lysaght-Mason, managing director of IronmongeryDirect, said: "Those with demanding jobs are more likely to snack or eat on the go to keep their energy levels high for the physically demanding tasks."

Shoppers in prank call humiliation



Visitors enter the American Writers Museum in Chicago.



A timeline representing 500 years of American literary history greets visitors at the American Writers Museum in Chicago.



Visitors examine an exhibit of Chicago writers at the American Writers Museum in Chicago. — AFP photos



A 120-foot scroll on which author Jack Kerouac wrote his novel 'On the Road,' is displayed at the American Writers Museum.